



# Review

January 2012

## Changing Lives

The things you do this Lent for the WEE BOX, BIG Change campaign will change the lives of people around the world.

- Robin Hood Rides Again • Adapting to Climate Change
- Delivering East Africa Drought Help • Your Parish News



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*Inspired by the Gospel call to build a just world, SCIAF challenges injustice by strengthening poor and oppressed people and by stimulating the Scottish public to share in our common struggle for human dignity.*

# News

## Future Climate Change Action Vital

More needs to be done to protect millions of people in developing countries after United Nations climate change talks in December failed to make sufficient progress.

Speaking after the crucial summit in Durban, South Africa, SCIAF's Campaigns Officer Lexi Barnett said, "Insufficient progress at the UN's climate change summit is likely to cost many lives in developing countries. The major industrialised countries have failed yet again to agree to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in line with what leading climate scientists believe is necessary to avoid dangerous climate change. Experts estimate that this could be catastrophic for much of the world's population, especially in developing countries where the lives and livelihoods of many millions are at risk."

The summit did reach agreement on a global legal framework for tackling climate change in the future and the management of a Green Climate Fund which is due to



A climate change march in Durban calls for greater action from world leaders.

provide \$100bn by 2020 to help developing countries cope with climate change. However, there was no clarity on where the money will come from to fund it. Lexi added, "When it comes to helping developing countries, the pot remains empty. That is why it is vital that we keep pushing for action from our leaders to provide adequate financing to help poor nations cope with climate change, and for the industrialised nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions which are driving it."

## Christmas Appeal Thank You!

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our Christmas appeal and sent cards and messages of support to young women and girls who were formerly kidnapped by the LRA rebel group in northern Uganda. We received a fantastic response and sent hundreds of Christmas cards to the girls at St Monica's.

## Take a Step for Fairtrade

With Fairtrade Fortnight fast approaching SCIAF is joining the Fairtrade Foundation in calling on people to 'take a step' to help promote Fairtrade. Your 'step' could be swapping your tea to a Fairtrade brand or something bigger such as asking colleagues in your parish, school or place of work to swap the biscuits and drinks they currently get to Fairtrade varieties.

Every step taken to promote the purchase of Fairtrade products goes to helping millions of farmers, workers and their communities in developing countries to get a fair and sustainable price for their produce (see page 16).

Fairtrade Fortnight runs between the 27th February and 11th March and brings together consumers, retailers, businesses, producers and campaigners to promote awareness and sales of Fairtrade products. Find out more by visiting [www.fairtradefoundation.org.uk](http://www.fairtradefoundation.org.uk) today.



## SCIAF Needs You

To help us continually improve the way we work and communicate we are calling on supporters to get in touch and share their views on SCIAF.

If you feel you don't receive enough feedback on how your donations make a difference, or that you get too much mail from us, or would simply like someone from SCIAF to visit your school, group or parish to tell you more about what we do, we would love to hear from you. You may also have run an event or raised money for SCIAF, or be planning to in the future. If so, we may be able to help by publicising your story on our website, social media or in the *Review* magazine.

Help us to serve you better by sharing your thoughts with us. Get in touch today by emailing [supporterservices@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:supporterservices@sciaf.org.uk) or calling us on 0141 354 5555.

## Falkirk Wheel Walk

May Fallon from St Joseph's in Bonnybridge flew the flag for SCIAF at the annual Falkirk Wheel Walk. The event, organised by the Falkirk Union of Churches, raises funds for SCIAF and Christian Aid. She said, "We started off dry, got very wet and then dried off again! Thanks to parishioners at St Joseph's, family, friends and neighbours we raised £1,300 for SCIAF!"



Ann, May, Betty and Lucy going the extra mile for SCIAF.

## Get social with SCIAF

SCIAF has a growing network of online communities on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. We want you to join us there and take part in regular features like Photo Friday. Our brand new website launches at the end of January and we can't wait for you to get involved. Visit us now!

[www.facebook.com/sciaf](http://www.facebook.com/sciaf)  
[www.twitter.com/sciaf](http://www.twitter.com/sciaf)  
[www.youtube.com/sciaftv](http://www.youtube.com/sciaftv)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/sciaf](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sciaf)



## Giving, Acting, Reflecting

**SCIAF Chairman, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, reflects on the benefits of supporting the WEE BOX, BIG Change campaign this Lent.**

Lent is a period when we all seek to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. We do this in a number of ways including prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These traditional practices help us to recall the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert where he endured temptation by the devil before entering into his life of teaching.

In many ways SCIAF's WEE BOX, BIG Change Lent campaign can help us to integrate giving, acting and reflecting into our daily lives throughout Lent. The excellent prayer resources that are prepared and sent out to schools and parishes can bring a global perspective to our reflections by including our brothers and sisters in developing countries who suffer terribly from desperate poverty.

As many of you will be aware due to your support of SCIAF's Lent campaign over many years, a major action we are asked to undertake is to give up a favourite treat during Lent, put the money we save into our WEE BOX and donate the proceeds to SCIAF at Easter. This simple act of abstinence not only provides much needed money to keep SCIAF's work in developing countries going, it is also a direct way that we can all experience, to one level or another, what it is like to go without, and therefore come closer to Jesus' experience in the desert, and the reality of many millions of people living in our world who go hungry each day.

