

7 days to make a difference – your way!

The best Christian Aid Week events are centred on people's passions. So, what gets you excited? Golf? Baking? Wild swimming? Writing poetry? Painting? Singing? If you're not sure how to turn what you love into a fundraiser – chat to us. We'd love to help in any way we can. Call **028 9064 8133** or email **belfast@christian-aid.org**

Visit **caweek.ie/Resources** from **Saturday 1 March** for ideas and resources, including envelopes, posters, bunting and more. Please remember that the final deadline to order any deliverable resources is **Friday 25 April**.

You can also set up a fundraising page at **caweek.ie/Fundraising**

Be inspired by Aurelia's determination, ambition and hope – plan a fundraising event that will make a meaningful difference to people living in poverty.



Aurelia and her neighbour, Sofia, demonstrating climate resilient farming in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala.

Order everything you need to give, act and pray

From themed prayers to collection envelopes, children's activities to films, we've got you covered with a wide range of resources available to order and download. You can view and order all resources online at **caweek.ie/Resources**

You can also post the enclosed form with your order completed on it or by phone.

Accept card donations via Givestar

With our partner, Givestar, you can use your mobile phone to securely accept donations for Christian Aid by card. Say goodbye to coin counting and hello to hassle-free fundraising.

Find out more at **caweek.ie/Givestar**

Bank and report Christian Aid Week fundraising with ease

Our Paying-in pack (formerly known as the Treasurer's pack) makes it simple to bank and report the funds you've raised. It's vital that Christian Aid adheres to all legal fundraising regulations.

Our Paying-in pack provides clear, step-by-step guidance, so you can effortlessly support us to be compliant.

The Paying-in pack caters for every type of fundraising activity and every type of donation. With the pre-paid envelope included, you can even submit cheques. Plus, for ultimate convenience, you can pay in funds online, visit **caweek.ie/FormA** for all your options and further information.

It's never been easier to report your fundraised income and find the paying-in option that's right for you. Now, you can spend more time doing what you love – fundraising!

7 days to make a difference

Together, we can beat extreme poverty.

Every May, churches across the UK and Republic of Ireland host a huge range of fundraising events, making Christian Aid Week one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the British Isles.

Our amazing supporters walk, jog, cycle, dance, praise, bake, make, sell, quiz, and much more! Let your passions power positive actions in the fight against poverty and injustice.

Join us this Christian Aid Week.
Sign up at **caweek.ie**

christian
aid 80
years

Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Welcome to Christian Aid Week 11-17 May 2025

Welcome to your church fundraising pack for one of the UK and Ireland's longest running and best-loved charity events. We'll be sharing information about this year's campaign, providing fundraising inspiration, and pointing you to the resources you'll need to make a powerful difference across seven action-packed days. For now though, please take a moment to relax with a cup of tea and read Aurelia's inspiring story.

Loving our global neighbours

This year's Christian Aid Week stories take us to Guatemala, a country dealing with immense challenges:

- More than half of the population work in agriculture, yet Guatemala is a hunger hotspot.
- Guatemala has one of the highest rates globally of stunted development in children.
- Guatemala is one of the 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies.

In the Indigenous farming communities of the Alta Verapaz region, where our stories come from, uncertainty looms. The community's livelihoods, traditions and very survival are threatened by deadly droughts, savage storms and industrial plantations that monopolise the water supply and deforest the land.

The climate crisis is causing both the dry and rainy seasons that would once arrive with predictability to intensify and shift erratically. As a result, vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty.

Aurelia at home with members of her family.



But the unstoppable power of hope is in the hands of farmers like Aurelia, who's leading her community to overcome these challenges.

Holding hope in her hands

Aurelia is an inspirational farmer of the Q'eqchi' (pronounced Co-WAY-chee) community. She has eight children, many grandchildren and lives with one of her sons and his wife.

