

Compassion UK

Compassion UK is a Christian child development charity, working in partnership with local churches to release children around the world from poverty in Jesus' name. Founded in 1952, Compassion work in 29 countries partnering with 8,500 local churches within communities experiencing poverty. Our heart is to give children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future.

Compassion are Christ centred, Child focused, and Church driven:

☑ Christ centred, because Jesus is at the centre of everything they do. Their programmes show God's love to children living in poverty. Whilst Christ's love motivates them, they help children and families from all backgrounds, regardless of belief.

☑ Child focused: they intentionally begin with children, the most vulnerable to the devastating effects of poverty. They support children in every area of their lives, tackling the root causes of poverty that hold them back.

☑ Church driven: they believe the Church is the hope of the world. They run programmes in exclusive partnership with more than 8,500 local churches, across 29 countries, because they know their communities inside out.

At the heart of their operation is the Child Sponsorship Programme, and this is the area we are most connected with them, as a church. Whenever you sponsor an individual child you give them life-changing support including food, education and health-checks. Child sponsorship with Compassion is an opportunity to come alongside a local church, and together, bring hope and lasting change to a child in poverty.

Amongst the church family of Whitefriars, we sponsor 25 children (mostly in Ghana), which is amazing from a church our size; mostly by individuals and families, but a couple by groups. Thank you for your support. Our children and young people took on sponsorship of Talent in Ghana and a group of men in church sponsored David. Unfortunately, Talent was sponsored just before lockdown and his financial support didn't take off as we had expected. The men's group have been very generous and David is overfunded, with some of their contributions supporting Talent.

Each year we have covered any shortfall in the overall funding from our church away giving, and sometimes we have responded to emergency appeals from Compassion; but we would love in future for both children to be fully funded, freeing up away giving for other causes. If you want more information about the children there is a display in the Bridge; or you could speak to Emma Croxon

about Talent, or Simon King about David. If you would like to contribute to their support, please speak to Ken Owst about making a regular payment. We are committed to making sure their monthly sponsorships are covered (and these increase slightly in September 2023) but it would be lovely to send an additional sum for a present at Christmas and birthdays too.