“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’

Mark 12:30-31

Jesus taught us that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbour. It can be tempting to only make the effort to love people we see, those near us and close to us. But Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan leaves us in no doubt that being neighbours means loving any person in need of our help or kindness.

This year’s Poverty and Hope Appeal will enable us to show love to our neighbours, those near and far. We will do this by building a vocational centre in Kondoa Diocese, Tanzania, facilitating peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, feeding families in Burkina Faso, tackling deforestation in Argentina, enabling justice for vulnerable women in Delhi, and investing in young people here in Kent with critical and creative thinking skills.

Please join with us this year as we pray and give to our neighbours as Jesus calls us to.
Building Chemba Vocational Centre

A fantastic team in Chemba, part of Kondoa Diocese in Tanzania, are working hard to make several thousand bricks with which they’ll build a much-needed vocational centre. The people of Kondoa Diocese are almost entirely reliant on farming and herding for their economic survival. As severe droughts increase in frequency, the young people of Chemba know it’s becoming crucial for them to diversify away from agriculture. The Chemba Vocational Centre, now that full permission to go ahead has been given, will equip young people with the education, skills and experience they need to gain stable employment and support their families financially and educationally.

These bricks were made much more quickly thanks to the machine bought using Poverty and Hope appeal funds.

Breaking down the barriers in the DRC

Decades of armed conflict have left a legacy of poverty in the DRC. Authorities are not using resources to alleviate poverty; distrust and fear makes dialogue between citizens and governments almost impossible.

The Episcopal Justice and Peace Committee (a partner of Christian Aid) is working to facilitate constructive conversations. This creates vital opportunities for ordinary people to influence decision-making.

Your support will make even more difference: for every £1 we raise for this project, EuropeAid will give £3.

Feeding families in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, almost half of the population of nearly 18 million live below the poverty line. Your support over the last year has seen families learn new ways of providing for themselves, making them more resilient to the changes in climate and better able to look after their families. Activities include learning new farming methods and breeding animals. Every £1 you raise for this project will be matched by £5 more from the EU, so your gifts will go even further.

Jean Michel looks after his chickens.
Critical and creative thinking in Kent

Bore Place supports schools in Kent to explore complex global issues such as injustice, conflict, peacebuilding, and sustainability in our interconnected and interdependent world. The year ahead sees them looking to develop a hands-on and work-related offer for young people 16 and over who don’t fit or flourish in traditional classroom contexts. The aim is to provide them with a real opportunity to engage in education, develop skills and more confidently transition to the next stage of their lives.

Tackling deforestation in Argentina

Andrew and Maria Leake are CMS mission partners based in Salta, Argentina. Their work in the Argentine Chaco is focused on raising awareness on the effects of deforestation on the lives of indigenous peoples and the environment. Fragile forests in the region are being cleared to make way for soy bean and cattle, leaving people and land devastated. Andrew continues to research the effects of environmental degradation and seeks to empower Christian leaders in protecting both God’s creation and God’s people.

Justice for vulnerable women in Delhi

Delhi is home to 1.6 million people living in extreme urban poverty. The poor – particularly women and children – are often abused and unable to access help to change their lives. Thanks to community helplines set up by the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS), with support from Us, women can get help when it’s needed. The DBS community councils enable women to challenge cases of neglect and domestic violence.

Young people developing confidence and self esteem as they learn how to grow food at Commonwork.
Dear friends,

The projects we’re supporting through this year’s Poverty and Hope Appeal have all been chosen to express solidarity with poor and marginalised communities around the world. This appeal is not simply about what we can do for them, but rather is born of the conviction that poverty, violence, injustice and inequality are not inevitable.

By supporting this appeal, you are making an important difference in communities here at home and around the world. Although some of the projects may seem far removed from our diocese, Jesus has called us to ‘love your neighbour as yourself’, no matter where they might be found. For this reason, I ask you to support this year’s Poverty and Hope Appeal, to show the love of Jesus to our neighbours, at home or abroad.

I urge you, therefore, to give your strong support to these projects, whether as individuals, churches, schools or communities!

For resources to help you in your prayer and fundraising, please go to the Rochester diocesan website: bit.ly/PovertyHope

Thank you for your support for this appeal.

With my prayers and good wishes,

The Rt Rev James Langstaff
Bishop of Rochester
Please support this appeal by giving generously, by telling your church, school and community, and with your prayers. Thank you.

To book a speaker, order resources, set up a standing order, or enquire about Gift Aid or other financial matters, please contact Debbie Cooper using the details below.

Please make cheques payable to Rochester DBF, with ‘Poverty and Hope’ written on the back, and send to:

Debbie Cooper
Appeal Coordinator
Poverty and Hope Appeal
6 Calverley Park
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 2SH

Phone: 01892 527 611
Email: povertyandhope@gmail.com

UK registered charity numbers:
Diocese of Rochester Poverty and Hope Appeal 249339
Christian Aid 1105851 and company number 5171525
CMS 1131655 and company number 6985330
Commonwork Trust 1160725
Us 234518

The money raised will fund the work of the partners or projects featured. If any project becomes unavailable for any reason, the money will be used to fund work of a similar nature.

Front cover:
Kiran and Asha, members of a women’s empowerment community council, taking notes on a case in Delhi.
(Photo: Us/Leah Gordon)