Aurelia moved to the region when she was two years old. Things were very different then:

'There was an abundance of trees, plants and wild animals, such as monkeys. There was lots of water close to the community, and it wasn't that hot.'

The water sources that were near Aurelia's home have been drained dry by heatwaves and industry. Now, collecting water for her crops is laborious and time-consuming.

Extreme weather is destroying Aurelia's farm. She worries deeply about how much produce she'll have to eat and sell: **'Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food.'**

It's testimony to Aurelia's endurance and hope that she proactively set out to find solutions. When Aurelia discovered the work of our partner, Congcoop, she put herself forward to attend the specialist agricultural training on offer.

With Congcoop's support, Aurelia's learned to adapt her farming to the changing climate. She now grows climate-resilient crops, produces fertiliser, and builds rainwater collection systems.

By changing the way she farms, Aurelia's fighting the climate crisis and restoring her family's food security. She's also leading her community by sharing the skills and knowledge she's gained.

It's vital that our programme with Congcoop continues, so that more farmers like Aurelia can build their resilience to extreme weather and take back control of their harvests.

Unite in hope with us

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With the generous backing of churches like yours, we've been able to offer support to communities in crisis. Over eight decades, we've harnessed something formidable: the unstoppable power of hope. And right now, we need it more than ever.

This Christian Aid Week, join us to bear witness to the unstoppable power of hope.

7 days to make a difference ... what will you do?

Hold a church service and collection

Christian Aid Week is an opportunity for your church community to learn about the challenges that farmers in Guatemala are facing, and to support families like Aurelia's to fight the effects of the climate crisis.

Resources such as our sermon notes, PowerPoint presentation, prayers and film (featuring Aurelia) will bring Christian Aid Week to life. We also have resources and guidance to make it easy to hold a collection, including the option to go cashless. Visit caweek.ie/Resources

Take on the 70k in May challenge

After last year's success, we're excited to say that our 70k in May challenge is back! Travel 70km your way – walk, run, cycle or swim it; do it solo or as a team; tackle it in one go or in chunks. However you do 70k in May, you'll be part of a community of churches and individuals all moving to make a difference.

Ready to step up to the challenge?

Visit caweek.ie/70k to learn more and sign up.



Collect in your community



Our iconic envelopes are a great way to raise funds in your community for Christian Aid. Our envelopes are designed to give you the option to either hold a house to house collection or organise a delivery-only event.

Find the best option for you at caweek.ie/Collections

You can also create a digital envelope at caweek.ie/fundraising to share a link for online donations. Collecting has never been simpler!

Planning a street collection?

If you're organising a public street collection, we'd love to help you plan and publicise your event. Please contact us so that we can ensure requirements are met, and that everything runs smoothly. Please phone **028 9064 8133** or email belfast@christian-aid.org

Worship and pray with us this May

Many of us will witness the joy of new growth this springtime. We'll feel the fresh rain and gentle sunshine that nurtures the land around us. While giving praise for God's glories this spring, let's pray for our global neighbours, for whom the seasons show the brutal reality of the climate crisis. Families whose children don't have enough food to thrive and grow.



With a range of worship resources, including an all-age service, daily devotional booklet and collection of prayers, we can unite to raise the unstoppable power of our hope. Discover the range at caweek.ie/Resources

Save the Dates

We have lots of exciting events planned to help support and encourage you as you fundraise this Christian Aid Week. We would love you to save the following dates:

- o **Saturday 15 March - Supporter Conference** at Carnmoney Presbyterian from 10am - 1.30pm Register now at caid.ie/supporterconference
- o **Thursday 3 April - Digital Giving 101** Zoom seminar led by Kaye Steele
- o **Thursday 10 April - Exploring Fundraising Opportunities** Zoom seminar led by Kaye Steele
- o **Thursday 24 April - CAW Prayer Launch**
- o **Friday 20 June - Service of Thanksgiving** for Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary in **St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.**

Aurelia going to collect water from a cenote – a sinkhole like a cave, with water at the bottom.

