

This newsletter gives details of forthcoming events in the Wimborne Area. Please show it to anyone who might be interested and email me with details of any others who would like to receive a copy.

## Autumn Lunches

Like many other organizations, our programme starts in October after a summer recess and this year we are breaking new ground with **two Autumn Lunches at Wimborne Methodist Church. The first is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 12.30 to 1.30 and the second on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> at the same time.**

As our churches celebrate both Harvest Festival and Creationtide this autumn, these lunches will reflect the theme of **FOOD and FARMING**, critical issues here in Dorset and across the world. We hope you will be able to come.



If you've a Christian Aid Lent lunch you'll recognise the menu on October 8<sup>th</sup> – bread butter/spread, cheese (or alternative), fruit and tea/coffee – the only difference being that we will have sourced as much as we can that has been grown or processed in the locality. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the meal will be sourced from local gardens, allotments, small holdings, and hedgerows.

We've invited two speakers with expertise in FOOD (October 8<sup>th</sup>) and FARMING (October 22<sup>nd</sup>) and we're offering them 15 minutes, a bit longer than the Lent Thoughts for the Day. Linda Tazzyman, who owned and managed Pick More Daisies, then No 9 restaurant in West Borough, then No 9 on the Green and the No 9 Bakery in Cook Row, will cover Food on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and then Sophie Alexander from Hemsworth Farm, Witchampton, will speak on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

These lunches are being arranged to help us reflect on Harvest and express our thankfulness for the gifts of creation **and** to give us additional opportunities to enjoy one another's company. So we are suggesting that donations on the day will cover the costs of food, premises and a small gift for each speaker, in all likelihood just a few pounds. Of course, additional donations towards Christian Aid's global support of **Food and Farming** will be warmly received, but the chief purpose is not fundraising, but friendship centred around local food.

We look forward to welcoming you – and please tell your friends about these lunches.

## Christian Aid in the Middle East

(Taken from Christian Aid website [Ctrl+Click to open Link Here](#) )

It will soon be October 7<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of day when Hamas launched a wave of rocket attacks and stormed into Israel. Thousands of people have been killed and over 1.9 million displaced.

In Israel, 1,200 people have been killed and civilians, including women and children, have been forcibly taken. In Gaza, as of 15 August, 40,000 Palestinians have been killed, of which more than 9,500 are women and 14,500 are children. Around 90,000 Palestinians have also been injured.

Airstrikes have caused widespread destruction of homes, schools, healthcare facilities and telecommunication installations. With fuel for generators all but depleted, hospitals are ceasing to function and virtually all water and sanitation services have collapsed. All schools are closed, food supply is cut off and risking famine, and 3 in 4 Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced.

### What is Christian Aid doing in response?

Christian Aid has been working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Middle East since the early 1950s, when we provided humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees.

**Established Christian Aid partners in Gaza** are responding as best they can, under intense pressure. They're responding with medical relief and community-led initiatives such as food, shelter, sanitation and cash. This includes building mobile bathrooms in four shelters to working with local farmers to get fresh vegetables for families that have left their homes to escape airstrikes. However, it's extremely dangerous to move around, and supplies of essentials are running perilously low.

**Christian Aid is also working with Zochrot**, an Israeli civil society organisation based in Tel Aviv, to provide trauma based psychological assistance to Israelis who have been affected by the escalation of violent conflict.

### Online vigil to mark the one-year anniversary

On Monday 7 October at 8am for an hour there will be an on-line vigil where we can stop and sit in solidarity with the lost and those who love them. Where we can gather for a time of prayer and silence, as a mark of respect and repentance.

Please register for the event here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/gaza-appeal-vigil>

### More Information

If you wish to be better informed about the situation in the Middle East, the Christian Aid Just Peace document is an excellent place to start <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/just-peace-campaign>

### Christian Aid Appeal

Christian Aid have recently relaunched their Middle East Crisis Appeal and you can find details here [Link to Appeal](#)

**Thank you** for all your support for  and we hope you will be able to come to one or both of our Autumn Lunches.

Mike