

The Catholic Parish of St Peter's & the Winchester Martyrs

the promise

Covenant With the Poor appeal, 24-25 May 2025



Help us grow a future

RedTribe is a charity based in the rural and wild southern Kenya, working to support the local Maasai communities, dedicated to preserving their traditions and supporting them through times of change.

It believes every child deserves nutritious food and the opportunity to learn.

It works to provide education and sustainable living resources to overcome poverty and disease, while also maintaining the Maasai identity. The goal is to ensure a bright future for the community and for generations to come.

The current CWtP appeal is to support Red Tribe's farming project at Maasai Academy in the Loita Hills, Olorte, Tiamanangien, Kenya.

It wants to establish six shambas which will enable the academy students to learn farming and contribute to the school feeding pro-

RedTribe

Charity: RedTribe
Project: Supporting farming project at Maasai Academy
Target amount: £3000
Beneficiaries: 350 children and 18 teachers

gramme. These six will be caged with chain-link wire to protect them from baboons, porcupines and antelope.

The total cost will amount to £3000 which is our appeal target. Any additional funds will be used towards paying for other essential items.

Hennie and Becca Marais represent the charity in this country. They say: "As the only

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charity operating in this remote region, we rely on the support of donors like you to continue our important work. Your contributions allow us to provide vital resources and services to our community, who are located outside the reach of the World Food Programme.”

Maasai Academy is home to 350 children and 18 teachers, offering vital education in one of Kenya’s most remote regions. But feeding so many people is a daily challenge.

Every month, over 16,000 meals are served — a massive effort that depends on buying maize and beans in bulk. Prices are rising, and reliance on external suppliers is not sustainable.

Children’s diets are limited and often lack essential nutrients, which affects their health, energy, and ability to focus. The current system isn’t just expensive — it’s fragile.

The shamba growing spaces will:

- Produce fresh vegetables like spinach, kale, tomatoes, and carrots
- Expand children’s diets and improve nutrition
- Offer hands-on learning in farming and sustainability
- Reduce food costs over time
- Create food security and independence

The long-term vision is to transform Maasai Academy into a model — one that other rural schools in Kenya can replicate.

Hennie said: “We aim to lead by example, showing how simple, low-cost solutions can revolutionise school nutrition and education.

“We’ve laid the groundwork. Now let’s grow.”

RedTribe has:

- Identified space for six growing cages
- Designed low-cost, durable cage structures
- Partnered with school staff to lead farming lessons
- Developed a plan for year-round vegetable rotation

The next step is raising £3,000 to:

- Build and equip the growing cages



- Train teachers and students in sustainable agriculture

- Purchase seeds, and tools

Your support = nutritious meals + lasting knowledge

Even a small donation can make a big impact:

- £10 buys a season’s worth of seeds for one cage
- £25 supplies tools for student use
- £400 builds one growing cage
- £65 sponsors a full farming kit and lesson plan for a class

RedTribe is a grassroots charity.

Since 2009, it has delivered projects in health, education, discipleship, and income generation while respecting Maasai traditions.

Its mission is to build sustainable, community-led change that lasts. The Maasai Academy farming project is a key step in this journey — and it needs your help to make it flourish.

www.redtribe.org



How to donate by bank transfer:
Account name: CDP St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs.
Account No. 00890996.
Sort code: 30-93-04.
Please reference ‘CWP’ when making payment.

Great response to Firefly appeal in Lent

Your response to our Lent appeal on behalf of Firefly for Syrians was marvellous and raised over £4,300.

The funds raised from the Covenant With the Poor are being put to immediate use supporting their work providing Arabic-language education to over 1,000 children using face-to-face and hybrid classrooms

Maria Chambers, the project director, outlines their future vision for September 2025 to July 2028 and our funds will help to support this next phase of their work, **Pre-Primary Education for Syrian Returnee Children.**

"Starting in September 2025, they aim to provide 5,000 children aged four to six with the essential skills they need to enter primary school, offering them a sense of stability and a bright future after years of displacement.

"These children, many of whom have spent their earliest years in refugee camps or as internally displaced persons, are returning to areas in Syria that have been devastated by war. Schools have been destroyed, and access to quality education is scarce. But with your support, we can change that.

"We believe that when children acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills, they seldom lose them.

"We also believe the same for the skills and insights embedded through our teacher training, provided that both are well imparted in a professional, well-trained way.

"To ensure this is the case, we attach significant importance to the continuous monitoring and measurement of the quality of our work in teaching and in teacher training and the outcomes achieved. Work well delivered will last longer.

