

Resources for the Church Leader

Harvest
Appeal
2019



All age talk: Just add water

Use this fun, interactive talk to involve your whole congregation in WaterAid's 2019 Harvest Appeal.

You will need:

All age talk PowerPoint, the stories of Ruth and Ivy and the Harvest Appeal film (all available to download at wateraid.org/uk/harvest)



Women of Mabula village collect water from a hand-dug hole in the ground.

Slide 1: Explain that during harvest, Christians spend time giving thanks for the food they eat. Ask if anyone in the congregation grows their own food, can they explain how important water is for this? How much water do they need? Do different plants need different amounts of water? What plants need the most? Where do people get their water from for their plants?

Slide 2: Now ask the congregation about crops and plants grown around the world. Can they talk to the person next to them, and match the crops and vegetables shown on the slide to how much water is needed to produce them?

Slide 3: Now ask the congregation to imagine they live in a hot, dry village in Zambia where rains keep failing, and they are a farmer. What would they grow? Which crops would they choose? Where would they get water from for their crops and how would they get it there?

Slide 4: It is all thanks to water that we are able to eat delicious food. Let the congregation know that this talk is all about the charity WaterAid. Has your church or any of the congregation supported WaterAid in the past? Explain that as the name suggests WaterAid thinks water is very important! WaterAid works in some of the world's poorest communities to deliver clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. They believe that clean water should be normal for everyone, everywhere.

Slide 5: One in nine people around the world don't have access to clean water near their homes. This makes it very difficult to grow food, wash it, cook it (and even to wash up afterwards!). WaterAid has been working with villages like Milimo in Zambia to make sure they have harvests to celebrate too. Share the stories of Ruth and Ivy or the appeal film now, both available to download at wateraid.org/uk/harvest.

Slide 6: Explain that your church is supporting WaterAid by hosting a harvest supper (or collection) to help reach more families like Ivy's. Use this opportunity to invite your whole congregation to your harvest supper and thank them for giving even more communities a harvest to celebrate.



The community garden in Milimo is flourishing, giving plenty of food to eat and sell.



Sermon notes for a harvest service

Use this outline to share more about WaterAid's work, and reflect with your congregation on the importance of sharing the fruits of the earth.

Suggested reading:

Luke 12.16-21

You will need:

Ruth and Ivy's stories (available to download at wateraid.org/uk/harvest)



Harvest is a wonderful time for us to celebrate the fruits of the earth. A time to come together and give thanks for what we have. Harvest is also a time for remembering others.

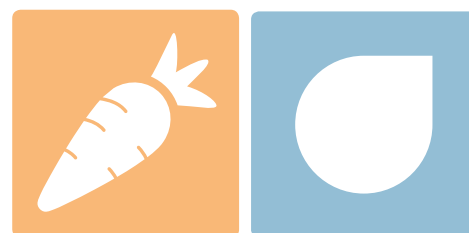
At harvest time, we think about sharing with those in need – those who haven't had abundant harvests to celebrate. And we can remind ourselves that these needs exist all year round – not just now.

One of the major reasons people around the world can't celebrate bountiful harvests is because of the lack of water. One in nine people across the world still don't have access to clean water near their homes. They rely on digging holes in streambeds or walking long distances to rivers and polluted lakes.

This harvest our church is supporting WaterAid, a charity which believes that clean water should be normal for everyone, everywhere.

With our help, WaterAid wants to reach villages like Mabula in Zambia with clean water, so that communities can celebrate good harvests. Milimo, another village in Zambia, benefited from a WaterAid project a couple of years ago. Now there is a flourishing vegetable garden, giving families enough to eat and sell all year round. Share Ruth's and Ivy's stories (available at wateraid.org/uk/harvest) with your congregation.

Reflect on the incredible difference WaterAid's work made to the village of Milimo, and give thanks for the delicious food you are able to eat because of clean water available. You could finish with the thanksgiving prayer written by WaterAid supporter Revd Greg Bartlem.



God, who created our wonderful planet.

We thank you for the abundant resources that the world provides. At this harvest time we especially thank you for the food that we eat and the water that is needed to grow our food, to wash our food, to cook our food and to wash up afterwards.

We pray for the work of WaterAid as they seek to ensure everyone, everywhere has access to the water they need. Amen.

Revd Greg Bartlem, Vicar, Diocese of Coventry