

OCT-NOV 2023

Life.



Tearfund Quiz

**Playtime
Conference!**

**Exclusive
Interview
with Fiona
and John
Betteley!**

**Coming up:
The Alban
Way 2024**



CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD

Transformed by Love Seeking to Serve Experiencing Hope

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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN YOUR MAGAZINE?

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Life.

Read a good book this month? Why not send us a book review or tell us what your church group has been up to this season! If you would like to contribute something to the next edition, the deadline for submissions for the Nov/Dec edition will be 17th November. Please email:

life@ccbedford.org



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You can read this edition online, just go to our website:
CCBedford.org/lifemagazine

VICAR'S LETTER



As the season changes from summer to autumn, the nights are drawing in and the skies are a bit greyer than they have been, I am reminded that time does not stand still, but also that our God does not either. There have been so many stories of God's goodness; meeting those who are in need, bringing comfort to those who mourn, providing a way through the storms this life throws at us. And so I want to update you all on what we have been doing following the sharing of a new vision for the church earlier this year;

VISION STATEMENT



We are a people being transformed by the unconditional love of God; seeking to bless our community, and longing for others to experience the hope we have in Jesus.

Since then we have been beavering away in the background figuring out what this might mean for us. We have reviewed the "structure" of Christ Church and where we are putting our resources. This looks like a few different things; firstly the PCC have agreed that we want to employ a full-time Youth Minister (job advert is hopefully out in the wild by the time you are reading this!). Secondly, we have looked at the questions;

- What does discipleship look like for CCB?
- What does it mean to be a part of the wider community?
- What does a flourishing community look like?

Flowing out of these questions has been a reorganising of our Impact Groups. Now some people might be asking the question, what is an Impact Group? Good question! Impact Groups are smaller groups who have been given responsibility from the PCC to look after specific areas of church life. With this in mind we have created some new groups, enhanced some existing ones, and because resources are limited phased out some groups. We have also brought the Home Groups into the structure, so that everything is literally on the same page.

Underpinning the running of the church are the three groups: Resources, Buildings and Communications. These are primarily practical activities, without which none of the Discipleship, Community and Flourishing can take place.

We have the Teaching and Worship Group who will be thinking through how are teaching and worship work together and impact the life of the church.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." Isaiah 54:2



We are a people being transformed by the unconditional love of God; seeking to bless our community, and longing for all to experience the hope we have in Jesus.

Our Children, Youth & Families Group which is primarily there to support our Children's Minister Ruth, and our as yet unknown full-time youth worker (please pray!).

We have our Mission Group who think through what organisations we support with our giving and making sure we are kept updated on what is happening.

A new group called Engagement, who are thinking through how we as a church engage with our community. What are the needs here in Bedford, and how should Christ Church respond? Their first task has been creating an audit of what goes on here, their second task will be to listen and figure out what the community needs are.

We then have another new group which is Pastoral Care. We recognise that caring for the needs of the CCB family is significant and cannot just fall upon the shoulders of a few super special caring people. Thus, we are attempting to create a structure so we can do this in a caring and safe way, a way which does not rely on a few key people.

And then we have the Home Groups, what a blessing these are. And huge thanks to the leaders of these and to Pauline Barber for all the work she does co-ordinating it.

At the start of the year I spoke about having this verse from Isaiah as the focus for the year:

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” Isaiah 54:2

I hope and pray that this is us enlarging our tent and opening wide our curtains. Please pray with me that we would be those who are about God's business. Please continue to journey with us in being those who are transformed by God's love, that we would be those who passionately serve our community, that we and those we meet would experience the hope that we have found in Jesus, a hope that changes everything!





Interview with John and Fiona

Written by Alan Cottenden

John and Fiona Betteley have been at Christ Church for nearly forty years: they are on their fourth vicar and have got through countless curates. Now retired, they pour their energies into a bewildering array of activities.

Tell me about your penchant for hedgehogs and frogs!

Fiona: I collect hedgehogs – not live ones. It began when a friend gave me a stuffed one called Bernard – for my 18th birthday.

Some years on, Bernard has seeded an extensive collection of friends who have colonised most corners of the house. Our Italian son-in-law finds this mystifying but has found it useful in helping to identify a present likely to meet with my approval.

John: For me, it's frogs. Some years ago – when *The Muppet Show* was all the rage on TV – I worked closely with a lady who – for reasons I (mercifully) can't remember – our colleagues nick-named Miss Piggy. Before long – and in recognition of the long legs that contribute significantly to my height – I became known in the chemistry lab as Kermit. So, if you tour our house, you will discover colonies of frogs, in places hedgehogs haven't already claimed.

