



Lent Appeal – “Give thanks in all circumstances”

Thoughts for the week throughout Lent

Week 1: Ash Wednesday – Saturday 4 March

In the UK we have easy access to soap, shower gel, shampoo, washing up liquid, laundry detergent, etc., yet that is not the case in all countries. Lilongwe Youth Organisation in Malawi has set up a business making and selling soap. They have opened up markets in other African countries and are now looking to expand and mechanize their production. Of the funds required to do that, they have raised nearly a quarter, and we have provided the balance.

[Please give a gift of thankfulness for cleanliness and hygiene in your own country, to enable future similar projects to proceed.](#)

Week 2: Sunday 5 March – Saturday 11 March

Whilst the British government abolished tax on feminine sanitary products in 2021, and products are available, there is still period poverty. In other countries people do not even have access to sanitary products and, as a result, girls often miss school. Through Starfish Malawi, for the past two years, we have funded reusable sanitary kits for girls at school and would like to help the girls in future intakes.

[Please give a gift of thankfulness for readily available sanitary products in the western world, to enable girls in Malawi to feel confident enough to continue with their education throughout the year.](#)

Week 3: Sunday 12 March – Saturday 18 March

Teachers in the UK usually only have to manage classes of up to 30 children, but imagine what it would be like to have more than four times that number of pupils in one class. That is what it is like at Bughungu Primary School in Uganda. We are fundraising for them to reduce average class sizes from 130 to 87 by raising money to build three new classrooms and a staffroom. We have already given a grant, which has enabled the building of the first classroom, plus the laying of foundations for the second.

[Please give a gift of thankfulness for the education you received, and for teachers who are educating the next generation, to enable children in Uganda to have a more personal education.](#)

Week 4: Sunday 19 March – Saturday 25 March

Children should have numerous positive role models in their lives whom they respect and look up to, and who encourage them in various aspects of their lives. Some children in South Africa are not so fortunate – they know who their fathers are, but their fathers do not play a role in their lives. Helderberg Academy works with such children, encouraging them and boosting their self-esteem by teaching and playing team sports. We have already funded uniforms for the coaches, who are older children, and more durable sports kit.

[Please give a gift of thankfulness for the positive role models who have influenced your life, and for the role models who enable children in South Africa to feel valued through team sports.](#)

Week 5: Sunday 26 March – Saturday 1 April

We are fortunate in the UK to have access to various kinds of training and courses, enabling us to further our skills in particular areas, or learn completely new skills. The original team of young soap-makers at Lilongwe Youth Organisation have passed on their knowledge and trained other groups to make soap elsewhere in Malawi, and the sports coaches at Helderberg Academy are passing their skills on to younger children in South Africa.

[For the numerous opportunities we have to further our education, skills, and career prospects, please give a gift of thankfulness to enable future similar projects to proceed](#)

Week 6: Sunday 2 April – Saturday 8 April

Over the last five weeks we have been thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves, and being thankful for what we ourselves have, or have access to.

[Please give a gift of thankfulness in your own circumstances.](#)