

Compassion UK

Recently at one of our family services at St. John the Baptist Church, we welcomed Ian Coldrick who spoke about an organisation called Compassion UK. Afterwards I looked up the definition of the word compassion: *"Compassion is a deep awareness of the suffering of others combined with a strong urge to help them. It means to "suffer together" and turns feelings of care into kind actions."*

Compassion UK is an inspirational organisation which is both child centred and church focused and the leaflets Ian left with us said quite simply: *"Jesus leads, we move"*

This organisation has been operating for over 70 years, in 29 countries where children are born into and grow up in extreme poverty, without any of the practical things that we take for granted for our own children: an adequate diet, a decent education, health care and the chance to become all that they are capable of being and contribute to their communities. Helping a child now doesn't just help *them* - the impact will be felt for generations to come and communities will become transformed. In short it is seeing the effects of extreme poverty and for all of us to be given the opportunity to do something about it.

After Ian's presentation a group of us felt that as a church we should be able to support at least one of these children. To sponsor one child is **£32** per month. So what we needed was for 32 members of our lovely congregation to be prepared to give just £1 per month (that is less than 4p per day) and together we could change a child's life.

Three months later, I am delighted to say that the response has meant that we will now be able to sponsor two children, a boy and a girl, in two different countries. We will write to these young people and I am sure they'll respond. And what a lovely opportunity this will be for our own young people to be able to read a letter from one of our very own sponsored children and reply, telling them of their own lives here in Findon and how they absolutely know Jesus loves them too.

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be part of this.

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