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CHRISTIAN AID URGES UK PUBLIC TO SPARE A THOUGHT FOR SOUTH SUDAN THIS LENT



As Christians around the world mark Lent, a time of reflection and thinking about others who are less fortunate, [Christian Aid](http://ChristianAid) is asking the British public to support people seeking a safe place to call home. The charity is reflecting on the hymn, 'When I Needed A Neighbour, Were You There', which was written for the organisation, while remembering how Jesus called his disciples to sacrificial love that breaks down barriers, builds bridges, and demands justice for those who find themselves living in poverty.

Michael lives in South Sudan, where six million people urgently need humanitarian aid as a result of the conflict that erupted in December 2013. Ongoing fighting has displaced 2.4 million people, and up to 5.3 million people are at risk of severe food shortages.

Michael, who is in his 70s and has gradually lost his sight during the past five years, fled alongside his family when government forces came to his village. Soldiers killed people and stole cattle, forcing him to flee to the swamp where he resided with his family for two months. When they returned, most of their belongings were gone, and they were left with next to nothing.

Thankfully, they received some fishing hooks and nets from Christian Aid. Already a skilled fisherman, now he can take the younger generation to the swamp to teach them how to fish, so they can continue to feed their community.

Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, said: "Lent is a time of reflection, self-examination and thinking of others who are less fortunate, like Michael, in poor countries around the world.

"We are asking our supporters to follow Count Your Blessings, Christian Aid's Lent calendar, and reflect each day on the good things in their lives, thinking about daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities around the world, and helping them to find a safe place to call home.

"We're working with our local partners in South Sudan to provide much-needed food, safe water to drink and sanitation facilities to communities like Michael's, as well as providing fish hooks and nets so they can start to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient.

"For 70 years, we have been working with communities around the world, making a difference and helping to transform the lives of people living in poverty – and we're not going to stop now. And this wouldn't have been possible without the support of the British public. With your help, we will be there tomorrow."

Just £15 could provide fishing gear for a family like Michael's; £8.50 could provide two cooking pots so they can eat a hot meal; and £3 could pay for two plastic jerry cans so they can store safe drinking water.

For more information, visit caid.org.uk/lent or Chris Jadav, Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on 07814 131249, cjadav@christian-aid.org

EAST CORNWALL CHURCHES ENVIRONMENT GROUP LISKEARD METHODIST CHURCH MARCH 15TH at 2pm

You are invited to a meeting of representatives of churches in East Cornwall to explore the issues of Environment and Climate change at a meeting on Wednesday March 15th at Manna Room in Liskeard Methodist Church starting at 2pm. A small pilot group met in Autumn last year and have some ideas on possible activities that could be held in 2017 to raise this important matter in our congregations.

For more information please contact either Andrew Hill andrew@aandbhill.plus.com
Yates Andrew.yates@truro.anglican.org

Please share this invitation with anyone else you think might be interested.

TO ALL COUNTY AND NATIONAL ECUMENICAL OFFICERS/CONTACT PEOPLE AND CTE STAFF

Following Roger Paul's retirement at the end of April, the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity is seeking a new colleague to join the staff team as Ecumenical Officer for Mission and Evangelism. Details of the post are on the Church of England website, at <https://churchofengland.org/about-us/vacancies/nci-vacancies/ecumenical-officer-for-mission-and-evangelism.aspx> – the deadline for applications is 3 March.

We would be very grateful indeed if you could circulate this information as widely as possible and also think whether you know someone you might encourage to apply for this post. Obviously someone with DEO or CEO experience would be well suited but Roger wasn't either when he was appointed and he has been a brilliant NEO. So please cast your imagination as widely as possible, especially in the light of the new job title.

THE REBELLIOUS, COMPASSIONATE UNA KROLL



Una Kroll, who has died aged 91, was a doctor, a nun, a feminist campaigner with a prominent role in the movement for the [ordination of women](#), an activist for peace and justice, counsellor to many, and to many others a disturber of the peace. She defied labels. Perhaps the title of her 1995 book, [Vocation to Resistance](#), came closest to defining her.

Never afraid of publicity, she courted it when the General Synod, the legislative body of the Church of England, in 1978 said no to women's ordination. Una called down from the gallery: "We asked for bread and you have given us a stone." Her words echoed far beyond Church House. It was, she said, "all part of my non-violent resistance to injustice". Her 2014 autobiography would be titled [Bread Not Stones](#).

