

12 May 2024 St. Brandon's

Christian Aid Week. Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end; Psalm 1 John 17: 6-19.

Thank you James and Janette for our readings today. We're going to proceed in a slightly different order this week as we begin to focus on **Christian Aid**.

It seems to me that both our readings bear a direct relationship to what Christian Aid is all about.

In Acts 1, Matthias is chosen to replace Judas, as guided by the Holy Spirit – they pray and wait, listen to God together. The inner group of disciples recognises that they need God's help first, but also a twelfth member: that they need the skills and gifts he will bring, to complement the others, to model that mutual dependence on God and one another which is a hallmark of a healthy Christian community.

Then in John we hear Jesus' words to those first disciples, as he explains that they will be sent into all the world to share the good news – which is exactly what Christian Aid stands for- working across the world, seeking to bring help and hope in the name of Christ.

Christian Aid celebrates the worldwide church, our interdependence and our unity in Christ – unity in Christ alone, as we rejoice in the diversity within the body of Christ worldwide.

This year's Christian Aid focus is on **Burundi**, made more personal for us here by our friendship with Revd Steve Muneza, a Burundian Anglican priest who is based at Cranmer Hall teaching global theology, and sending us wonderful placement students to be with us at St Brandon's as they train! Many of you will have heard Steve preach, and it was a joy for him to preside at a Eucharist here too not long ago.

Before we learn more about Christian Aid's work in Burundi, we're going to say the Creed, acknowledging our unity in Christ with his church all over the world, and especially in Burundi. Please stand (p.5)

CREED

Now we'll watch two short films for Christian Aid Week - after which we will keep silence for another minute or so to reflect on them, before Nick comes to lead our prayers for the work of Christian Aid today.

See Christian Aid website for films: *Seven Days, so Many Ways* and *Aline's Story*.