



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Cumbria Methodist District partners with Christian Aid to encourage people to give thanks after a Covid vaccination**

Cumbria Methodist District has partnered with aid and development charity Christian Aid to give people an opportunity to give thanks for receiving their Covid-19 vaccination and to help others in crisis across the world.

As more people, and often our family, friends and neighbours receive their vaccine, we feel a sense of relief and gratitude, but there is also an awareness that many communities around the world are suffering and do not have access to vaccines as we do. Indeed, many of them lack the basics that they need to protect themselves like clean water for handwashing.



When people in Cumbria receive the vaccine there is now the opportunity to give thanks and pass the blessing on by donating to Christian Aid's Coronavirus appeal. Christian Aid are helping vulnerable communities around the world by providing access to soap, water, food and vital health information and have so far supported over half a million people in 27 countries.

*Photo - A woman very happy to collect her hygiene kit at an aid distribution funded by Christian Aids Covid appeal in Adagi community Benue State Nigeria*

Going forward, Christian Aid will support vaccination programmes in communities by providing data on hard-to-reach populations to local health services and by working with trusted community figures to challenge misleading information about the virus and vaccination as well as any stigma faced by those who contract Covid-19.

The Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District, Revd Dr James Tebbutt, recently commented,

“During Lent we suggested the possibility that those who had received a Covid-19 vaccination make a thanksgiving offering to help others elsewhere in the world to receive one also, and we know that a number have responded through various helpful organisations.

As our own society becomes a little safer, we are even more aware of the disparity with the many parts of the world where without our collective resources the pandemic rages. Accordingly, in the Easter season of life and hope and beyond, we want to encourage everyone again, whether in gratitude for vaccinations received or simply out of love for your neighbour, to donate just a few pounds or a much larger sum through Christian Aid, who with its partners are seeking to help some of those who are most in need of our help and resources.”

Christian Aid's Head of Community Fundraising and Public Engagement Chine McDonald said:

“The coronavirus pandemic has shown us that none of us are safe, until all of us are safe. It has been amazing to see the speed at which the vaccines have been rolled out in the UK – every jab in someone’s arm brings us closer to the end of Covid-19.

“But the reality is that richer countries like ours are getting more access to vaccines, while the poorer countries in which Christian Aid works are left at the back of the queue. As a Christian organisation, we believe that every person is equal in the sight of God and worthy of living lives with dignity, equality and justice.



*Photo - Ibrahim is being supported by a Christian Aid project to help reach the most vulnerable people impacted by Covid-19 in Benue Nigeria*

“We’re delighted to work together with the Cumbria Methodist District to give people an opportunity to say thanks and help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach.”

The appeal launch comes after nearly two thirds of people asked in a UK poll agreed that a global COVID-19 vaccine programme should be created which does not prioritise richer countries over poorer ones.

Sixty-three per cent of respondents to the survey commissioned by Christian Aid said they wanted to see countries working together to create a global COVID-19 vaccine programme that would not prioritise developed countries over developing countries. Only 11% disagreed.

To give thanks and donate to the Cumbria Methodist District’s Appeal visit:  
<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/cumbria-gives-thanks-for-our-vaccines>

**For more details contact Christian Aid’s media team on [mediacomms@christian-aid.org](mailto:mediacomms@christian-aid.org) or call 07850 242950.**

Savanta ComRes was commissioned by Christian Aid to explore views on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in developing nations. Savanta ComRes interviewed 2,119 UK adults aged 18+ online from 5-7 February 2021. Data were weighted to be representative of population by age, gender, region, and socio-economic characteristics such as social grade. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Full tables can be found on the Savanta ComRes website: <https://comresglobal.com/our-work/poll-archive/>