In 1992 the first women were ordained in England. Una was by then living in Wales, and when the Church in [Wales](#) followed suit in 1997 she was made a priest. However, something of the spiritual enfant terrible of her youth remained. She shocked her admirers and friends by making the ultimate surrender of personal ambition, publicly laying down her priesthood, and in 2008, in solidarity with its women, joining the Roman Catholic church. It was not a theological conversion, but, after long reflection, a spiritual impulse to join the disempowered. She did not renounce her past, and continued to worship in both churches. For Una, the barriers of church history had evaporated.

She was born in London into a cosmopolitan family. Her father, George Hill, from a family of timber merchants in the then Russian Baltic, was a British spy in both world wars, finally with the rank of brigadier. He left her mother, Hilda (nee Pediani), before Una was two. Una recounted that she spent her childhood being looked after by her mother's family and friends in France, Latvia, Italy and Britain, and speaking Russian and French as well as English.

At the start of the second world war, she was in Hampstead, north London, living in the Russian émigré community. The war left a deep mark. Three of her cousins were Baltic Germans fighting on Hitler's side in Russia. Two of them were killed, the third was one of Stalin's prisoners for 12 years.

Una was sent to St Paul's girls' school, and to Malvern girls' college, and at 19 went to study medicine at Girton College, Cambridge. There, her nominal [Christianity](#) turned into Christian activism. "The war and living among refugees influenced me to become a doctor and a socialist," she later wrote to me in a letter.

"Love your enemy and peace with justice became the crucial driving forces of my life." Surrender of personal ambition led the young doctor to join the Community of the Holy Name, an Anglican religious order, in 1954.

The community sent her to a hospital in Liberia, west Africa, but within three years her vow of obedience collided with her convictions. In 1957 she became ill and a monk from an American order also working in Liberia offered to take her back to Britain. In a matter-of-fact way she recounted: "When we got to Paris we decided to get married. It was not so much a love affair as simply the right thing to do." Leo Kroll, many years her senior, was in consequence out of work as a priest.

Una and Leo had the first of their four children a year later and in 1959 set off to work in what is now Namibia. They hated the racist laws, became involved with the anti-apartheid struggle and within two years were expelled from the country. In 1961 Una, with Leo in support, took up life as a GP on a large housing estate in St Paul's Cray, south-east London.

She was to combine that with many years of campaigning for women's rights, spurred on by the injustices she experienced in her daily work. Sexism in the church made her blood boil. She became an honorary deaconess in 1970 in the south London parish of another iconoclast, the [Rev Donald Reeves](#) – "that dangerous man", as [Margaret Thatcher](#) called him. Rebels do not always hit it off. These two did. However, Una was not a natural team player. Successive curates found their colleague hard to take. In the general election of October 1974 Una stood as an independent candidate in the Sutton constituency in support of equal opportunities. It gave her a platform and a little more than 300 votes.

With an ever stronger inner call to the priesthood, she turned her fire on the church. It was to be a long struggle, but the tide was slowly turning. Some members of the Movement for the Ordination of Women were ill at ease with her militant style. Her opponents both feared and admired her. But it was the institution, not people, with whom she was spiritually at war.

Eventually, the radical campaigner began to give way more and more to the gentle and patient listener, wise counsellor, soul friend to many and spiritual director both of men and women. In this capacity she helped my wife and me to weather the traumas and ultimate death of a disturbed child. The BBC invited her to join a team responding publicly to people's problems.

Widowed and retiring from medicine in 1987, she moved to a cottage beside a parish church in Wales, living as a contemplative nun. "No amount of good works," she wrote at that time, "has been sufficient to halt our lemming-like rush towards the precipice of destruction. If there is to be justice in the world it can only come about by repentance on a large scale." To be nearer her children, she moved in 2003 to a small flat in Bury, Greater Manchester.

Una's life was a passionate, stormy love affair with the church. In her final years, physically frail but still mentally and spiritually vigorous, she embraced a solitary life of prayer for the many she loved and for the peace of the world. The storm had abated, though not all of her righteous anger. To the last, compassion remained.

She is survived by her children, Florence, Leo, Elizabeth and Una, and 10 grandchildren.

• Una Margaret Patricia Kroll, doctor, priest and campaigner, born 15 December 1925; died 6 January 2017

Women's World of Day of Prayer 2017

Women's World of Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday 3rd March. This year's service has been written by the Christian women of the Philippines, a country which has been in the news recently. The title of the service is 'Am I being unfair to you?' and it highlights some of the injustices suffered by the ordinary people of that country, particularly the women.

Women's World of Day of Prayer is the largest ecumenical movement in the world. The service written by the Christian women of the Philippines will be used at ecumenical gatherings of men and women in 170 countries and islands throughout the world. Details of services in Cornwall so far as they are known at present are given below.

