

# Harvest Appeal 2015

Our celebration of Harvest each year traditionally supports Christian Aid, which this year has two separate appeals, both to raise funds to help people in desperate need.

## HARVEST

**... is a time to reflect on how fortunate we are to have such a wealth of food readily available to us, a situation which is from reality for women like Tomey in Mali.**

Tomey lives in one of the driest places on earth, the Dogon Plateau in Mali, where rain is scarce and droughts are becoming more frequent. Life there has never been easy, but with a changing climate, families face an ever more bitter battle for survival.

In the drawn-out dry seasons, the ground is cracked and bare, leaving mothers in doubt about how they'll be able to stop their children from going hungry.

Christian Aid is providing seeds, tools and training to help women in Tomey's community to grow market gardens. Unlike traditional crops, these gardens are irrigated and do not rely on rain. They give women a chance to grow plentiful food to last through the leaner seasons. By selling surplus crops from the market garden, Tomey could save money for the first time in her life. So, when her grandson fell ill with malaria, she was able to buy the vital medicine he needed to recover.

**This project is about more than seeds and tools; it's about giving families the strength not just to survive, but to thrive. This work is life-saving and only possible with help of generous supporters like us at St Faith's**

## THE REFUGEE CRISIS

**This Christian Aid Prayer sums up both the desperate plight of the refugees and the need for a compassionate response by Christian communities**

Merciful God,  
We pray for all whose desperation leads them to the sea,  
to undertake perilous voyages,  
often following dangerous journeys over land:  
those escaping brutal wars,  
those fleeing religious persecution,  
those escaping climate disasters and economic ruin,  
those looking for hope in a hopeless situation.  
May we look beyond our own fears and concerns  
to the needs of those who have nothing,  
risk everything  
and depend on the kindness of strangers.

May our hearts be opened,  
our leaders be challenged  
and our self-interest be called out,  
in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

'Deal with each other justly, do not oppress the refugee, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood. Journey in all the ways I command you, that all may go well with you.' (*Jeremiah 7,*)

**May we be moved to give generously from our abundance this harvest time.**