

Poverty and Hope Appeal 2024/25: Loving our neighbours around the world

Since 1977 Rochester Diocese has, through this annual appeal, helped meet the most basic needs that all of God's children deserve: a safe place to live; food to eat; and a way to something better for their children. We can only make a small contribution in response to a huge worldwide challenge, but we do what we can, working through long-term trusted partners.

Over £20,000 was raised in the 2023 Appeal and we are most grateful to every church and individual who contributed. Every penny of this is going to our seven beneficiaries: four international Christian Charities and three Companion Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Over the last five decades Poverty and Hope has focused on five core themes: Agriculture, Education, Healthcare, Women's Empowerment and Community Advocacy. This year we are adding another one: Peace. War and violence has devastated millions of lives in recent years and we can't just watch helplessly.

The two leading projects over the next twelve months are:

The continuing efforts through Amos Trust to work for peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine, highlighted by the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Centre, working in the shadow of the separation wall in Bethlehem.

A big new initiative involving Christian Aid, the EU and US Aid, to help people turn away from violence towards peace in Latin America and the Caribbean. The immediate focus is on the 'Communities Living Peacefully' project working at the northern border of Haiti and Dominican Republic.

We are God's hands and feet (and money) on earth, so please donate generously!

Peter Kettle, LLM, Poverty and Hope Appeal Coordinator.