

Building a vibrant virtual Christian Aid Week

In the space of just a few months, the coronavirus pandemic has caused a seismic shift in society.

The outbreak has affected all spheres of life. It has brought suffering and uncertainty for so many, both here and overseas, taking centre stage in thoughts, conversations and prayers. As individuals, families, communities and organisations, the crisis continues to have a significant impact on how we go about our daily business. We have all had to adapt to new ways of living.

In the same way, Christian Aid has also been thinking creatively how best to ensure it can continue standing together with the most vulnerable and marginalised people during this time of global crisis. This is particularly important as Christian Aid Week 2020 approaches.

In 2019 Christian Aid Week raised over £7.5m through a combination of church collections, house-to-house, delivery-only fundraising and events such as Big Brekkies. Not surprisingly, the Covid-19 situation has meant that much of this usual fundraising cannot go ahead for Christian Aid Week 2020 (10-16 May). Christian Aid values its volunteers enormously and wants to ensure people's safety when fundraising.

With this in mind, the charity is building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week to help people in Britain and Ireland show love for neighbours near and far, as a global family, in these challenging times. Christian Aid has developed a suite of creative ideas, guides and resources, to inspire people to fundraise and connect with their community virtually, while respecting social distancing measures. You can find the resources on our website - caweek.org/virtualresources

The resources include guides to help people run their own virtual event or fundraiser, organise a virtual quiz evening, and even hold a virtual church service using a range of specially prepared worship resources.

Individuals will be able to sign up for unique events during Christian Aid Week itself from 10-16 May, such as a daily quiz and live stream worship events. Christian Aid will also be offering an 'e-envelope', offering a digital way for people to share the Christian Aid Week story with family and friends, and ask for a donation.

In this way Christian Aid hopes that its dedicated supporters will be able to continue their support, prayer, engagement and fundraising. Donations can be made online www.caweek.org

Christian Aid Week programme manager Sophie Brightwell said: *"Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. Its during crises like Covid-19 that the vulnerabilities of those living in extreme poverty are even more evident. This Christian Aid Week we can fight against Coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty."*

Christian Aid is inviting people to unite in prayer at this time: a collection of [prayers](#) for the current coronavirus situation are available online. These include: prayers of thanksgiving and intercession; a prayer for times of isolation; a prayer for medical workers everywhere; a prayer for the global pandemic; a prayer for the church.

Please keep an eye on caweek.org/virtualresources for up-to-the minute information and resources as they launch.

Christian Aid prayers are online: christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers