

Hope in a changing climate

The Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal 2013

ACTIVITY SHEET FOR SCHOOLS

Assembly outline

Ask students to consider how God communicated with us, eg his word is recorded in the Bible, his commandments were written on stone tablets:

Exodus 31:18

'When God finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.'

How might God communicate with us today, given our huge technological advances? Perhaps he would 'friend' us on Facebook? Maybe he would send us a text message?

If possible, show one or both of the youtube clips below.

CNN celebrating the birth of the mobile phone:

<http://youtu.be/j9dTio466dY>

The Evolution of Phones (1910-2030) by Kevin Ventura:

<http://youtu.be/bTp1WNUr9js>

Questions for discussion

Ask the students:

- how many phones are in their household
- what they think life would be like without access to phones or the internet, either mobile or at home/school.

Did you know that in rural areas of Kenya more than 80 per cent of families own a mobile phone?

The difference we can make

Explain to pupils that the school is part of a fundraising appeal with the diocese, supporting two climate change projects overseas.

In northeast Kenya, Christian Aid partner CCSMKE is using mobile phones to help farmers cope with unpredictable weather resulting from climate change. Previously, rural communities couldn't access weather forecasts, making it difficult for them to know when to plant crops.

But now, CCSMKE's project means weather forecasts from the MET office are translated into the local language and sent to farmers by text message.

The project is having a dramatic effect, helping communities cope with the challenges they face.

With the support of schools in the UK, projects like this across the world can succeed.



Classroom Activity 1

Aims

To encourage students to think about issues of food and hunger, to understand some of the challenges facing communities in Kenya, and to learn about some ways people are finding to meet those challenges and feed themselves.

These classroom activities should help pupils:

- think about where food comes from
- engage with the story of people in another country who have a different way of life
- understand that there is enough food in the world for everyone, if people make the changes that are needed.

You might also want to explore the links between people in your diocese who work tirelessly to raise money, and the communities around the world who use the money raised to help lift themselves out of poverty.

Consider climate change

Climate change is affecting weather patterns, and this has an impact on how much food farmers can grow.

Ask students to reflect on the following Bible extract from Proverbs 13:23: 'The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.'

How could this be related to climate change? What is unjust about the effects of climate change? How does this make students feel? Is there anything we can do?

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions is one way of slowing climate change. Ask pupils to list the measures they know are being taken to limit carbon emissions and to write them on sticky-backed notes.

Their ideas might include:

- reducing waste
- recycling
- using renewable energy
- driving more fuel-efficient cars.

Can they rank these in order of effectiveness? Explain that these things are efforts to mitigate (reduce) climate change.

Share the case study (included at the end of these notes), which shows how people are adapting to the changing climate.

Split pupils into groups and, using the case study, ask them to prepare presentations to the other groups that answer the following questions:

- What challenges does the environment present to farmers?
- What made the community here vulnerable to hunger?
- What changes have the community experienced and what specific problems did they face?
- What has been done to tackle hunger?
- Who has led this change – and what has been important about the way change has been handled?
- Are the methods of tackling hunger traditional or innovative – or both?
- What knowledge might be shared with other communities in this and other countries?

Fundraising ideas

There are lots of ways your school could raise money to support the diocesan appeal. You may wish to hold events with the theme of communication or climate change.

- With your class, or whole school, draw up a quiz using text speak (eg 'LOL' for 'laugh out loud') and organise a quiz night for parents, charging them to take part.
- Ask students to do a sponsored technology detox for a set period of time, perhaps a week, with no phones, Facebook or internet.
- Sponsored silences are a simple way to raise funds and students can feed back to the class about how they found it afterwards.

Prayer

Mighty Lord, loving God
we pray for those who
plough
plant
water
nurture
and hope.

Merciful father,
hear our prayers.
Strengthen our brothers and sisters,
in Kenya and in Argentina,
protect, refresh and fill them
with your presence,
with your unceasing love.
Bring comfort in this ever-changing world.

Lord, help us to grow in this rich soil,
forever rooted in your love.
Guide us with your light, to plant seeds of truth,
to seek a harvest of plenty for all the world to share.

Amen

Thank you for your support.