This Lent SCIAF's focus is on its work helping disabled children and young people in India. As I have seen for myself, this work provides these



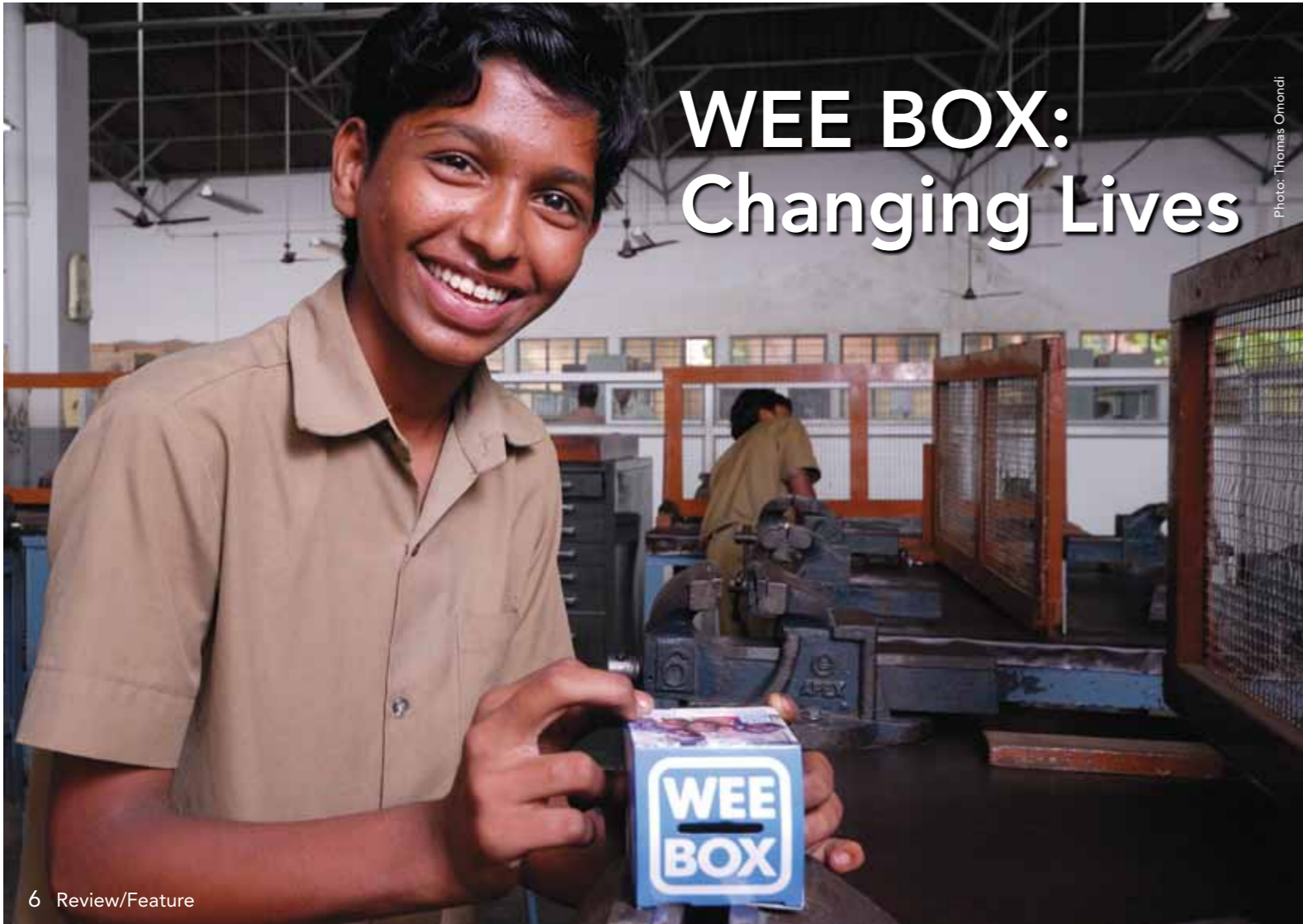
Cardinal Keith O'Brien.

vulnerable people with education, skills and training, as well as the care and support they need to become independent and valued members of society, living their lives to the full.

I personally want to thank you for your continued and generous support of SCIAF all year round. I would also like to ask you to join in the WEE BOX, BIG Change Lent campaign so that together, through giving, acting and reflecting, we can practice our faith and join SCIAF's mission to create a fairer and more just world for all God's people.

# WEE BOX: Changing Lives

Photo: Thomas Omond



**This year's WEE BOX, BIG Change Lent campaign shows how you have changed the lives of two disabled people living in southern India. The small things you do this Lent will help thousands more in 2012.**

India has rocketing economic growth but unfortunately it is mixed with extreme and crushing poverty. It is home to roughly one-third of the world's poorest people, and 40% of the population lives in extreme poverty. Amidst these enormous numbers, the plight of disabled people often gets forgotten.

Fauzia contracted polio when she was very young which left her unable to walk and isolated in her home. However her parents took her to one of SCIAF's longest running partners in India – the Association of People with Disabilities or APD - who provided her with physiotherapy, mobility aids

in the form of crutches and enrolled her in their school.

Years later, after leaving APD, Fauzia completed university and has now recently returned to APD as a teacher, passing her skills on to young students at APD's training centre.

Jagadeesh is one of the current students at the training centre. He comes from an extremely poor rural family and his life has been made even more challenging by the fact he is deaf. However at APD's training centre, which is supported by SCIAF, he is currently completing a two year course in metal work. This will give him the skills he needs to get a job, earn money and support himself in the long term.

Jagadeesh's father explained to SCIAF that the training will make a huge difference not only to Jagadeesh but to the whole family:

"Jagadeesh can now study and will get a job to help the family. If APD

was not here life would be very difficult. We would not have been able to provide an education for him. But I am now very hopeful. Jagadeesh will get a good job and will support his younger brother. The future for both boys I think will be good."



Photo: Thomas Omond



Photo: Thomas Ormond

The signs are good for Jagadeesh and Fauzia thanks to the support provided by SCIAF and APD.

Your support of SCIAF's WEE BOX, BIG Change Lent campaign means that thousands more people in India and around the world will receive the practical help they need to become free of poverty and support themselves in the longer term.

All the small steps you take in Lent – whether it's giving up a favourite treat, putting the money you save in a WEE BOX and donating it

to SCIAF, signing our campaign action, or doing a whole host of other Lenten activities – will make a massive difference to people like Fauzia and Jagadeesh.

It is only with your generous support that we can make change happen. So let us all come together this Lent to help people in need in the poorest countries of the world to live their lives, and live them to the full.



