



The Bishop of Southwark's

# LENT CALL 2021

"... have compassion..."

Mark 8.2

## Fundraising ideas

Over many years now, the Bishop's Lent Call has urged individuals, parishes and schools within the Diocese of Southwark to use the materials provided during Lent.

Bishop Christopher and his brother Bishops hope that, no matter how strange the circumstances during Lent this year, you will want to pray for and consider giving to the projects which are being supported.

The period of Lent is a traditional time for us all to focus prayerfully on our spiritual life and reflect upon how we live day by day. Many of us at present have more time than we might usually expect and so it is a good opportunity to take time to think and pray. Take a look at the Reflections material as you consider what you might do to observe this Lent.

In the same way, Lent is a good time for considering whether there is anything that you can do to help to raise money for the food security projects that we are supporting.

## Feeding our neighbours

As you may have seen on the accompanying Project Sheets, these are all related to helping to make sure that people have sufficient food to survive in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe, in our, soon to be new, Link Diocese of Jerusalem and in the three Episcopal Areas in the Diocese of Southwark.

As individuals, parishes and schools it may not be possible for you to do as much to fundraise for these projects as you have in the past, but it might be that there are other ways in which you could consider fundraising online or personally.



## Hold an online quiz

You could invite people to an online quiz and ask them to make a donation to your church's Lent Call fund in order to play. This will not only raise some money for the Lent Call but will also offer contact to people who might live alone and feel very isolated during the pandemic. If people are not able to get involved online, it might even be possible to include them over the telephone as part of a team.

## Give something up

If you are someone who gives something up for Lent please consider saving the money that you might have spent and offering it instead to the Bishop's Lent Call projects.



As you think about what you might be able to do to help to raise money for the Bishop's Lent Call projects, don't forget that many people are feeling very financially challenged at this time. Please do not make them feel awkward if they cannot offer anything towards participating in the event or make a donation.

We all have something to offer at all times, not least our prayers, and everyone can be encouraged to pray for the projects even if they are not able to give financially.

God willing, it is possible that during Lent or when we reach Easter we may be out of lockdown and able to undertake more traditional fundraising activities. Until then, please use your imagination to think of things to do safely and online. More than that, pray for those whom we are featuring both during Lent and afterwards.

### Help from schools

We have always relied a great deal upon our schools to raise and give money to our Lent Call projects. Whilst we know that they are not likely to be open for at least some of Lent, we very much hope that our teachers will find a little time to think of possible ways to share the material in this year's Lent Call with their pupils. We hope, too, that they can be encouraged to fundraise in whatever way they safely can.

Things are so hard for so many people now but it is always good to remember that, no matter how little we have, there are often other people who have less.

We are called to give of what God has generously given to us. If we can do this, those who are worried about having enough to eat will know that others care for them. More than that, it is good to offer practical help to those in need by giving to help provide much-needed meals.

### Save your coins

Why not try finding a box or tin that you can fill with 1ps or 2ps or even £1 coins? At the moment many of us do not use cash a lot because shops prefer credit cards at this time of pandemic. But if you do have some coins and could fill a sweet tube or other container with cash – no matter how small the amount – this would be a wonderful way to contribute to the work of the projects. How about considering saving one of every two coins that you get?



### Talk to the experts

If you have someone in your congregation who has visited or worked with any of the projects, why not ask them to talk to an online group about what they have seen and learned? Once again, you could charge a small fee for attending the event and this could be donated to the Lent Call. More than that, it is good not to be embarrassed to ask people if they would be willing to donate some money to these causes at the end of the session. People are often willing to give having heard an inspiring and informative talk.