



Give Thanks for the Vaccine

Nearly two thirds of people asked in a UK poll agreed that a global COVID-19 vaccine programme should be created which does not prioritise richer countries over poorer ones.

Sixty-three per cent of respondents to the survey commissioned by Christian Aid said they wanted to see countries working together to create a global COVID-19 vaccine programme that would not prioritise developed countries over developing countries. Only 11% disagreed.

Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal is supporting work in 27 countries around the world to help prevent the spread of coronavirus and mitigate the worst effects of movement restrictions. This includes distributing soap to nearly 250,000 vulnerable people, providing food and hygiene packages and supporting those at risk from domestic violence.

The Circuit Leadership Team met last week and wanted to support this appeal. A special fundraising page has been set up so that those who wish to give thanks for the vaccine they have or will receive can respond by giving a donation.

If you have access online it is easy to donate, go to <https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/castle-eden-gives-thanks-for-the-vaccine> and it explains what to do. If you don't have online access and wish to give put your donation in an envelope marked 'Christian Aid Appeal' and get it to one of the ministers via whoever delivers your newsletter.

Why not pass on the information to others who may also wish to express their gratitude through a donation?



NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday 9 March 2021

Castle Eden Methodist Circuit partners with Christian Aid to encourage people to give thanks after a Covid jab

The Castle Eden Methodist Circuit, a group of ten churches in the Hartlepool, Peterlee and Coxhoe area, has partnered with aid and development charity Christian Aid to give people an opportunity to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world.

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Recognising the deep sense of relief and gratitude experienced by many people after being vaccinated, the two organisations have come together to enable people to pass the blessing on by making a donation to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic. Many communities around the world face an uncertain wait for a vaccine as questions remain around the cost and timing of a global vaccine programme.

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the Rev. Bev Hollings, who has already had her first vaccination, said "The vaccine is bringing with it a deep sense of relief and hope for people across the UK.

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Whilst the pandemic affects all of us, it has highlighted the deep disparities in how communities, families and individuals are able to protect themselves both within this country and around the world.

My hope is that people will give generously to the work of Christian Aid from a place of thanksgiving and a desire to see all people being able to live safely. Whether people can give just the price of a coffee or a much larger sum, this will be an opportunity to share hope and love with our sisters and brothers across the world who do not have the benefits we have."

Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries including distributing food packages to nearly 60,000 people struggling to feed their families after losing work during lockdown and the economic downturn.

Going forwards, Christian Aid will support vaccination programmes in communities by providing data on hard-to-reach populations to local health services and by working with trusted community figures to challenge misleading information about the virus and vaccination as well as any stigma faced by those who contract Covid-19.

Christian Aid's Head of Community Fundraising and Public Engagement Chine McDonald said: "The coronavirus pandemic has shown us that none of us are safe, until all of us are safe. It has been amazing to see the speed at which the vaccines have been rolled out in the UK – every jab in someone's arm brings us closer to the end of Covid-19.

"But the reality is that richer countries like ours are getting more access to vaccines, while the poorer countries in which Christian Aid works are left at the back of the queue. As a Christian organisation, we believe that every person is equal in the sight of God and worthy of living lives with dignity, equality and justice.

"We're delighted to work together with the Castle Eden Methodist Circuit to give people an opportunity to say thanks and help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach."

The appeal launch comes after nearly two thirds of people asked in a UK poll agreed that a global COVID-19 vaccine programme should be created which does not prioritise richer countries over poorer ones.

Sixty-three per cent of respondents to the survey commissioned by Christian Aid said they wanted to see countries working together to create a global COVID-19 vaccine programme that would not prioritise developed countries over developing countries. Only 11% disagreed.

You can donate to the Castle Eden Circuit appeal by visiting <https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/castle-eden-gives-thanks-for-the-vaccine>

Notes to Editors:

For more details contact Rev Bev Hollings on 01429 409563 or Christian Aid's media team on mediacomms@christian-aid.org or call 07850 242950.

Photo attached: Ibrahim (pictured) was selected to receive cash from Christian Aid's Covid-19 'C19NALPER' project in Nigeria after an accident left him with limited work opportunities and reliant on constant support from family members. C19NALPER is supporting vulnerable households to access basic needs and protect them from the impact of lockdowns and strict containment measures.

Savanta ComRes was commissioned by Christian Aid to explore views on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in developing nations. Savanta ComRes interviewed 2,119 UK adults aged 18+ online from 5-7 February 2021. Data were weighted to be representative of population by age, gender, region, and socio-economic characteristics such as social grade. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Full tables can be found on the Savanta ComRes website: <https://comresglobal.com/our-work/poll-archive/>