## What you can do this Lent

- Fill your WEE BOX
- Give a WEE BOX to a friend
- Invite a SCIAF speaker to your school or parish
- Visit [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk)
- Hold a WEE BOX fundraising event
- Complete a SCIAF campaign action
- Reflect using SCIAF Lent and prayer resources

# 40 Days, 40 Ways

There are so many ways you can make a difference this Lent. SCIAF's 40 Days, 40 Ways booklet is a handy day-by-day companion – here are some of the highlights.

### One

One third of the world's poorest people live in India. Today, pray for everyone who struggles to survive without the basic necessities that we take for granted, like food and water, education or medical care.

### Two

Tell your friends and family what you are giving up for Lent and encourage them to get involved in SCIAF's WEE BOX, BIG Change campaign.

### Three

Using your Lenten prayer bookmark, reflect on the millions of people living in poverty whose lives are made even harder as a result of disability.

### Four

SCIAF wants to make poverty history – that's why we campaign to tackle its causes at the root. Visit [www.sciaf.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/campaigns) to find out more about SCIAF's campaigning work and how you can get involved.

### Five

Add your voice to SCIAF's Robin Hood Tax campaign calling for the Prime Minister to introduce a tiny tax on large financial transactions like hedge funds. It could raise billions every year to help fight poverty! Fill out a campaign postcard or take action online at [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk).



Photo: Thomas Ormond



Photo: Thomas Omendi

### Six

Hold a Fairtrade coffee morning or tea party in your church hall and put the money you raise in a SCIAF WEE BOX.

### Seven

Today, remember the mothers and children who live in poverty in your prayers.

### Eight

Why not keep fit, have fun and raise some money for people living in poverty by taking on a sponsored walk or run in aid of SCIAF. Visit [www.sciaf.org.uk/run](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/run) to find out more.

### Nine

Take a few minutes to search for loose change in your pockets or down the back of the sofa. If you find any, put it in your WEE BOX.

### Ten

Hold a WEE BOX curry night for your friends – dazzle them with your culinary skills and ask them to leave a tip in your WEE BOX. Check out the SCIAF website for some tasty Indian-inspired recipes.



Photo: Thomas Omendi

### Eleven

One in six people around the world do not have enough clean, safe water. Remember to turn the tap off while you brush your teeth today, and take a moment to reflect on all those affected by hunger, thirst and disease because of a lack of water.

### Twelve

Take a packed lunch to work or school today and put the money you would have spent in your WEE BOX.

### Thirteen

Are you an avid film fan? Hold a film night for your friends and ask for a donation in exchange for tasty homemade popcorn.

### Fourteen

Do something outrageous and ask your friends, family and workmates to sponsor you. Dress up as a can of Irn Bru, take a bath in baked beans, die your hair purple - the wackier the better - just don't forget to send us a photo for our online gallery. You can download sponsorship forms on the SCIAF website - [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk).

### Fifteen

Remember to thank everyone who has helped you to raise money.

during Lent. Send them a nice email or give them a ring.

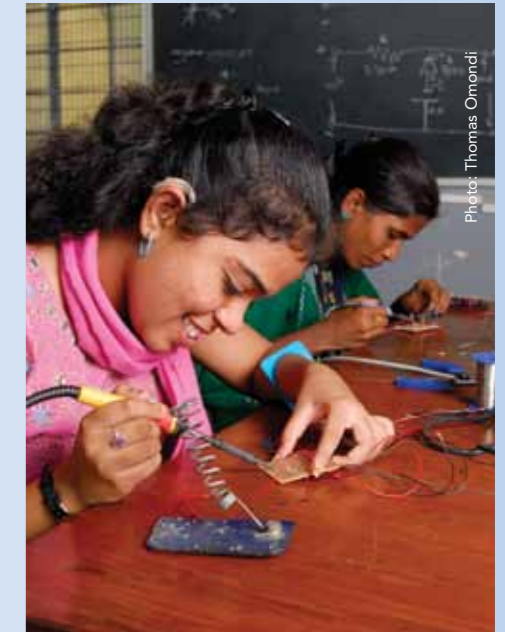


Photo: Thomas Omendi

If you haven't already received your 40 Days, 40 Ways booklet or your SCIAF Lent pack email [supporterservices@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:supporterservices@sciaf.org.uk) or call us on 0141 354 5555.

# Robin Hood Rides Again

Photo: SCIAF



Every year at Lent, we ask you to give, reflect, and act in solidarity with the most vulnerable people around the world. This year, we need your help again. Can you join our campaign to stop the world's poorest paying for the banking crisis?

In 2010 thousands of SCIAF supporters joined our campaign which called for a Robin Hood Tax. This tiny tax of just 0.05% on massive financial transactions like shares, bonds and derivatives could raise billions of pounds every year to fight global poverty and climate change.

It's a simple, sustainable and fair tax that would generate money to ensure justice, development and dignity for the world's poorest. Amid growing global support but slow political progress we want our campaigners to raise their mighty voices once again.

You will be joining millions of others around the world, a thousand leading economists, the European Commission, Bill Gates, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

A recent report from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, led by Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson, came out in support of the idea. More and more countries are seriously looking at implementing a financial transactions tax (FTT) including some of Europe's strongest economies like France and Germany, as well as countries like South Africa and Brazil.

A lot has changed since the 2010 campaign which is why we need your help again. In the UK, Prime Minister David Cameron is standing in the way of a Robin Hood Tax, despite the overwhelming evidence that it would work - economically, sustainably and morally.

Prime Minister Cameron argues that it wouldn't work unless it is adopted globally. But the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has clearly stated in a recent report that this is not the case, and a tax could easily be implemented successfully by individual countries. The Prime Minister has also argued that it would drive businesses out of the UK. Again, the IMF has stated this would not automatically drive businesses away.

He argues that the tax would be passed on to everyday people instead of the financial institutions. But he doesn't seem to take into account that ordinary consumers pay VAT on their purchases on the high street, and stamp duty when they purchase a home – yet a trader purchasing millions of pounds, dollars or euros of derivative contracts for as little as 11 seconds, pays nothing – while the impact of their actions on the real economy can be immense.

Please add your voice to the campaign by sending the postcard included with this edition of the SCIAF Review to the Prime Minister, calling on him to implement a Robin Hood Tax and use the money to fight global poverty and climate change.

