



Hope in a changing climate

The Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal 2013



A message of hope for Harvest

For us, mobile phones can be a bit of a mixed blessing, and text messages a distraction. But in rural Kenya, they're playing a crucial role in helping farmers grow the food they need to survive and thrive.

John Ngari has been farming for many years. He has a well-established seven acres of land, where he grows a wide variety of crops, from maize and beans to avocados and mangoes.

John has been farming this land since 1982. But increasingly unpredictable weather patterns are threatening his survival, and that of small-scale farmers like him, in Mbeere, Kenya.

The problem has been compounded because, in this part of Kenya, the usual weather forecasts haven't been available to rural communities.

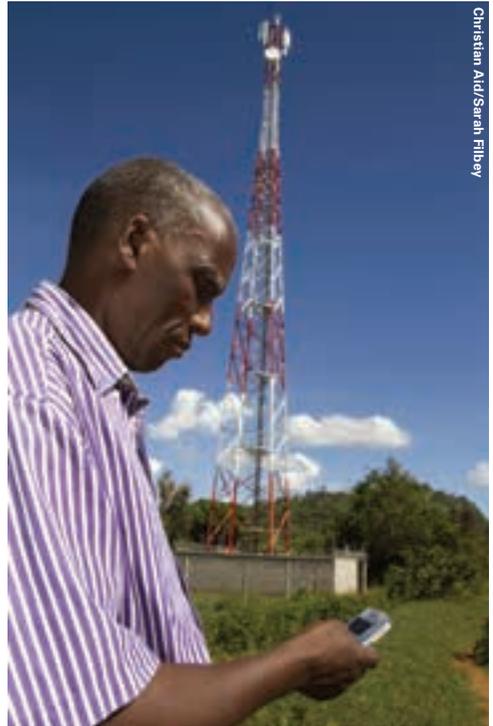
Now Christian Aid partner CCSMKE and its local diocesan partner in Mbeere have come up with an innovative solution.

Dramatic effect

They're taking weather forecasts by the MET office, rewriting them in the local language and sending them to farmers like John in a text message. In rural areas of Kenya, where more than 80 per cent of families own a mobile phone, the project is having a dramatic effect.

Small-scale farmers like John receive scientific weather forecasts they've never had before, enabling them to make more informed decisions about what and when to plant.

John is now able to plan ahead using vital information about rainfall, planting early-maturing varieties which don't need much water. In this way, farmers are better prepared, more resilient and able to adapt to the challenges climate change brings.



Christian Aid/Sarah Filbey

Local 'booster' masts mean farmers like John Ngari who live in rural areas can receive texts far from the big towns

The project also gives farmers an online platform to share experiences by texting in about any issues or successes. From problems with pests to hints and tips about which crops are thriving and which are not, communities are uniting through technology to tackle climate change.

John has learnt that his farm can do more than just feed him and his family. It has the potential to become a business. He is working with his local farmers' group to improve their economies of scale and fight for better prices for their produce.

By supporting this appeal you'll be helping farmers like John and his family to lift themselves out of poverty. Thank you.



Giving the Church a prophetic voice on climate change

How communities in northern Argentina are bracing themselves for the devastating effects of climate change.

In a region known as the Chaco in northern Argentina, people already face climatic extremes: very hot summers and winters that see temperatures plunge below zero.

But large-scale deforestation and climate change is now making matters considerably worse, taking an untold toll on some of the poorest and most marginalised people in Argentina.

The Church Mission Society (CMS)* is launching a programme with the Anglican Diocese of Argentina that aims to help change this.

The results will give the Church a prophetic voice, drawing attention to the consequences of the unabated destruction of the forests and the need to care for God's creation.



*The Church Mission Society is a historic Anglican Mission agency which has recently been recognised as an Acknowledged Religious Community of the Church of England. It is a community of people in mission, working in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and Latin America. In 2010, SAMS (South American Mission Society) was integrated fully into CMS, making it truly worldwide. CMS is committed to evangelistic mission, working to see our world transformed by the love of Jesus. We believe that by living a mission lifestyle, equipping people for mission work and sharing resources for mission we make our unique contribution to God's mission.



What can I do?

Pray for the projects in Kenya and Argentina, and for Christian Aid and CMS

Give generously to the appeal

Act invite others to pray for and give to the appeal.

For more information and additional resources for churches and schools, please visit **carlisle-diocese.org.uk** or contact:

Rev Ian Grainger
The Vicarage, Ling Beck Park
Seaton, Workington
Cumbria CA14 1JQ
01900 602162
ian.grainger66@btinternet.com

Please also contact Ian about arranging a visiting speaker to your church or school.

Dear friends,

The world's poorest people live at the forefront of climate change. Changing weather patterns and the destruction of local environments are affecting the ability of communities to sustain themselves and lift themselves out of poverty.

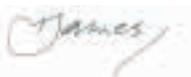
This year our Harvest Appeal is supporting two projects helping communities respond in different ways.

The consequences of large-scale deforestation in Northern Argentina (one of our link dioceses) are not fully clear, so research supported by CMS will provide the Church with the information it needs to speak out for the care of the environment and the people who rely on it.

In Kenya, changing rainfall patterns and melting glaciers cause problems for local farmers. But weather forecasts sent by text message will allow them to plan their planting and harvesting to get the best from their crops.

This Harvest, I hope you will find inspiration in these stories about caring for God's world and God's people. Please give generously to this year's appeal. Our gifts will bring transformation to communities in Kenya and Argentina.

Thank you for your support.



Bishop of Carlisle

If you are a taxpayer please complete the form below to make your gift worth an extra 25 per cent. Please put the form with your gift into the envelopes provided. **Thank you.**

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Cheques should be made payable to **'Harvest for the Hungry Appeal'**

(please tick) I am a UK taxpayer and intend tax to be reclaimed on my gift of £ to the Diocese of Carlisle in support of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal under the Gift Aid scheme.

I understand that I must have paid enough Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all charities and CASCs they donate to will reclaim for that tax year. Council tax and VAT do not count and I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that they have given (28p on every pound given for donations up to 5 April 2008)

Title

Name

Address

Postcode

Signature

Today's date / /

Please notify the Diocese of Carlisle if your contact details change, if you wish to cancel your declaration or no longer pay sufficient tax to cover the Gift Aid on your donations.