

Trees bring hope

Creation care for global justice

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."
Matthew 13.31-32

The tiniest seed releases great promise, and the tree provides life-changing shelter, refuge and life. As we take environmental action, big or small, the Kingdom of Heaven is ushered in.

In Malawi, the Baobab tree is changing people's lives.

Many there are struggling in the face of the climate crisis. Extreme weather is affecting crops; cyclones have destroyed homes, floods have washed away livestock.

The climate crisis is pushing women like Janet Ben deeper into poverty. Janet (right) gestures to a pile of muddy bricks, all that's left of her old house after Cyclone Idai swept through Malawi in March 2019. Her family lost everything.



Christian Aid Ireland holds a vision of a better world, free from poverty and climate change. Where everyone has enough to eat, and can live without fear of their home and land being destroyed.

But right now, millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the worst impacts of climate change, and experts predict more floods, drought and extreme weather patterns to come. For those living in poverty, this means more hunger, conflict and insecurity, and a more uncertain future.



Hope came to Janet from the massive baobab trees near her home. Janet points out the fruit, high up in the branches, that has made all the difference to Janet and her friends in the Makande Women's Group.

[Watch Janet's story and show it in your church \(4 minute film\)](#)

Through Christian Aid's partner, Eagles Relief and



Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid June 2020 J121236

Development, the group have received training in business and baobab juice making, sustainable equipment and a low-interest loan.

With the profits from the business, Janet has been able to build a new home; the income gives her and her family resilience against the climate crisis.

As you plant trees in the Armagh Diocese, you not only help to restore our local biodiversity, you stand in solidarity with your global neighbours against the climate crisis.

Together we can restore God's earth, and stop this climate crisis.

Ways you can respond:

PRAY

- Include Janet, and Christian Aid in your service with [worship resources including prayers, an order of service and ideas for celebrating a global Harvest](#)
- Take your worship outside using our [special outdoor service guide](#)
- Invite a Christian Aid speaker to help bring our global stories to life: caid.ie/bookaspeaker

ACT

Ahead of the global climate summit this November in Glasgow, Christian Aid is urging the church to speak out for climate justice. Those in poverty across the world are feeling the effects of the climate crisis most drastically, and do not have the resources to cope with it.

- Please encourage your congregation to [sign our petition here](#) to urge the Prime Minister to build back better after the pandemic. Post it on your church's social media, include it in your email newsletter and write it on your church bulletin.

GIVE

So many of you support Christian Aid Week each May – thank you. Your giving is enabling Christian Aid's partners to respond to emergencies and help communities to stand strong in the climate crisis.

- If you would like to order Christian Aid envelopes to use for a special collection, or set up a [JustGiving page](#), please contact Helen Newell (contact details below).
- FOR **SUNDAY SCHOOLS** ON CLIMATE: [lots of resources](#) for Primary age children, including a [Frank and the pea-stalk](#) Harvest resource.
- FOR **YOUTH GROUPS** ON CLIMATE: a 4 session [climate pack](#) written by Christian Aid, Tearfund and CIYD

Helen Newell would be delighted to chat with you about how you could link up with Christian Aid, or to provide any assistance in making the best of these resources: hnewell@christian-aid.org or 028 9064 8133. Thank you.