Together we can achieve great things. It's time to stop asking the most vulnerable to pay for the financial crisis. It's time for a Robin Hood Tax.

If you would like to take action online, go to [www.sciaf.org.uk/robinhoodtax](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/robinhoodtax). To order more postcards for your parish or group, please email Lexi on [abarnett@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:abarnett@sciaf.org.uk) or call 0141 354 5555. Thank you.

## Robin Hood Tax: At a glance

- A Robin Hood Tax, or Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), of just 0.05% on financial transactions like stocks, bonds and derivatives, could raise £20billion per year in the UK alone.
- The bonus pot for bankers in the UK for 2010 was £6 billion - enough to provide free healthcare for 250,000,000 people in developing countries.
- There doesn't need to be a global agreement for it to work. Already countries like Brazil are implementing FTTs on their own. The UK even has its own forms of FTTs - in things like stamp duty. We don't need to wait for other countries to agree, we could go ahead now without damaging our economy.

## Tax Justice Campaign Update

Last year 3,000 of you sent postcards and emails to Inverness MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander calling for better laws to regulate UK companies operating overseas. Together with the Publish What You Pay coalition, substantial progress has been made in ensuring that developing countries rich in resources benefit from this natural wealth instead of watching it disappear into foreign companies' coffers. First came an announcement from the Prime Minister in support of this legislation. We've now heard that the European Parliament will debate the issue early this year.

We'll keep you updated on developments and any further actions you can take.

To read the full story, and watch an exclusive film from Zambian campaigners, go to [www.sciaf.org.uk/taxjustice](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/taxjustice).

## The Power of Prayer

To help you and your family through your Lenten journey this year SCIAF has produced a range of inspirational prayer materials.

### **Children's Liturgy:**

A special Children's Liturgy for the fourth Sunday of Lent has been written by former teacher and SCIAF Schools Speaker, Catherine McGrath. It draws on God's love for us all and highlights the story of Jagadeesh from India, one of the faces on this year's WEE BOX. The resource includes instructions for teaching children how to say thank you in sign language.

### **Stations of the Cross and Prayers for the Faithful:**

Terri Peterson has kindly written this year's SCIAF Stations of the Cross whilst Mary and Eamon Cullen have provided Prayers of the

Faithful. Both reflect on the experiences of people living in India, particularly those with disabilities. This beautifully presented booklet also includes a Prayer for India by Mother Theresa.

**A prayer card bookmark and copy of the Stations of the Cross booklet** will be sent out to parishes, perfect to add to your new Missal, and an accompanying Powerpoint presentation will be available for download from the SCIAF website.

If you would like to receive the prayer resources please call 0141 354 555 or email [supportservices@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:supportservices@sciaf.org.uk)



Photo: Sean Sprague

# Why Fairtrade?



Photo: Simon Rawles

**Despite the global economic downturn sales of Fairtrade products are booming. Terri Peterson asks why Fairtrade is still important and does it really make a difference?**

Fairtrade began as an alternative to 'normal' trading practices between buyers from Europe and small farmers and plantation owners in developing countries. It appealed to many people in Europe who disapproved of the exploitation of farmers in developing countries who often live in abject poverty and struggle to feed themselves and their families. The Fairtrade movement also highlighted that a root cause of this injustice is the unfair trade system which denies growers a fair and sustainable price for their crops.

For instance, powerful supermarkets in wealthy countries are able to drive down the prices paid to small farmers for their crops, often below the cost of production. This can leave farmers with not enough to feed their family,

buy seeds for the following year's crop, or be able to afford adequate housing, health care or education for their children. Fairtrade has evolved as a means of addressing these unfair practices. It also educates the public about the unfair system that we often 'benefit' from!

The Fairtrade mark is a guarantee that a price has been paid to a farmer which is sufficient to feed themselves and their family, to purchase seeds for the following season and to contribute to the price of buying or replacing tools. There is also an extra payment called the premium. This is used for social and educational purposes, such as providing clean, accessible water or latrines and the decision on how it is spent is voted on by the community. This directly enables long-term, sustainable and positive change.

SCIAF is working with small scale farmers producing coffee in El Salvador so they can get a fair price for their produce and strengthen their position by participating in local cooperatives.

This enables them to gain a basic level of financial security and an increase in their living standards.

We actively campaign to promote Fairtrade and continue to call on the Scottish government to use Fairtrade products whenever possible.

Thanks to the growing worldwide Fairtrade movement supermarkets are now increasingly pressurised into providing Fairtrade products. There are 500 Fairtrade towns in the UK alone. Fairtrade churches, schools, villages, colleges, universities and zones of every size and shape are helping to create a better world through international trade which really is fair and just.

The Fairtrade Foundation aims to double the sales of Fairtrade goods to £2billion by 2012. Can you help?

To find out how you can get more involved in promoting Fairtrade in your area visit [www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk](http://www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk).



Photo: Sean Sprague

## Coping with Climate Change

African farmers have been able to grow the crops needed to sustain their households for millennia but are now facing the unprecedented challenges of farming tired, depleted soils in a climate they can no longer predict. SCIAF's Programme Officer Stephen Martin reports.

As all keen gardeners know you need organic matter in your soil to absorb rainfall and to hold the nutrients needed to feed and sustain your plants. For decades poor rural farmers have farmed their small parcels of land, perpetually growing maize which alas is both a hungry and thirsty crop, taking from their soil what little fertility remained. The shifting seasonal weather including changes to rainfall patterns is making their situation worse.

SCIAF's Kulima Programme started life on the 1st October 2011 with initial funding from the Scottish Government and brings together six of our partners in Zambia, Malawi and Burundi along with, for the first time for SCIAF, two other Scottish organisations, Edinburgh University and the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen.

The focus of the Kulima Programme is to train and support farmers to adopt farming techniques that will

improve their soils and thereby increase the amount of food they can grow and their resilience to changing weather patterns. As one farmer in Zambia explained to me, "If farmers can learn to feed and look after their soils, their soils will look after their crops".

