

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

Christian Aid Week 2022. Firstly, a very big **Thank you** for all your generous donations and support during Christian Aid Week. **So far we have received the amazing total of £4380 including Gift Aid** and there may still be some more to come. It is reassuring and encouraging to see how much was donated, particularly since we didn't collect envelopes from individual houses but instead asked people to bring them to various collecting points. However, this still raised over £1,400 and we also had a very successful "street collection" on the Friday with collecting points at the Allendale Centre, in the Square and on the Minster Green which raised £700. Local churches including the Canford and Merley Churches, the Minster and the Northern Villages organised their own events which raised over £600 and St Michaels Colehill had a special fund-raising lunch which raised nearly £850.

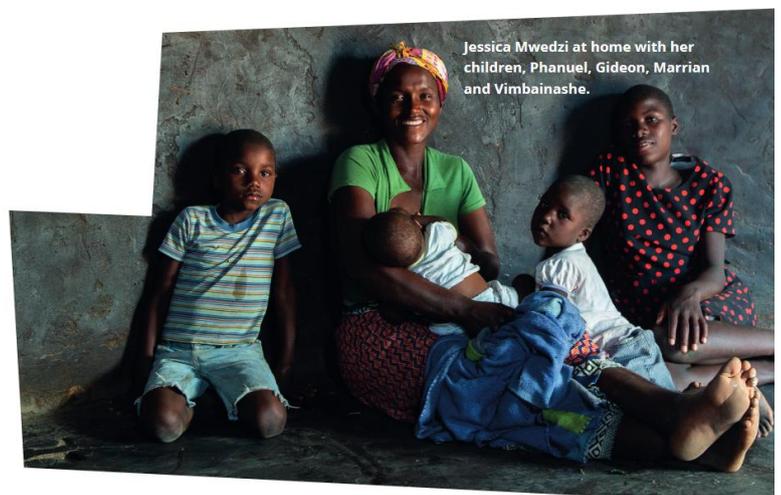


Special thanks go to Joy Elliot who had the idea of showing her sing-along DVD to a small group in her flat. She made the "mistake" of mentioned this to Suzanne from St Michael's who suggested using the Church and the event grew from there, eventually attracting over 70 people for a great evening. We even had *Dancing Queens* at the back of the church! So, *Thank You For The Music* Joy and we're so pleased you and Suzanne *Had A Dream*. We are very grateful for the support and generosity of all those providing food and to everyone at St Michaels for helping make it so much fun and to raise over £550.

Christian Aid will be able to use this to support women like Jessica Mwedzi, pictured here, who lives with her family in a rural community in Zimbabwe. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival and Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

Our gifts could help Jessica and many

like her to grow drought-resistant crops, set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll be able to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.



Afghan and Ukrainian refugees



I would like to share this note I have received from Sharen Green, our local Christian Aid contact at St Michael's Church Colehill. She writes:-

I just wanted to tell you of an exciting new idea put forward by Jennifer Jenkins, a member of Wimborne Methodist Church and a partner in the Safe Haven Wessex Initiative.

Some preparatory work has been done and we are proposing to pay the rent on two flats for a year. We hope to house a Ukrainian family in a two- or three-bedroomed property and an Afghan one in a four bed-roomed house.

The initial idea was born out of Jennifer's wish to do something about the terrible situation in Ukraine. But Rebecca at International Care Network, a local organisation supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the Bournemouth area, had mentioned there is a whole hotel in Bournemouth (as there is in many towns all over the country) crowded with Afghans. They have been saved from murder but have been pretty much ignored since they got here. And they're only here because they risked their own and their families lives to help our troops.

So we're asking for people to pledge £10 (or a multiple thereof) a month for a year and we hope to have enough pledges to move forward with the scheme.

St Michael's Church in Colehill, Wimborne, has taken us - Peace Haven: Homes for Refugees is our working title - under their wing. Of course they are a properly audited registered charity which gives us accountability and transparency. They also have the means to facilitate monthly donations - with gift aid if appropriate - and to pay the landlords direct. So we don't even need a bank account!!

Please do get in touch with Sharen on 01202 693837 if you're interested or have any questions.

Thank you once again for all your support for Christian Aid, especially during Christian Aid Week 2022. We haven't anything specific planned for the next two or three months so I anticipate the next newsletter being in September. In the meantime, I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Mike (Mike Lunt, telephone: 889487)