

Letter for May 2019

Dear Friends

Like many people I always enjoy 'Call the Midwife' and am glad that in this country we have good health care, especially when it comes to childbirth. We take it for granted that women will be well cared for throughout their pregnancies and labour, but that is not so in every part of the world. May is Christian Aid month and the focus on their work in so many countries of our world.

This year we are asked to support their work in Sierra Leone, and in particular on women and childbirth.

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh said: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

This **Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May**, our church is once again supporting the work of Christian Aid and is asking:

Will you be a partner for change? If our church raised £300, it could help provide a new delivery bed so more mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.

We will be posting Christian Aid envelopes in as many of our streets as we can and asking people to return their envelopes to the Rectory (to save door to door collections). We are asking you to think of ways you can raise money this year: a quiz, a breakfast with friends, a raffle, make cakes...., and join in so women like Jebbeh can celebrate more happy birth days.

The Sunday before Christian Aid Week begins, 5th May, we will be showing a video of what change can occur with the help of Christian Aid's work in Sierra Leone and the support it brings to women.

Thank you.

With every blessing
Kate