Reversing decades of declining soil fertility doesn't happen overnight but will take years of patience and determination by farmers to put into practice new ways of farming that will save their soils. To help plot this progress the James Hutton Institute, a world famous soil-science research institution, has teamed up with SCIAF to provide their technical expertise to measure the soils of the farmers in the Kulima Programme now and at the end of the six year programme.

Improved soils will not only lead to better harvests but also give protection against the vagaries of climate change. Healthy soils, rich in organic matter, can absorb more

rainfall reducing soil loss through surface runoff and erosion. The same soils can then release this moisture to growing plants if, as is becoming more frequent, the rains temporarily dry up for a few weeks within the rainy season. In unhealthy depleted soils there is nothing to absorb these seasonally heavy rains and little moisture in the soils to keep the crops growing through unseasonal dry spells.

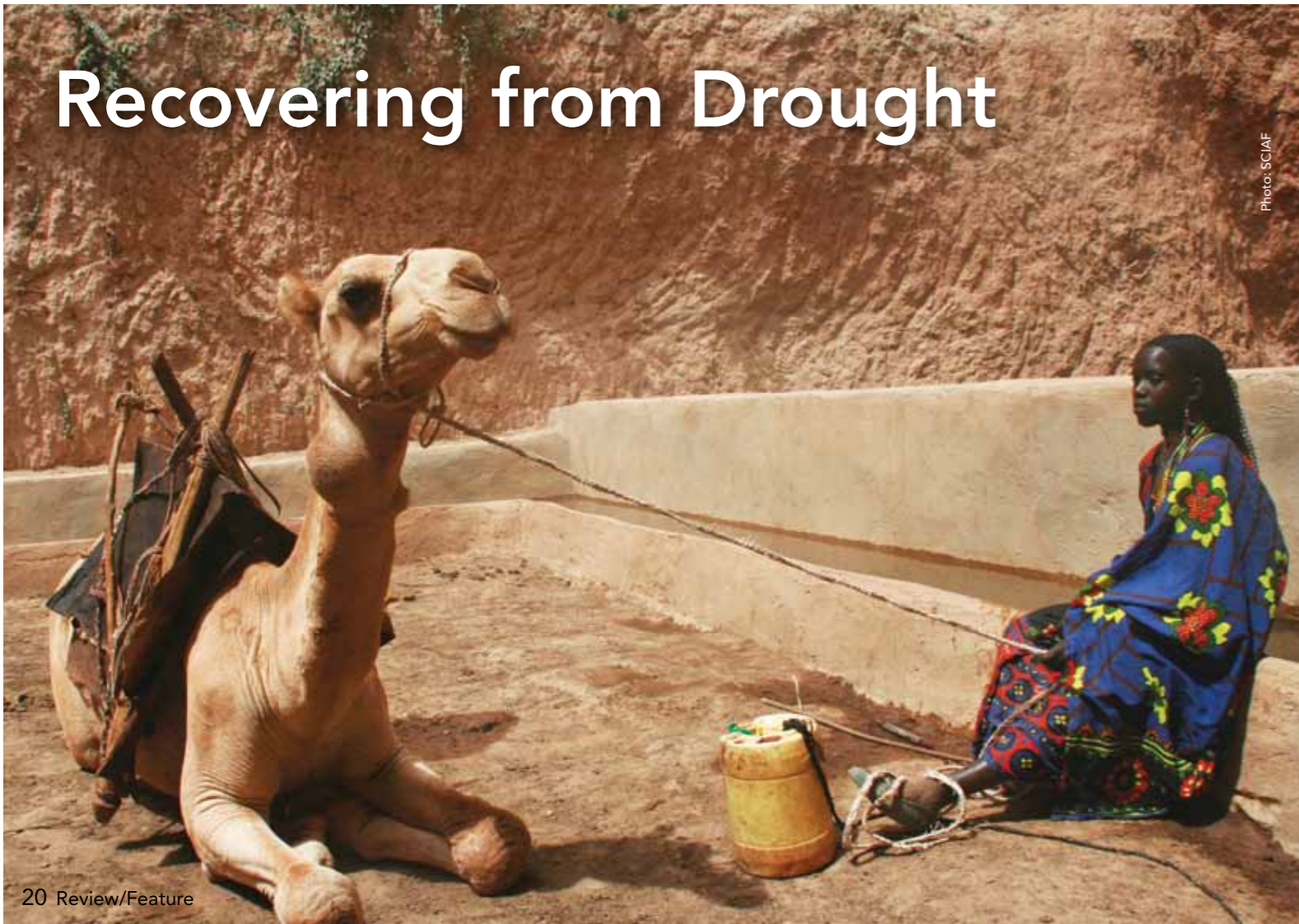
Many farmers are confused and fearful for the future and find it hard to know which advice to follow and what new methods to adopt.

SCIAF has approached Edinburgh University for help in better understanding the factors affecting these farmers and the decisions they make.

It is early days for the Kulima Programme but time is rapidly running out if we are to help poor farmers cope with depleted soils and climate change.

# Recovering from Drought

Photo: SCIAF



**Much needed rains have swept across East Africa in recent months, ending the region's worst drought in 60 years. SCIAF's Africa Programme Manager Jonathan Dames reports on how your donations are continuing to save lives.**

For many of the 13 million people that have been affected by the drought in the Horn and East Africa, conditions have improved but a full recovery will take time.

Good overall rainfall during October and November eased pressure on water resources and helped to drive reasonable harvests in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. This increase in the food supply has meant that food prices have also fallen, at least in the short term. The replenishment of ponds, lakes and pasturelands, so important for the livestock upon which many depend, has also taken place.

However, the severity of the drought led to the widespread death of livestock leaving many pastoralists with no way of earning a future income. Ironically, heavy rain in many areas has also led to intense flooding with a number of deaths reported and up to 80,000 people displaced in Kenya alone. Ongoing insecurity in Somalia due to conflict continues to displace people and hamper recovery.

A report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in December, "There is potential for continued food insecurity..... Rebuilding livelihoods will be a major priority for the affected communities."