"Why this project matters:

- Only 27 per cent of Syrian children aged three to five access early years education.

- One in three schools has been damaged or destroyed.

- 180,000 educators have been displaced or lost due to the ongoing conflict.

"Parents are desperate to ensure their children are not left behind in the rebuilding of Syria. They want their children to feel safe and prepared for school, but they need support to make that happen.

"How we will help

"With years of experience in northern Syria, Firefly is ready to scale our efforts. We have successfully supported over 500 children in the Qabasin area and have built a proven model that we can expand across Syria.

"Your donation will help us:

- **Reach 5,000 returnee children** over the next three years

- **Recruit and train 200 local teachers** to deliver high-quality education

- **Build a scalable, sustainable model** for early years education that can be replicated across the country

What your support can do

£189 can provide one child with a 10 months of learning. (This cost includes all classroom resources and teacher training and support)

- Children that attend this programme start the year unable to hold a pencil and by the end can read and write simple sentences. Once learnt these skills are seldom lost.

- Every gift brings us one step closer to providing these children the foundation they need for a brighter future.

Update from Tanzania on 2024 appeal

Fiona Hendy sent this message in January on behalf of the Mamas and all the children in Karibu Nyumbani, Tanzania, who we supported in our May 2024 appeal for their water capture project. It certainly seems to have been a success!

"Since I am just still in January, I would like to wish you and all your parish a happy new year.

"We at Karibu Nyumbani want to thank you all so much for the water harvest project, but I have



wanted to wait until the whole thing is finished.

"It already is proving to be such a blessing to us. We had no water coming into the village for

nearly a month.

"Normally we can manage two weeks with our large well under the chapel but this was empty. We now have a reserve tank and it was full.

"All the children were able to bucket their required amounts for bathing and the Aunties their water for washing clothes. We are so pleased.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.

"Much love and prayers."

This is **your** Covenant, can **you** help?

It was back in 1997 that the parish first responded to Bishop Crispian Hollis's suggestion to make a 'Covenant With the Poor' in order to express that principle at the heart of Catholic social teaching, 'the preferential option for the poor', both at home and abroad.

An open small, dedicated group of parishioners (CWtP) have ensured the covenant has continued successfully, but they need additional help.

They meet about four times a year to consider future projects and plan the appeals. They hear and make suggestions, listen to presentations,

scrutinize proposals and submit recommendations to the parish for final approval.

Anybody in the parish can suggest a project or attend the meetings.

Provisional future dates are 14 July and 3 November

Contact us via the parish office.

This weekend the covenant will be signed by a priest and a parish representative at all the four churches.

Below is the wording of this year's covenant.

Parish of Saint Peter and the Winchester Martyrs COVENANT WITH THE POOR

St Gregory's, St Peter's, St Stephen's, and St Thomas More's

Jesus said: "*Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me*".

As Saint John Paul II urged us to show a *preferential option for the poor*, so in 1997 our Bishop Crispian Hollis was inspired to ask us all to make a **solemn promise, a Covenant with the Poor**.

As Pope Francis warned us that "*We will be judged by God on our charity, on how we have loved our brothers and sisters, especially the weakest and the neediest*".

So it is that, as individuals and in groups within our parish, while being inspired by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Sí*, we each bind ourselves to carry out this promise, to support people in greater need than ourselves.

We therefore ask our Celebrant here together with the representative from our Covenant with the Poor group to sign the Covenant on behalf of this congregation.

This day 25th May 2025.

An update from Malawi, a 2023 appeal

Our appeal in June 2023 was for Rare Charity in Malawi and here is an update received in April from their managing director Tom Schrieber.

"I'm pleased to say that the scholars are doing well, and will shortly be heading home as their school begins Easter holidays.

"We've been reviewing our approaches and making adaptations to strengthen the support we provide. A meeting was recently held at the school with one of our graduates, who has herself gone on to become a sec-

ondary school teacher in the area, to help inspire the secondary students. I am also going to be making a trip to Malawi soon, where I look forward to visiting the schools and meeting the scholars in person.

"Times in Malawi are challenging, with prices already rising significantly ahead of the current global instability, and the cuts to USAID having further impacts. Our support means this is not directly impacting our scholars, with many of our tertiary scholars excelling and three of our

secondary graduates selected to some of the country's top universities.

"What we are also seeing is an increase in applications, beyond what we can currently support, as the economic challenges affect more people. We are extending our support to at least four tertiary scholars this year and looking at what can be done to reach more of the scholars in need at secondary and tertiary level.

"I look forward to sending more updates after my Malawi visit."