

christian aid

ST COLUMBA'S FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

HELLO FAMILIES OF ST COLUMBA'S

Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May 2021 www.christianaid.org.uk

The focus for this year's Christian Aid Week is on the terrible effect climate change is having in Kenya, causing dreadful droughts and then occasionally severe flooding.

Onesmus is a young Kenyan, aged 15, who loves school. He hopes to be a teacher when he grows up. Every day after school, he walks for half an hour to collect water from the nearby earth dam for his family. 'Before the earth dam, we had to walk to a river far away,' he says. 'It took three hours to walk there. I didn't have enough time to do my homework. Now I am happier we have the earth dam.' Now, Onesmus can spend more time learning at school because he doesn't have to walk so far to collect water. He also uses water from the dam to grow tasty fruit at home, like avocados and pineapples. Onesmus takes great care to water his plants. Sadly, because of climate change, many plants in Kenya don't get enough rainwater and can't grow. 'It hasn't rained properly for a long time,' he explains. 'When it rains, I will feel happy.'

Christian Aid is supporting all the children in Onesmus' village to plant trees. Onesmus is teaching his little nephew, Michael Jr, how to plant a tree sapling and water it every day, so it can grow tall, strong and green. Imagine how the trees will grow, bringing joy as they help restore the village into a green and fertile place to live. Onesmus' teacher, Priscilla Martin, is happy to see him watering his plants and doing well at school. 'The dam has made a big change,' she says. 'The children are able to concentrate, because they have water. Water is life.'



Thinking about Onesmus' story and village life, which is so different from our own, Christian Aid suggest trying one of the following activities.

·Get a glass of water. Take a long cool drink of water, alone or with someone else. Reflect and give thanks together for the gift of life and of water.

·Go for a walk and take pictures of any trees that you notice in your area. Share the pictures with each other and talk about how the trees in your area make you feel. Would you like to see more of them?

Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions we are unable to do station collections. We can still be involved and support Christian Aid by making a donation directly to them, via their website or by post. Donations will be used to build more earth dams that will capture and retain fresh rainwater. People are walking miles to fetch water in containers. Lives will be transformed if earth dams could be constructed close to local communities, funding is needed to do that.



Closer to home, the photos are a lovely reminder of the recent bushcraft trip to Barn Elms. A lot of fun for our young people and their parents. And the good news is that there are two more opportunities to get together. Sunday School will meet during Morning Service (11am) on Sunday 16th May and Sunday 27th June. If you would like to book a place, please contact the Church Office.

Thanks to Fiona for preparing activities for this weekend. Have a good end to the week and see you on Sunday,

Angus & the Sunday School Team