Which leads me naturally to my next question... How did you each come to faith in Jesus?

Fiona: For me, belonging to the CYFA (Church Youth Fellowship Association) youth group at my church in Orpington was vital. Around 30 of us teenagers met weekly. That's where I learned the basics of the faith. When I reached 18 I had to leave CYFA but we started a CYFA+ group for those of similar age to me. And that's where I eventually met John. I finally came to faith at university where I had joined the Christian Union.

John: I've believed in God for as long as I can remember but I was 23 before I came to a real faith for myself. I went to

church as a child but left aged 12 when I was thrown out of the choir for not being able to sing! At school, we had an RE teacher who clearly had a real faith, from the way he talked about Jesus. It was from him that I came to understand that Christianity is more than just a belief system, but about following Christ. Meanwhile, I'd left school and started work. I discovered that one of my work mates was a Christian and it was through him that I was prompted to investigate further. After a dramatic answer to prayer I felt it was now decision time and shortly after I became a Christian. The only Bible I had access to at the time was a *Gideons* New Testament presented to me at school, which was pivotal in me gaining my initial understanding of the Christian faith. I was very grateful to the CYFA+ group at church that accepted me as I was. I did not need to be anything or do anything to be loved and accepted by them which was a radical new concept for me. CYFA+ changed its name to *Alpha* over time (pre Nicky Gumbel days: we should have copyrighted the name!).

How did you arrive in Bedford?

Fiona: After school, I went on to Essex University (in Colchester) to study History and then to Norwich to train as a teacher. My first job was to be a form teacher, teaching Humanities and Maths for a year at Etonbury School in Arlesey. I lived in Biggleswade, but then moved to Clapham for my next job which was at Harrold School. That's when I first came to Christ Church.



John: After school, I trained as an analytical chemist and my first job was with the Wellcome Foundation in Dartford. After we got married in 1985, I moved to a company in Huntingdon and we bought our house on Larkway.

How are you adjusting to retirement? What do you get up to these days?

Fiona: It's 5 years since I retired as a middle school teacher at Newnham, where I spent most of my career after a break to have our two daughters, Naomi and Zoë. Having spent my whole career - essentially - working to the demands of a teaching curriculum, I've found it tricky transitioning to a "blank sheet" in which almost my entire time can be filled with things that please me, if I choose. I'm still in the process of working out how God wants me to use that freedom.

We both enjoy walking: we each have our own weekly walking groups and have also joined a group where we actually walk together. I also belong to a fitness group, a sewing and quilting group (I'm currently making a double duvet with a Dragon motif) and have a weekly ballroom dancing session. I've been learning German on a Friday afternoon since Naomi moved to Germany to study for a period. I imagined I might end up with a German son-in-law so thought I'd better prepare by being ready to talk with him! But, instead, she married an Italian she met in Birmingham, so my plan didn't quite work! I also help with the cooking for lunch club.

John: I retired 7 years ago. I do ballroom dancing with Fiona, but I'm not very good and have almost zero concept of keeping time with the music, being unable to hear the beat. I play badminton once a week and Fiona intended to come along as well, but she came to grief at her second session, falling and injuring herself. She's safer with quilting. I adopted a different strategy on the son-in-law-and-language front, waiting till Naomi had found a husband before choosing which language to learn. My Italian classes are due to start soon, but I've actually been learning online for a few years. I'm involved in distributing Bibles through Good News for Everyone (formerly, Gideons) and I lead the team that runs Christ Church's Men's Breakfast. Similarly, Fiona attends Ladies Elevenses and we both enjoy our (Teal) Home Group.

I am also a member of the group that looks after the AV on a Sunday morning, often setting the system up from the order of service during the preceding week.

You've been at Christ Church for some time, haven't you? How have things changed since you first arrived?

In the 1980s we were a very young church with over 100 children in Sunday School. In recent years our children's and youth work has started increasing again thanks to the excellent work by Ruth and AJ and others and we now have numerous midweek and Sunday groups.



What's God been teaching you lately?

John: How to trust him more when life is difficult. I've known for years the scripture that says "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.... when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9&10) but I'm slowly learning to live in the good of it. When I'm anxious and don't know what to do, God does. And I can trust him to see me through.

