
COMPASSION

Our charity for July

Compassion is a charity that St Michael's has supported for a number of years whose mission is 'releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name'. *Compassion* is 3 C's:

Children – *Compassion* identifies children that are in poverty in 25 of the poorest counties in the world.

Church based – *Compassion* then identifies churches in those areas with a heart for children and partners with them to help those children with funds from sponsors in the UK and 12 other countries.

Christ based – the love of Jesus is central to everything *Compassion* does and is responding to God's call to care for the poor and show love to those in need.

Funds are obtained and used in two ways:

- ▶ one is from individuals sponsoring children, as a number in the St Michaels congregation do.
- ▶ the other way is through one-off gifts (such as St Michael's church gives) that are used to address various needs in the community.

IF POVERTY COULD SPEAK TO YOU, WHAT WOULD IT SAY?

Richmond Wandera remembers:

"Poverty began to speak to me as a child. I felt I was nothing... Nobody cared to know my name"

Richmond's life in Uganda was turned upside down at the age of eight, when his father was murdered. With no income of her own, Richmond's mother moved the family to their new home – one single 12x12' room in one of Uganda's largest slums.



A room where the whole family had to sleep.
A room that leaked when it rained.

One day, his mother explained that there was no money for food, so Richmond was sent onto the streets to fend for himself and his younger sister. Luckily, a church nearby registered Richmond into their *Compassion* project and he soon received news that he had been sponsored by 15-year-old Heather.

Richmond thrived in the *Compassion Child Sponsorship Programme* and, thanks to *Compassion*, Richmond was given the opportunity to attend university. He went on to study for a Masters.

"The possibility of joining the university was a positive testimony that impacted my mother so much that she made a commitment to the Lord."



Richmond received a vision to strengthen the African church, he went home and set up the *Pastors Discipleship Network*, a programme that trains, strengthens and equips pastors throughout Africa.

Richmond's is just one story. But it's also a story of how, when you change one life, you begin to change the world. Read his full story here: compassionuk.org/blogs/richmond-wandera.

Compassion is very grateful for the continued support of St Michael's – thank you!


Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name