



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025

The really excellent news is that Holy Trinity's Christian Aid Week (CAW) 2025 appeal has raised a brilliant **£4,256.30** including Gift Aid.

The Community Fair CAW cake stall raised an amazing sum, over **£450**: no less than £200 more than last year! I thought we had a lot of cakes this year . . . Many thanks to those who staffed the stall, and those who baked the cakes and made the jams, marmalades and chutneys. Thank you to all those who delivered our delivery-only envelopes to so many houses. Prior to that, thanks to Keith Yeandel again for managing the printing of the labels, and to the loyal team who stuck the labels on the CAW envelopes at The Vic one Friday night, which is becoming a CAW tradition. Thanks to the wonderful Sarah C Greengrocers in the village for agreeing so readily to be a dropping-off point for CAW envelopes, which again worked really well, with several envelopes left there. Thank you to Dr Frances Clemson for launching our CAW inspiring in our sermon slot on 11th May. And thank you to Dave Memery for helping me with the count again, with never a cross word.

Christian Aid was again promoting "Seven days, so many ways" to prompt sponsorship events, so again, I decided to cycle 140 miles during CAW, inviting any sponsors to contribute to Holy Trinity's CAW appeal. I can honestly say that I have never had such a positive response to this, and thank you very much. I completed the 140 miles after a church bike ride to Portishead, and celebrated by cycling into Bristol to buy an ice cream in the Centre, making my total over 150 miles in the week. As part of the week, I led a bike ride for my Life Cycle cycling friends to Severn Beach from Temple Meads and back via our Café in the Church on the Wednesday morning, where we were warmly welcomed and very well catered for.

By the time this magazine is published, I will have been to a Service of Thanksgiving and Reflection in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of Christian Aid. I am very much looking forward to this, not least because my wife Jo featured in the special *Songs of Praise* episode on BBC 1 to mark the fiftieth anniversary in 1995. She was filmed in our garden in Shrewsbury and leading a school assembly at a local primary school and the service was at St Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham. There, we heard the wonderful *Brother, sister, let me serve you* hymn for the first time, so Christian Aid. It became our favourite hymn: it still is mine, and was one of Jo's funeral hymns.

I hope you will also be pleased to hear that the parochial church council (PCC) invited me to address them on the issue of succession planning for Christian Aid. I am not intending to give up Christian Aid any time soon, but I am conscious that I am the only person who knows what is involved. The PCC heard me sympathetically and we all agreed that I should endeavour to share details of the administration involved for future reference.

Thank you all for helping this wonderful charity – the development agency of the British churches – doing God's work on earth and lifting people out of poverty, of all faiths and none.

Ken Pattison