

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.

We once again had a very encouraging **Christian Aid Week** this year, raising a total of almost £6,000 including gift aid. Very many thanks to all who helped us achieve this wonderful figure which came from a number of separate events. The breakdown - not including gift aid - is as follows:-

- a) **£531** from the morning Service at Wimborne Methodist Church on Sunday 13th May
- b) **£152** from the Cup-Cake Stall outside Church House on Wednesday 16th May
- c) **£432** from the Street Collection in Wimborne Town Centre on Friday 18th May
- and finally d) **£4359** from the House-to-House collections throughout the week.

These totals are proof of the support for Christian Aid in our local community which has continued in spite of the adverse publicity for Oxfam a few months ago. So thank you once again for that support.

The theme for Christian Aid Week this year was **Stronger than the Storms** and the publicity featured families from Haiti, whose houses had been destroyed by an earthquake and a hurricane. Marcelin is the head of one of these families and he recently was able to move into a new home funded by Christian Aid and made possible by contributions from people like us. He sends his thanks via a video which you can find at

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/resources> . The video, entitled "Thank you from Marcelin", also shows a new house being built for another family, Jocelyne's. Hers is nearing completion and here are a couple of stills from that video.



The theme of our Christian Aid Service this year was **"Solidarity with Displaced People Everywhere"**. It used Marcelin's and Jocelyne's stories to show the difficulties faced by displaced people and reminded us that the majority are displaced within their own countries, driven out by events beyond their control such as war and conflict, crop failure or extreme weather. During the service we were each given a paper "brick" and invited to write a message of hope for those who have been displaced. The bricks were then used to build a "Home of Hope". Somewhat ambitiously, we decided to build two and just managed to complete them by the end of the service. One was then put in the foyer of the Methodist Church (see picture) and the other in the Minster and visitors invited to add messages on any blank bricks. These will now be sent via Christian Aid to the Prime Minister, ahead of the UN General Assembly in September.



Obviously our fundraising isn't restricted to Christian Aid Week alone and we recently received figures for the full year ending on April 1st 2018. During the year you helped us raise just over £10,000, a really inspiring total. As you would expect, the majority (£6800) came from Christian Aid Week 2017, with a further £2,000 from the Lent Lunches and £700 from events at Christmas. So **Thank You** for supporting Christian Aid so generously.

I anticipate this being the last newsletter until September, so safe travelling to all who are going away and very best wishes to you all whatever your plans.

Mike

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