This will now form the basis for SCIAF's response to helping drought affected communities. Across Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan SCIAF and its partners will continue to provide emergency food, water and cash

payments to the most vulnerable, but will also now start to give farmers and pastoralists the tools and resources they need to become independent again.

In Ethiopia SCIAF will be working with thousands of pastoralists to replace livestock that have died. In Somalia we will work with local partners to distribute seeds and fertilisers, support livestock and continue with cash for work programmes. Our focus in Kenya will be on replacing livestock, drilling boreholes for wells, and working with communities to put in place water harvesting and storage facilities to capture rains when they do fall so they can be used during future dry periods.

As with all major emergencies, it is vital to respond immediately. It is just as important to help people in the longer term to pick up the pieces and stand on their own two feet again. Your donations are enabling SCIAF to do this.

# Your Parish

Parishes across Scotland never fail to amaze us with their incredible generosity. Here are just some of your inspiring stories from the past year.

## St Gregory's Goes the Distance



When parishioners at St Gregory's in Glasgow heard about the terrible drought affecting communities in the Horn and East Africa, they took to the road to help out.

They decided to donate the money raised from their annual fun run to SCIAF's emergency appeal and set themselves an ambitious target of £3,500. And to get the wheels turning, they came up with a

brilliant idea. Using a toy Land Rover as a prop, they decided to raise 50p for every one of the 7,000 miles between their parish in Kelvinside and the banks of the Blue Nile in Ethiopia!

Raymond McHugh said: "Once we were up and running there was no stopping us, it didn't take long to cover the 7,000 miles. Our Land Rover must have been going at over 90mph to make the journey that quickly – all that way on one set of tyres and not one puncture!"

The whole parish got on board with the plan and in just a few weeks, they exceeded their target. Around 80 runners crossed the finish line, cheered on by a squad of well-wishers, and they raised an incredible £3,600. Well done to everyone involved!



## Singing for Africa

The Spirit of Youth Choir held a concert at the St Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral in Glasgow in September. It was a fantastic evening which raised over £2,000 for SCIAF's Horn and East Africa Appeal.

## Splashing the Cash

Jacci Scott and the Children's Liturgy Group at St John Ogilvie's in Edinburgh raised an incredible £557 in just a few weeks to pay for the SCIAF Real Gift of Water for a village. They held bake sales, ran tombola and sold second hand DVDs, books and videos to help reach their impressive total.



## Spring into Action

Want to get fit, have fun and raise some money for SCIAF? Try doing a sponsored walk or run. Sandy Lonie, the SCIAF Ambassador for the Diocese of Dunkeld, took on the Glasgow Half Marathon.

He said: "At 71, I'm getting a bit long in the tooth, so I've stopped worrying about times but the day went well. The weather was fine and the thousands of cheerful spectators kept the spirits up."

There are lots of great events taking place across Scotland this year. You can download a sponsorship form from the SCIAF website and we will be happy to send you a SCIAF t-shirt or running vest free of charge.

## Pick up a Poster

If you're holding an event for SCIAF – like a coffee morning, fashion show, or quiz night – we've got great new posters to help you spread the word. Download them from the SCIAF website or call us on 0141 354 5555 and we'll send you some free of charge.



## WEE BOX resources

This year, we've got loads of great resources – including posters, prayer bookmarks, and 40 Days, 40 Ways booklets – to help parishes on their Lenten journey. You'll also find prayers and reflections, video clips, great fundraising ideas and inspirational stories from people in India on our website. If you would like someone from SCIAF to speak at your parish during Lent, give us a call on 0141 354 5555.

## News in Brief

- The St James Youth Group in St Andrew's raised an impressive £174 for SCIAF at a recent quiz night.
- A big thank you to staff and customers at the O Sole Mio restaurant in Glasgow who raised over £1,000 for SCIAF's Horn and East Africa Appeal – with help from the Santander branch nearby.
- Parishioners at Our Lady, Star of the Sea in Newport, Fife, raised over £355 for SCIAF at their Traidcraft Christmas market. Children from the Church have chosen to use the money to buy a selection of Real Gifts.

If your parish is doing something fun to raise funds for SCIAF, call Rachel Lamb on 0141 354 5555 or email [rlamb@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:rlamb@sciaf.org.uk). For more great stories and pictures, visit [www.sciaf.org.uk/parishes](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/parishes).

# Volunteer Focus

Ryan Cassidy explains how volunteering for SCIAF has changed his life for the better.

I've been volunteering with SCIAF for around two years now and have loved every second of it. From helping out with admin work and lending a hand to the fundraising team to writing and editing articles, every day has been more than fulfilling. There's so much more you can get involved in and I've been privileged to meet some truly amazing people.

I will forever be indebted to SCIAF and the staff for inspiring me to pursue a career in the charity sector. It was always a possible career path for me but volunteering for such an inspiring organisation has cemented my desire and passion to make sure once I've graduated from university that I continue to work in the sector.

Spending hours looking over SCIAF's project reports from Africa, Asia and Latin America also drove me to experience the developing world first hand. If it was not for SCIAF I can honestly say I don't know if I would have ever visited sub-Saharan Africa.

There have been so many great things I've taken from my time at SCIAF but one of the most touching was giving back to the supporters. During Lent, parishes across Scotland are thanked for the work they do by a short thank you talk at Mass from a member of staff. Getting to speak directly to so many valuable supporters on behalf of SCIAF and the countless number of people they help overseas was truly humbling.

Volunteering at SCIAF is hard to sum up in a small feature like this but one thing I can say is that you instantly



become part of the team, a team that really does appreciate the time and effort you put in, be it four days a week or a few hours a month. I would strongly urge anyone who can to dedicate some of their time to volunteering for SCIAF - it may just change your life like it has mine!

If you have some spare time and are passionate about helping people in need, please contact Kirsteen McDonald at SCIAF on 0141 354 5555 or email [kmcdonald@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:kmcdonald@sciaf.org.uk).

## With Your Help

Thanks to your support SCIAF is helping communities all over the world to work their way out of poverty and overcome injustice.