Fiona: Similar for me. There are a number of difficult situations where there is either nothing I can do, or nothing I should do - where it's probably best I do nothing. Trusting that God is sufficient and resting in him - rather than worrying about it - doesn't come naturally to me, but I'm learning! I often think of - and pray - the famous excerpt from St Patrick's prayer:

*Christ with me,
Christ before
me, Christ
behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath
me, Christ
above me,
Christ on my
right, Christ
on my left,
Christ when I
lie down, Christ
when I sit
down...*

I'm also encouraged by the scriptures that remind me that - much as I prefer life when it's easy - I usually grow more when it's tough. For example, St James writes, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4). When trouble comes my first thought is to escape: I want the situation resolved. Preferably, immediately! Here's a reminder to consider the possibility that God may want to do things amid the problem that I would prefer He just removed.

Thank you!

Alan Cottenden



HUNSTANTON

BEACH PARTY

18 POSITIVE NOTES

- I was happy to be part of this trip
- It was well organised and I had fun with the company and the great views.
 - Thank you for organising it! We have taken lots of wonderful photographs with different scenery. Thank you God for the lovely weather.
- Good day out, fun conversations with new and known people
 - We had a great day out it was very relaxing and enjoyable.
- Great Day Out! I had a lovely relaxing day out at the sea side.
- My family had an amazing time at the Lavender Farm and on the Cliffs. Thank you sooo much!
 - Had a swell time. Please keep me posted for more!
 - Eventful and Happy Day!
- Sunny Hunny - Loved the trip. Plenty to do and see. Lovely friendly people. Pity couldn't swim in the sea as the sea level was too low. Lovely ice cream. Thank you, for organising so perfectly
- A very happy day and to know, 1 or 2 people a little more
 - Warm, a great day and I went in the sea!
 - Relaxed, fun day with great weather!
 - Windy but warm - lots of sunshine and smiles!
- Fantastic sunny day out. Enjoyed the music in the town '2nd Sunset', they were great!
- Had lovely fish and chips from Fishers. Thanks for taking me.
 - A wonderful day in every way, thank you!
- A great day filled with many enjoyable moments. Thank you!



Playtime conference!



Why did we go?

Building a team of volunteers, supporting and thanking them is essential for a sustainable and fruitful ministry, as every person makes a difference and brings different skills and gifts to the children's work. It was so exciting to get some of the children's team together to go to Playtime Conference in Milton Keynes. The conference was mostly focussed on the hows and whys of parent toddler groups in churches. It also posed questions about how we best engage with non-christian families and parents and carers who are going through hard times. It's important that volunteers have the chance to spend time outside of the regular setting so they can get to know one another.

This builds the chance for easier communication and makes volunteering more fun! Leading children's groups can be challenging in different areas, especially if children's work is not your day job. Playtime conference was able to give training on behaviour management, craft skills and storytelling for toddlers. It was also great to be able to worship together and have discussions about church life without having to rush off to lead a children's group! In each session we had time to think about how the teaching linked into our setting at Christ Church. Building bridges and making connections means being intentional, and having conferences in the diary is a way of clearing space for us to hear what God is saying to us.

The three things that stood out from the conference across the different seminars and talks for me were:

- Churches across the country are all part of the whole body of Christ and each group in different churches all make a huge difference to the mission of God. Even if you are only seeing a tiny number of families at our groups, the impact is still significant, and every church goes through times of smaller numbers.
- Generosity and sharing care is not as common as it used to be in our culture. If the church is the one place that gives out without asking for anything back in return, then the church is being a city on a hill (Matt.5 14-16)
- Stories are powerful for the adults as well as the children. We were encouraged to try new resources and techniques of bringing stories to life for children.

I was moved when Robin Vincent (CEO of care for the family) shared the story of Sir Nicolas Winton who found homes for over 600 children whose families had perished in Auschwitz. He was an example of an ordinary person who had a huge impact by saving far more children than he knew. Consistently showing kindness every week in a setting like a toddler group, and being there for exhausted parents who need a place to recoup is making more of a difference than we realise. Even if it is a simple set up, just being open and available is making a huge difference. Being a playgroup that is open is like being the Innkeeper in the story of the Good Samaritan!

- Ruth Hulme

"Brilliant conference, well organised, fun and informative. I loved learning about child spirituality which is all about enabling connections between children and God. And some great tips on handling difficult behaviour such as planning ahead, establishing routines, knowing that behaviour is a child's first language so we need to look beneath the surface. There were also some great strategies for welcoming families into church - perhaps a newcomers leaflet so people know when the service will end, can they breastfeed, where the toilets are. Removing barriers.

