

## Bishop Julian's Harvest Appeal 2020

*For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. (Matt 25:35)*

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to introduce the focus of the 2020 Bishop's Harvest Appeal. This year our schools will be raising money in support of Tearfund and our churches will be able to choose to support either Tearfund or the Friends of the Holy Land.

Tearfund is a global charity which seeks to work with local churches and local people to find solutions to poverty and injustice. Any money raised will go into their relief fund, which is currently being used to respond to issues caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Friends of the Holy Land is a charity working in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in Israel and aims to support Christian communities there which often find themselves living in very difficult circumstances.

I have always enjoyed seeing the various exciting and creative ways people have responded to this appeal and this year will be no different I am sure! We know that the coronavirus pandemic has brought new and acute problems, particularly in places where poverty is already an issue. So, I am delighted that the charities chosen will work towards the relief of some of the hardship caused by the virus, supporting the most vulnerable.

I am also delighted that, from this year, you can now donate online to this Appeal for the first time. Particularly in these difficult times it will make it easier for people in our parishes and schools. It will also make it more accessible to people without a church connection currently, but who may want to be generous in support of our worthwhile causes.

An annual appeal like this is a helpful reminder of the needs of those much less fortunate than ourselves. Out of our thankfulness may there be generosity, even in the uncertain and unsettling times of the coronavirus pandemic. May the result of this year's appeal bring glory to God and blessing to many.

With my grateful thanks,



**Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn**



**To donate, just click on the following link. It takes you to a page where you can select which charity you wish to donate to: [Give a Little](#)**



**Alternatively, you can use this QR code. Thank you.**



## Every donation finds its way to help a deserving and desperate Christian

Friends of the Holy Land support vulnerable Christians across the Holy Land. We focus on identifying and then supporting individuals and families who have little or no other means of support. In an area where there is no state support, massive unemployment, huge exposure to illness and medical needs.



During this unprecedented crisis, the needs of our Brothers and Sisters have rarely been greater. This pandemic has had an enormous impact on the tourism industry in the Holy Land which employs nearly 80% of Christians in Bethlehem and is a major employer in Jerusalem and across Israel and the West Bank. This

pandemic has also had an enormous impact on the Christian population in Gaza where the dense population and lack of medical infrastructure mean the population is particularly vulnerable. That is why we are continuing to provide additional support to all those Christian families facing extra burdens during this crisis, many of whom will have no source of income as the hotels remain closed and there is no more state support.

We have set up an organisation in the Holy Land that is led by a leading priest of the Latin Patriarchate, the Archbishop of Jerusalem, a leading headmaster of a large Greek Orthodox School, a leading business woman working in pilgrimages and a leading accountant and lecturer at Bethlehem University. These are our volunteers. Our office team are a social worker and an administrator who run our small office in Bethlehem and provide support to our Brothers and Sisters. Our team is well connected in the Christian communities and identify where our limited resources will best help.

**The difference your gift could make:**

**£10 could replace the income for a Christian guide who showed pilgrims around the old city.**

**£25 could provide a month's supply of essential medicines for the most vulnerable.**

**£50 could cover the weekly shopping for food and essentials of an unemployed family.**

**DONATE via this link:**  
[Give a Little](#)



**tearfund**

*Following Jesus where the need is greatest*

## Hope within reach

**Your harvest gift will provide abundant water and cash grants to Ethiopian families suffering from the effects of climate change, locusts and coronavirus.**

Darkness surrounds the small house. Orbisa's family are fast asleep and the moon is still high in the sky. But it's time for her to wake-up. She has a 10-hour journey ahead – collecting water for her family.

Orbisa lives in the village of Asbehari in the Afar Region of north-east Ethiopia. Climate change has contributed to a massive decrease in rainfall in recent years, and local sources of water have dried up.

Now, Orbisa has no choice but to walk a perilous journey each day to collect water for her family – but it's still not enough. They regularly have to get by with less than half the water they need just to meet their basic needs, and it means Orbisa's children often go to bed thirsty.

### A double threat

Orbisa's village, like the whole Afar Region, is also facing a new threat as swarms of crop-eating locusts descend on their fields and ruin their crops – just as the harvest season arrives.

Tackling the locusts is even harder now that coronavirus has forced the Ethiopian government to close their borders. With severely reduced air travel and cargo shipping, pesticides from Europe and Asia can't get into the countries – and to the farmers – that need them.



### Be the solution

Tearfund is partnering with Friendship Support Association (FSA) to provide solar-powered water borehole systems and cash grants to communities whose harvests have been devastated by locusts in Afar. By

expanding this work, we can reach many more people in desperate need of support. A gift of £12 could provide a family with access to a life-saving water source for a year – giving hope to future communities like Orbisa's.

**Tearfund is a Christian charity passionate about ending poverty and following Jesus where the need is greatest. Tearfund works through local churches to unlock people's potential and help them to discover that the answer to poverty is within themselves. In Ethiopia, and across East Africa, Tearfund is responding through local church partners to the threat of coronavirus – seeking to divert disaster in communities already tormented by locusts and struggling under the impact of climate change.**



**A gift of £12 could provide a family with access to a life-saving water source for a year, giving hope and a future to communities like Orbisa's**

**DONATE via this link: [Give a Little](#)**