

The Refugee Situation in Uganda

You may recall, that some months ago, we talked about the refugee situation in Northern Uganda as people poured over the border in their tens of thousands to escape the wide-spread fighting in South Sudan's civil war. Two million people have been displaced and one million have sought refuge in Uganda.



Someone recently said: "Imagine what it would be like for the people of South Wales if the entire city of Bristol arrived seeking food and shelter within the space of a two months. Impossible to imagine? Staggering as it may seem, the reality is even worse! It is as if the populations of *two cities* the size of Bristol suddenly arrived without any warning or preparation!"

The Ugandan government has been widely praised for its "Open Door Policy". Nevertheless, in the chaos many children have been separated from their families. Older siblings care for younger brothers and sisters. Parents are likely to

be in one refugee camp and children in another. Husbands and wives have become separated. The process of re-uniting families will go on for years.

They have tried to provide everyone with land so that the refugees can feed themselves but the constant pressure of new arrivals has reduced the amount of land that each family receives. They have enough to survive on but the long term outlook is grim. Everyone wants to go home. But for many it is far too dangerous.

Currently the government, local churches and missions are doing their best to provide educational and medical help. However, education provision is beginning to crack with one teacher to ninety six pupils in refugee areas.



Food distribution at Bidi Bidi refugee camp.

A ceasefire has been agreed. There is hope for the future for the first time in years, and a great desire to end the war. However, a very similar ceasefire was reached in 2015 and collapsed in violence a year later. No one is going home just yet. Chris Dobson and a party from Bristol will be in Bidi Bidi refugee camp in a few weeks' time.

Message from Alison Adams: Thank you so much for all the concern and enquiries, prayers and cards I have received. I have been very touched by all the support. I'm glad to say I have been given the all-clear, so I'm gradually getting back to normal.

Thank
you

Double Whammy

Every Harvest we launch two projects. The **Jar of Grace** appeal means that we add coins to a jar every time we say grace before a meal. Last year we exceeded our £4000 target. Half of the money will go to **Uganda** and half to **Tear Fund**.

We also organise **Operation Christmas Child**. Shoeboxes full of toys are distributed around the world to children whose parents do not have the money to give them the kind of presents that children in the wealthier countries receive. As you will see from the video we will be showing in church, a lot of local pastors use the opportunities provided by the **Jar of Grace** to teach the faith to local children.



Remember, Remember, return your box in November!!

We ask everyone to return their shoeboxes by **Remembrance Sunday**, when we will, as ever, form a human chain and transport them out of church, to the collection centre at Abbey Meads and on into the wider world. You can even find out exactly where your box has ended up, using your PC to track it. Please take a fold up **Operation Christmas Child Box** and a leaflet. You will need to include £ for postage. There is also guidance about what to include and what not to include.

Cath Sheldrake has knitted some girls scarves and will leave them in a box on the table so if anyone would like one to go in their box they can just take one. (Anything left will be taken to a charity shop).

We want to give a very warm welcome to the members of our Uniformed Organisations who will be with us this morning at our **Harvest Thanksgiving**, and again on **Remembrance Sunday**. Our own Jo Bennett helps with a Beaver Group that meets at Uplands School, so it is a delight to have her group and others with us on Sunday morning.

Please aim to join us in church next week

Your PCC members spent last Saturday at an Away Day giving thought to our future as a church.

What is our mission in this area? What is our specific vision?

Find out how our logo expresses what we believe about ourselves, and what we see as our God-given task in Swindon.

Prayers: Pray for **Steph and Mark Mortimer**, that Steph will have a safe birth in the next few weeks. **Mary Smith** has had a successful shoulder operation. Pray for Mary as she convalesces. **Rachel Bulley** (Andrew and Jean's daughter) is still in a lot of pain after breaking her foot very badly in June and still has limited mobility. On top of this she is coping with her loss of Andrew. We thank God for **Sue Harvey**, back with us again after her time in hospital last month. **Bishop Viv** will be welcomed and enthroned on Saturday afternoon in the Cathedral.



Sunday Oct 14

Trinity 20

Mon 15th	9.30-11.30am 2pm	Pram Club Harvest Celebration Homegroup in Quiet Room
Tues 16th	8pm 8pm 7.30 pm in QR	Homegroup at 20 Furlong Close Homegroup at 27 Garraways ROCK Committee & Outreach Subteam
Wed 17th	1.00-3.00pm 3.00pm 7.30pm	Craft Club in Church Room Holy Communion at James Wilks House Homegroup at 17 Rother Close
Fri 19th	10.30am-1.30pm	Rock Café



We will be accepting gifts for survivors of the Indonesian tsunami.

Please pray for our church family	
Mon 15th	Matt Crosby
Tue 16th	Mike & Wendy Crosby
Wed 17th	Rachel Crosby
Thurs 18th	Nigel & Jill Crowhurst
Fri 19th	Wayne Davy
Sat 20th	Harry & Pauline Davis
Sun 21st	Jean Dean

There will be a service of Holy Communion at James Wilks House on Wednesday 17th October at 3pm. All welcome.

*9 a.m. God's disappointing vineyard
11 a.m. Can you count like an apple tree?*

Services Next Week			
21st Oct	9am	Morning Prayer	Raymond Adams
	11am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams

Parish Office Email: parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk or Telephone 726000. All items for the bulletin to the office in writing by first thing on Thursday. Thank you.

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams	Isaiah 5:1-7 Luke 20:9-19
11.00am	All Age Service	Raymond Adams	Isaiah 5:1-7