-Marion Topham

"Reflecting back on the conference I think the main thing I took away was to remember to try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. Either an upset child or someone coming to church for the first time, it's important to try to think what they are trying to tell you or might need and not to assume you know what's best. Also not to be afraid to ask people how they're doing."

-Nesta Major

We had a great time of fellowship at the Playtime Conference and the chance to focus on our little ones and their families and carers.

One important thing that struck me was the need to let new families who come to church know what will be happening in our services and what their children will be doing when they go to their groups.

All the things we take for granted on Sundays can be very strange if you are coming to church for the first time.

-Christine Snape

SENIORS ACTIVITY DAY

Great fun was had at the Seniors Activity day on 16th August. There were 35 people attending at the bargain price of £3 per head which included lunch. Various arts and crafts activities were available in the morning with an opportunity to create some acrostic poems which is easier than it sounds (why not Google it to see what they are). Many thanks to our cooks and helpers that provided lasagne, salad and garlic bread for lunch followed by lovely cakes. Board games followed by a quiz were available in the afternoon with two teams tying for top spot in the quiz. We finished the day with yet more cakes.

It is planned to have another seniors activity day before Christmas. The 20th December has been suggested, but it will be advertised nearer the time. So get that date in your diaries now!!

Anyway back to our August day, an acrostic poem is where the first letter of each new line spells out a message or word. Some of the expert acrostic poems produced on the day are given below:

For when I am in difficulty I
Ask the Lord for help.
I turn to Him for
The lord is faithful and
Hears my call.
For His love for me is
Unending. He
Loves me more than I know.

Please Lord I wish to
Enter your presence
And feel the love you have for me.
Christ is all.
Enter my life.



Just some of our expert cooks – Thank you!!



Games and getting ready for the quiz



Arts and crafts in the morning



Adventure. Community. Transformation.

A formational year for 18-35s designed to sit alongside your normal working life or study.



The Alban Way is a year long programme focused on equipping and forming you to grow as disciples and leaders. Through practice-based teaching sessions, we want to help you build foundations on which your relationship with Jesus grows and flourishes. The Alban Way wants to make space for our hearts and minds to be sharpened as we spend time with each other and with God. This growth happens best in community. So for the rest of the year we will meet monthly at someone's house with a meal together. This will be a great space to build community and reflect on what God is doing in your life. Each month we will continue to develop our rules of life as we explore and experiment with different spiritual practices.

WHO'S IT FOR?

The Alban way is designed for people between the ages of 18-35.

WHERE IS IT BASED?

Our monthly meetings will be held at various locations across St Albans Diocese

THE PLAN:

- Residential weekend
- Monthly Gatherings
- Pilgrimage

**APPLICATIONS FOR 2024
ARE NOW OPEN**
**Apply online and find out
more: thealbanway.com**



Saturday 7th October @7pm

Christ Church Halls

- Teams of 6
- Suggested donation for Tearfund of £5 per person paid on the night
- Please bring your own nibbles/dips, drinks and if possible, please bring your own glasses and dishes.
- If possible pre-book via Rachel Bennett (rach_bennett@icloud.com) or just turn up

tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom

+44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 📱 @ /Tearfund

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tearfund

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READY, SET, GLOW!

WE'RE HAVING A LIGHT PARTY
AT CHRIST CHURCH (MK40 3SX)
FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER
5-7PM

PARTY FOOD INCLUDED

**BOOK IN TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING USING
THE QR CODE OR THE EVENT PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE!**

**CELEBRATE JESUS
THE LIGHT OF THE
WORLD!**



CHILDREN'S TEAM VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EARLY YEARS - PRIMARY AGED CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Volunteers are needed to support in weekly children's groups as well as events and Sunday mornings. We especially need team for our Morning Out Toddler group and helpers for Sunday groups. We will also be looking for short term helpers for our Christmas, summer and other holiday activities like parties and holiday clubs. DBS check will be required. We would love to hear from you!

contact children@ccbedford.org or call 07554 537757



Promoting a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young
people & adults

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Pauline Carter
Role: Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 07761 792732
E-mail: safeguarding@ccbedford.org

Name: Helen Ryan
Role: Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 07711 176426
E-mail: helryan1966@gmail.com

Name: David Thomas
Role: Vicar of Christ Church Bedford
Tel: 07778 034481
E-mail: vicar@ccbedford.org

Name: Jeremy Hirst
Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 01727 818107 / 07867 350886
E-mail: safeguarding@stalbens.anglican.org