### Burundi

Women's rights in Burundi are often violated by gender-based violence and the country's laws and customs are not supportive of the victims of these crimes, often sexual in nature. With your donations SCIAF is helping to improve the status of these women and lessen the effect of this violence. SCIAF support is also assisting leaders in managing conflict and promoting peace.

**£35, 000**

### Uganda

Uganda's high HIV and AIDS infection rate in the 1980s and 1990s led to a pioneering approach in dealing with the disease. Their voluntary HIV testing centres were the first in sub-Saharan Africa. Now, thanks to SCIAF support many Ugandans living with HIV and AIDS will be given support at home, including assistance so they can earn an income and social care if needed. Their relatives and community members will be provided with accurate information on



home-based care and people living with HIV and AIDS will also be educated on mother-to-child transmissions and opportunistic infections.

**£50,000**

### Haiti

In the devastating 7.0 earthquake of January 2010, 3.5million people were affected and 600,000 left their home area

in Port-au-Prince. SCIAF is working with a local partner to help 37,500 people including mixed and women-only farmer associations, to help families generate an income by stimulating the rural economy. This will directly help families still hosting those displaced by the earthquake.

**£76,000**

### Zimbabwe

The Sunrise Foundation is helping children left orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Zimbabwe. With your help, 31 orphans and vulnerable children will have their primary education paid for with shelter and basic care provided. They will also receive holistic care, love and help to overcome the stigma of orphanhood.

**£6,790**

### Ethiopia

In the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia many people struggle to grow food or earn an income due to the harsh climate. Money and support provided by SCIAF is putting in place watershed developments in low rainfall areas to help maximise the benefit of the rain that does fall to irrigate crops to increase harvests. This will directly help people in rural areas to provide for themselves.

**£37,046**

# School News

## Connecting Lives!

SCIAF was delighted to recently welcome two of our overseas partners to Scotland as part of our Project Connect scheme.

Mr Gopi, from SCIAF's partner the Association of People with Disabilities (APD) in India, and Fr Deogratias from our partner, the Agakura Agriculture Training Centre in Burundi, visited primary and secondary schools around the country that have signed up for Project Connect, to share their work with pupils and staff first hand. Included in the visits were stops at St Charles Primary in Newton and St Aidan's High School, Wishaw, where both Mr Gopi and Fr Deogratias enjoyed meeting SCIAF's supporters and answering questions.

If you'd like to find out more about Project Connect please visit [www.sciafyouth.org.uk/youth/connect](http://www.sciafyouth.org.uk/youth/connect)



Mr Gopi visits St Charles Primary School.



Fr Deogratias visits St Adrians High School.



## NEW Global Citizenship poster set

In 2007 SCIAF produced a Global Citizenship poster set which has proved to be extremely popular in schools. However secondary school teachers have commented that the posters are very primary school orientated, and have been asking if we could produce an 'older' version.

SCIAF is now working on a new poster set, which will be aimed at secondary schools, encouraging young people to consider themselves as global citizens. The poster set will be available from SCIAF in February. For more details see [www.sciafyouth.org.uk/youth/teachers](http://www.sciafyouth.org.uk/youth/teachers)

## Fantastic Fundraisers



St Cuthbert's Primary School.

St Cuthbert's Primary School in Glasgow held a dancethon and wacky hair day to raise funds for SCIAF's emergency appeal for the Horn and East Africa to help those affected by drought.

With only 70 pupils in the school they managed to raise a dance-tastic £766.96!!!

St Andrew's High in Coatbridge also handed over a cheque for a massive £6,600 to support SCIAF's long term development work around the world.

Thanks to everyone in both St Cuthbert's Primary and St Andrew's High and all the other primary and secondaries around the country that supported SCIAF's work last year.

## Book your SCIAF School Speaker Today!

Last year SCIAF visited over 200 schools around Scotland to spread the word on our international aid and development work, fair trade, global citizenship and lots more. If you would like a SCIAF school speaker to visit your school for talks, presentations or workshops please contact us on 0141 354 5555 or email [youth@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:youth@sciaf.org.uk).

## Look out for SCIAF's NEW WEE BOX, BIG Change resource pack

SCIAF's new WEE BOX, BIG Change resource pack for schools includes everything you need to launch Lent in your school and take pupils on a journey through SCIAF's work, which is focusing on India this year. The new DVD-ROM for schools includes video clips, real life stories, teachers' notes - for both primary and secondary school teachers - and much more.

If you would like to receive a FREE pack contact SCIAF on 0141 354 5555 or email: [youth@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:youth@sciaf.org.uk).





Photo: Sean Sprague



Photo: SCIAF



Photo: Paul McSherry

## Working Together

As 2012 gets underway, SCIAF's Head of Communications and Education Philippa Bonella takes a look at the year ahead and calls on supporters to share their views.

Arriving at SCIAF almost a year ago, I knew I had lots to learn, but I didn't expect to be joining such a hive of activity! 2011 was such a busy and successful year, and with your help, 2012 looks set to be the same.

I am still struck every day by the generosity and commitment of our supporters, and the way you take time to tell us your stories as well as send us donations. It's impossible not to feel a glow at being part of such a community. Those donations will make a real difference to the poorest people all over the world in 2012. We will continue to help people to rebuild their lives after conflict, for example supporting women survivors of sexual violence

in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We will make sure people with HIV and AIDS get access to the medical and social help they need. And we will provide even more tools and training to small farmers in Cambodia, Zambia and Colombia to name just a few countries.

We'll be ready for the emergencies that are bound to affect poor people, as the impact of climate change is felt and the global economy stutters. Your huge generosity in response to our Horn and East Africa emergency appeal last summer means that we are still working hard in all the countries affected by the drought to help people stay in their villages and safeguard their livelihoods.

Listening to what small scale farmers tell us in Africa, Asia and Latin America, climate change is a growing issue. We will continue to help as many small farmers as we can to cope

with changing weather patterns that disrupt their harvests and the climate shocks such as floods and droughts that come their way. But to create long lasting change, we must continue to campaign for a global solution. June 2012 will be the 20th anniversary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that was held in Rio de Janeiro, and a new generation of world leaders will converge on the Brazilian capital once again to review progress. We will be working with our partners to try to make sure that the voices of the poor are heard within the global negotiations.