Note that these services are equally as interesting and thought-provoking to men as to women. Just because a service is written by women doesn't mean that men cannot enjoy it and learn from it too!

Place	Venue	Time	Details
Bodmin	St. Petroc's Church, Bodmin	2.30 pm	
Bude	St. Martin's United Reformed Church, Killerton Road, Bude	10.30 am	Followed by refreshments
Bugle & Roche area	Roche Methodist Church	2.30 pm	
Callington	Callington Methodist Church	10.30 am	Followed by refreshments
Calstock	Tamar Valley Methodist Church, South View, St. Dominick PL12 6TQ	2.30 pm	Followed by refreshments
Camborne	Centenary Methodist Church , Wesley Street, Camborne	2 pm	
Camelford	Camelford Methodist Church	2.30 pm	
Carnon Downs	Feock Methodist Church	2 pm	
Constantine	St. Constantine Parish Church	2.30 pm	Followed by refreshments
Falmouth	Falmouth Methodist Church (The Moor, Falmouth),	10.30 am	Followed by refreshments.
Goldsithney	Goldsithney Methodist Church, Main Street, Goldsithney, TR20 9HA	2 pm	Refreshments to follow.
Hayle	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church	2 pm	Followed by refreshments
Isles Of Scilly	St. Mary's Methodist Church	2 pm	Followed by refreshments
Launceston	St Cuthbert Mayne Roman Catholic Church	2.30 pm	
Liskeard	Liskeard Salvation Army Hall	2.30 pm	
Looe	St Martin's Church Hall, Looe	2 pm	Followed by refreshments
Lostwithiel	St. Barnabas Parish Church	10.30 am	You are invited to stay on for lunch in the church rooms - proceeds to Cancer Research UK
Mawnan Smith	Mawnan Smith Methodist Church, Carwinion Road, Mawnan Smith	2 pm	
Marazion	All Saints Parish Church, Marazion	2.30 pm	
Menheniot	Menheniot Methodist Church	2 pm	
Mevagissey	St. Goran Church, Gorran Churchtown, St. Austell.	2.30 pm	Tea and cakes to follow
Mullion	Mullion Methodist Church	2 pm	
Mylor	All Saints Church, Mylor	2.30 pm	

Newlyn, Paul & Mousehole	Mousehole Methodist Church	2.30 pm	
Newquay & District	The Salvation Army Hall, Crantock street, Newquay.	11 am	Followed by a Lenten Lunch of Soup & Bread for Christian Aid.
North Hill & Linkinhorne	Polyphant Chapel, Polyphant	2 pm	Followed by tea
Padstow	St Saviour's Church, Trevone	10.30 am	
Pelynt & Polperro	Pelynt Methodist Church	2.30 pm	
Penzance	St John the Baptist C of E Church, Trewartha Terrace, Penzance	11 am	
Perranporth	Perranporth Methodist Church	10.30 am	Followed by Filipino-themed lunch
Polruan	St. Saviour's Church, Fore St. Polruan	1.45 pm	
Port Isaac & Rock	St. Michaels Porthilly, Rock	2 pm	Fair Trade stall
Probus	Probus Parish Church	2 pm	Followed by light refreshments using recipes from the Philippines
Redruth	Redruth Salvation Army Hall	1.45 pm	
Saltash	Burraton Methodist Church	10 pm	
Saltash	Saltash Baptist Church	7.30 pm	
St Austell	St Austell Baptist Church	2 pm	
St Austell	St Austell Baptist Church	7 pm	
St Breward	St. Breward Methodist Church	2 pm	
St Just in Penwith	St Just Parish Church	2 pm	
St Mawes (Roseland)	Gerrans Parish Church	2 pm	Followed by tea and cakes
St Neot	St Neot Methodist Church	11 am	
Summercourt & Indian Queens area	Indian Queens Methodist Church	2 pm	Followed by light refreshments
Tintagel	Brockhill Methodist Church, Crackington Haven, Nr Bude	2.30 pm	
Torpoint	St. James Parish Church, Torpoint	2 pm	Followed by light refreshments
Truro	St. John the Evangelist's Church, Truro	2 pm	
Tywardreath & Par	Par St. Mary's Methodist Church	2 pm	
Wadebridge	St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church	11 am	Fair Trade stall

There are normally also services at **Helston, Lanner, the Lizard, Porthleven and St. Ives** but I have been unable to get details of these.

Information about Women's World Day of Prayer in general and about some of the 5,000 service that will be held that day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found on the website www.wwdp.org.uk

Elizabeth Burroughs

**Chairperson, National Committee of Women's World Day of Prayer
for England, Wales and Northern Ireland**