Local Authority Social Services:
01234 718700 (children's) 01234 267222 (adult's)
0300 300 8123 (out of hours emergency duty team)

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010 327
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784



Sunday Services

9am & 10:30am Morning Worship

7pm Sundays@Seven

Wednesday Service

10am Holy Communion



CONTACT US

Vicar: David Thomas

07778034481

Vicar@CCBedford.org

Vicar's PA - Vikki Thomas

VicarsPA@CCBedford.org

Office Manager: Pauline Grimley

01234 327150

Office@CCBedford.org

Bookings Administrator - Dawn Hire

07788687011

Centre@CCBedford.org

Children's Minister: Ruth Hulme

07554537757

Children@CCBedford.org

18 - 30s Pioneer: Laura Jewell

18-30s@CCBedford.org

Church Wardens - Kay Berrington & Andrew Russell

Warden@CCBedford.org

Site Manager: Vandon Grimley

Site@CCBedford.org



@CC_Bedford



@christchurchbedford



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www.ccbedford.org

CHRIST
CHURCH
BEDFORD

Join us at Christ Church
Denmark Street, Bedford



About Mission Direct

Mission Direct is a Hertfordshire-based Christian mission organisation that focuses on demonstrating the love of Jesus to materially poor areas of the world. Together with our Christian partners in these communities, we support long-lasting and sustainable change.

In addition to providing our expertise and sending financial resources, we also invite volunteers to experience two weeks of short term mission as part of achieving the longer term help in these communities.

If you are interested in joining a two week mission trip, or if you would just like further information, please feel free to get in touch or look at our website. Also, if your church would like us to organise a bespoke team just for your group, we would also love to help you with this.

For more information contact Mission Direct at one of the following:
info@missiondirect.org
01582 720 056
www.missiondirect.org

Supporting the Harvest Appeal

We have produced a range of resources to help your church or school as you support the Harvest Appeal. These include: ideas for churches, activities for children and young people, Ugandan recipes, a collection box template, posters, editable posters and flyers, and a video. These can be downloaded from www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/harvest-appeal-2023

Depending on how much is raised, some other food poverty projects in Kumi might also be supported.

How to send donations

This year all donations are being made direct to Mission Direct, who will keep a record of the transactions for Bishop Alan to see, and will ensure that a thank you and receipt is sent.

For instructions for the various ways that you can donate, please go to www.missiondirect.org/bishops-harvest-appeal-2023 or scan the QR code.



Scan to make a donation

Harvest Prayer

God of abundance and grace, whose Son, Jesus Christ, proclaimed good news to the poor and fed the hungry: we pray your blessing on the schools and families of Uganda.

May we, your Church, overflow with generosity and joy.

In our giving may we have the imagination and courage to share our resources with all.

And may your Gospel of salvation and hope draw people throughout the world ever deeper into you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

£5	Will buy one fruit tree to provide additional nutrition.
£18	Will pay for three chickens to be given to a family, which can provide over 400 eggs a year.
£340	Can support a vulnerable family's annual supply of essential foods.

DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS
Living God's Love



The Bishop of St Albans'
Harvest Appeal 2023

Cracking Food Poverty Together



Dear friends,

I am delighted that this year's Bishop's Harvest Appeal is being run in partnership with Mission Direct.

The project will provide families in Uganda with chickens. These will produce eggs for food, which will help to alleviate food poverty and malnutrition. They will also be a source of much-needed income. An important part of the project is that their

first hatchlings will be given back to the scheme so that they can be passed on to another family, thus spreading the benefits.

There is huge scope for involving people of all ages but especially young people and children. We are providing a range of resources with ideas and suggestions for local involvement.

This is a programme richly deserving of our time and commitment and I commend it to you.

So, please give your imagination free range, and let's get cracking!