Lastly, 2012 will be a good time for listening too. We'll be launching our new user-friendly website and increasing our use of social media as a great way to hear from our supporters and respond to what you have to say. So please get in touch by calling us on 0141 354 5555 or through the new website – [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk).

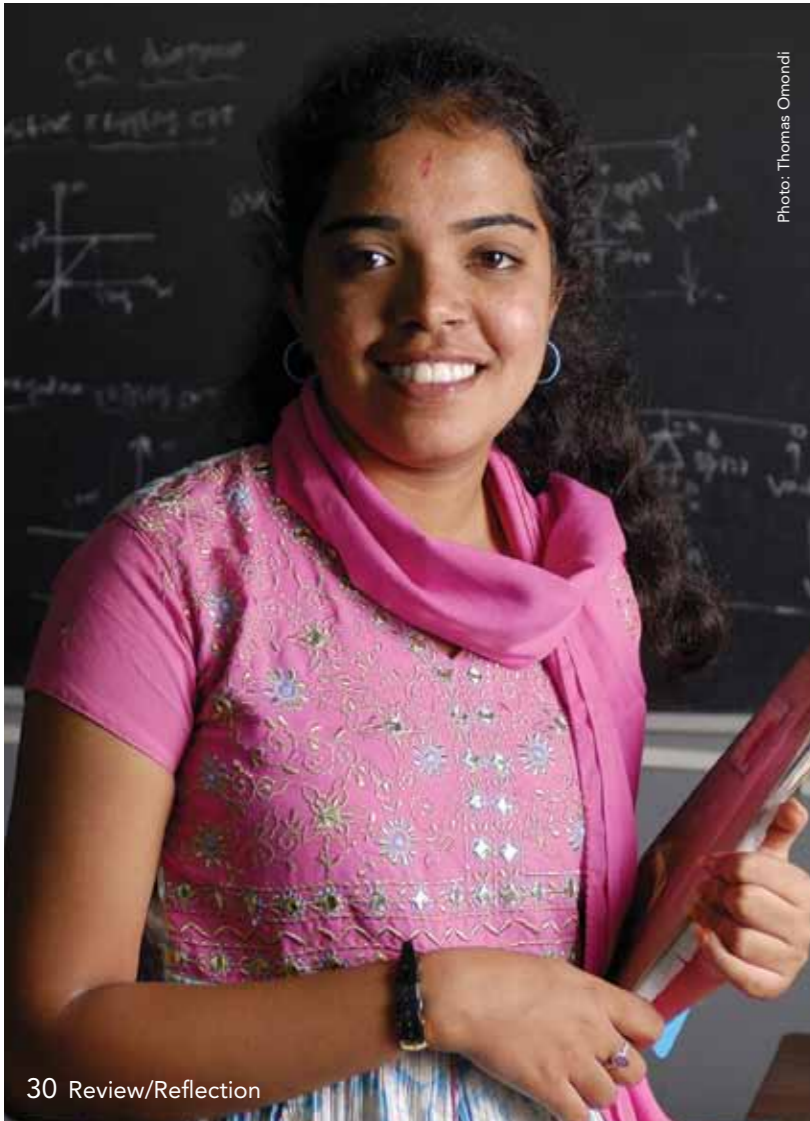


Photo: Thomas Omondi

## Tomorrow's World

Reflecting on how we can work with young people to create a better world.

The Church welcomes young people as the sign of an ever promising springtime, and holds out Jesus to them as the model of love who "makes all things new" (Ap. 21,5). Indeed, Pope Benedict's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1st January this year focussed on the theme of educating young people in justice and peace.

The message conveyed by Pope Benedict called on those responsible for public policy to work for the creation of institutions, laws and environments that offer new generations opportunities to live life to the full. This should not

only include the provision of good education and decent jobs, but also involve young people in creating a civilisation with a more profound awareness of truth, freedom, love and justice for all.

In many ways young people today are more sophisticated than previous generations, certainly in their understanding of the media and technology. Young people also often have great clarity of perception in moral questions. They can ask the awkward questions: why are people starving in our world? Why are we selling weapons to unjust regimes?

What are we doing about global warming?

We need to listen to them. As we draw out and learn from their goodness they may rekindle our own vision and our own thirst for the Kingdom. As Desmond Tutu, the former Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, articulated in prayer:

*Help us to beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks, so that we may be able to live in peace and harmony, wiping away the tears from the eyes of those who are less fortunate than ourselves.*

*And may we know war no more, as we strive to be what you want us to be: your children.*

*(This reflection draws on the material of Pax Christi.)*

## Diary

### January

28th - Poverty and Homelessness action week starts.

### February

22nd - Ash Wednesday: WEE BOX, BIG Change campaign starts.

27th - Fairtrade Fortnight begins.

### March

18th - Fourth Sunday of Lent - SCIAF 'Sunday.'

24th - SCIAF & Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh Youth Day of reflection, Gillis College, Edinburgh.

### April

6th - WEE BOX, BIG Change campaign ends.

8th - Easter Sunday.

21st - Eco-Congregation Scotland annual gathering at Bridge of Allan.

## Help us keep your details up to date

Title .....

First name.....

Surname .....

New address.....

.....

Previous address .....

.....

.....

.....

When did you move? .....

Tel:..... Mobile: .....

Email:.....

Please complete this form and return it to SCIAF at:

Supporter Services  
SCIAF  
19 Park Circus  
Glasgow G3 6BE

It is crucial to our work fighting poverty that we communicate with our supporters. If at anytime you would prefer not to hear from us, please write to us at the address above or email [supporterservices@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:supporterservices@sciaf.org.uk).





Photo: Martin Rowe



100%

“ The environment and economy are really two sides of the same coin... We know that the resources that we use whether it is oil, energy, food, land... all of these are the basis in which development happens... If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves. ”

Professor Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. (April 1940 – September 2011).

[www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk)

SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund)

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SCIAF is the official aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. We help some of the world's poorest people, regardless of religion and tackle the underlying causes of poverty.