

This newsletter gives details of forthcoming and past 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.

Wimborne Quiz

Very many thanks to all who joined us for the Quiz last Sunday which raised an astonishing £380.50 including anticipated Gift Aid. Thanks especially to our quizmaster, Irene Selway, and the Methodist Church for hosting us. We look forward to returning there for our Lent Lunches in March and April.

Lent Lunches

These will once again be on Tuesdays in Lent, **March 11th, 18th and 25th, April 1st, 8th and 15th at Wimborne Methodist Church** and we hope you will be able to join us – please make a note of the dates. Come any time between **12.30 pm - 1.15 pm** for Bread, Cheese and Fruit and there will be a brief ‘Thought for the Day’ around 1.00pm. There is no charge – donation envelopes available.



Christian Aid Gaza and Middle East Appeals

Over a year ago, Christian Aid launched a Gaza Appeal and, as the conflict spread more widely, this was followed in October by a DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Middle East Appeal. There has been an amazing response to these two appeals and thank you to all who have contributed.

The **Gaza Appeal** raised £2.2 million which has enabled partner organisations, deeply rooted in their communities, to help more than 800,000 people. Working under intense pressure and dangerous conditions, they have delivered life-saving medical care, food and shelter. Christian Aid has also worked with a partner organisation in Israel to provide trauma based psychological assistance to people impacted by conflict.



Christian Aid's partner in Gaza supplying food parcels, October 2023.

The **Middle East Humanitarian Appeal** has already raised £30 million which is being used in many different ways, for example providing psychological support to children and young people, providing shelter and bedding, cooking and delivering hot meals, education and medical aid including the delivery of babies. With ceasefires now in place in Gaza and Lebanon, DEC charities and their local partners are expanding their operations to reach those in need with food, shelter and medical support. In **Gaza**, as many people return to their communities and face an uncertain future, DEC charities are working to support families on the move. In **Lebanon**, more than a million people fled

their homes after violence escalated and DEC charities are now supporting those returning and those who have nowhere to go. For more details see <https://www.dec.org.uk/how-and-where-dec-charities-are-responding-in-the-middle-east>.

Christian Aid Sudan Appeal

The Middle East is not the only conflict zone where people are being displaced. Amidst a brutal conflict, millions of people across Sudan are displaced and facing the threat of famine and death. More than 1 million people have fled across the border to seek safety in South Sudan, a country hit by the worst floods in decades.

Christian Aid has recently launched an emergency appeal for Sudan and Southern Sudan and there is more information on their website at

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal>.

I will include more details in the next newsletter.

With thanks for all your support, and hope to see you at some or all of the Lent Lunches.

Mike 889487