+ *Mission Direct*



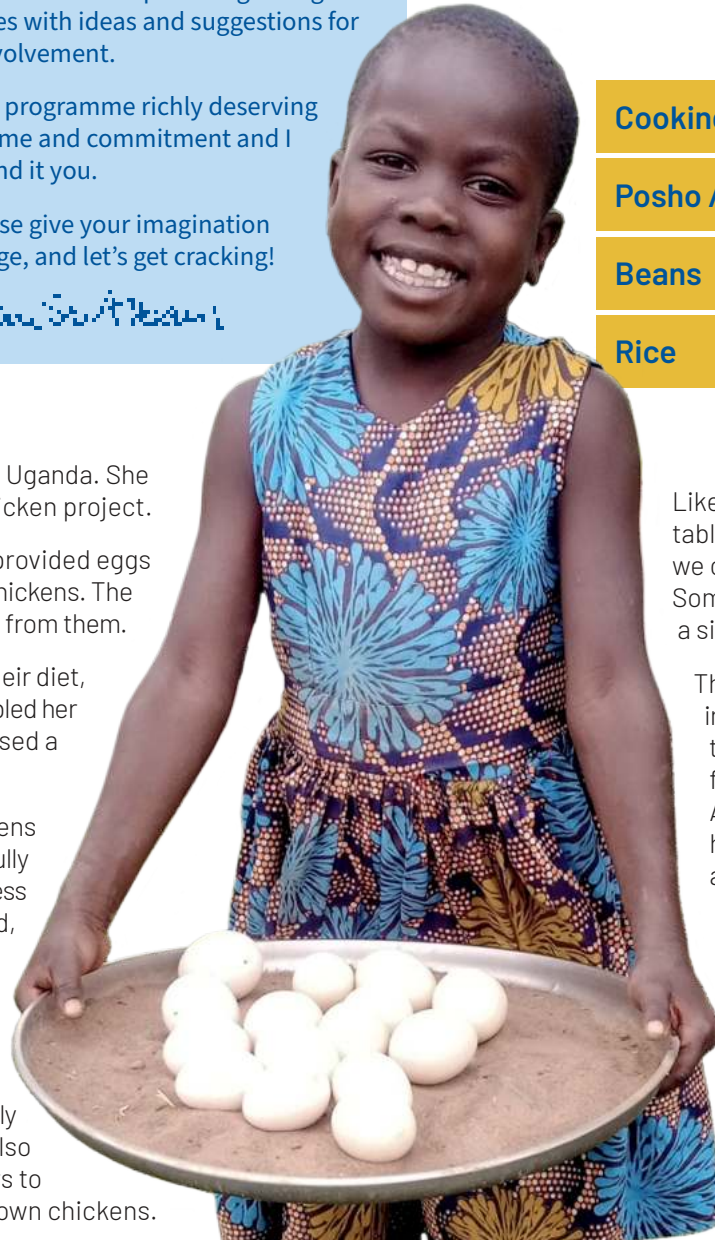
Helen's story

Helen lives in a small village within the Kumi district in Uganda. She has six children and has been greatly helped by the chicken project.

She was given some chickens a few years ago, which provided eggs and new hatchlings so that Helen was able to get more chickens. The more chickens that she had, the more eggs she received from them.

The eggs have been an important source of protein in their diet, and she has been able to sell chickens and eggs. This enabled her to support her children going to school, and she purchased a plot of land where she grows fruit trees.

Helen estimates that she has sold more than 300 chickens while retaining 50 for her family. While she has successfully expanded her chicken business and established her orchard, she has also given back to her community. One of the conditions of participation was that the first hatchlings were given back to the project so that another family could benefit. Helen has also mentored 16 other mothers to be able to look after their own chickens.



Food poverty in Uganda

According to the Global Nutrition Report from 2022, 66% of Ugandans live below the poverty line. This meant that they lived on less than £2.59 a day. In fact, skilled workers barely earned more than this, while casual agricultural labourers only earned 90p a day, so significantly less than the poverty line.

	Annual price rise in the UK*	Annual price rise in Uganda†
Cooking oil	40%	125%
Posho / Porridge	29%	80%
Beans	20%	80%
Rice	10%	60%

* Office for National Statistics Dec 2021 to Dec 2022

† Mission Direct data for the same period

Like most of the world, Uganda has experienced sharp food price rises. The table above compares price rises of basic foods in the UK and Uganda. As we can see, prices in Uganda have increased much more than in the UK. Some staple items used by most Ugandans have risen by 80% or more and a simple item like a bar of soap now costs more than a daily wage.

These price rises have been caused by a combination of factors. The war in Ukraine and fuel cost rises were significant, but added to these is the fact that they have experienced several droughts in recent years and suffered from locusts a couple of years ago, so successive crops were damaged. Added to this, the recent pandemic meant that people had to stay at home but did not receive government help, so livelihoods were severely affected. As a result of these challenges, many families can only eat one meal a day.

Mission Direct has supported the community of Kumi throughout this period. Much of our work is focussed on longer-term outcomes, like building schools to help the next generation to earn their way out of poverty with better jobs. However, the chicken project is a low cost and sustainable solution that has enabled families to feel a relatively quick benefit, with improved nutrition and a better income.

