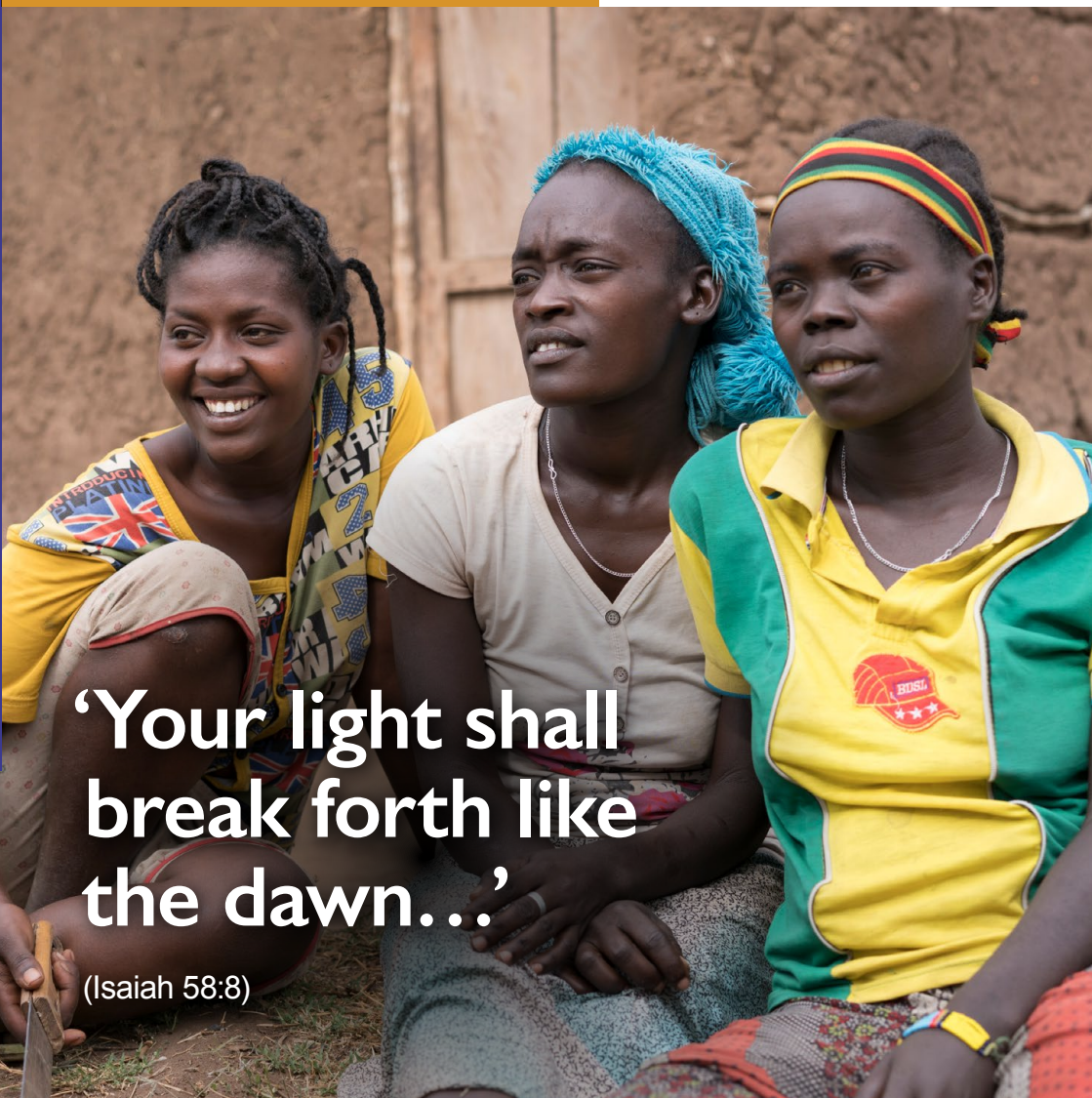


Morning light



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

The Bishop of Ely's Lent Appeal 2019



**'Your light shall
break forth like
the dawn...'**

(Isaiah 58:8)



Get involved at
[elydiocese.org/
lent-appeal-2019](http://elydiocese.org/lent-appeal-2019)

Your gift to the Bishop's Lent Appeal will support solar energy projects, empowering women and their families in some of the poorest countries.

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?'

(Isaiah 58:6)

Lent has traditionally been a time of solemn fasting and prayerful preparation for the joy of Easter. In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah speaks of fasting as a time when injustice, oppression and poverty are ended. In that spirit, we are supporting a Christian Aid project through a new appeal this Lent.

Aberash and her family live in the south of Ethiopia, where many communities depend on farming to make a living. Drought, brought by climate change, means that livestock often die, and people suffer from hunger. Recently there has not been enough rain for farming. People have no choice but to walk for up to eight hours to find pasture and water for their livestock.

Aberash has seen heartbreaking hunger. Drought robbed her from the chance to farm and earn a living. She and her children were hit hardest.

But Aberash is strong. She has come together with other women in her community to form a support group.

Together they run a small shop which sells essentials.

The shop is powered by solar panels, which uses the sun's energy for good.

'This solar shop has been a shining light in our lives, so we call it "Shaka" which means the morning light'



'In the past, there were so many challenges. It was hard to feed my children. Sometimes we ate the leaves of trees during the hard times' – Aberash Dubale.

Through the solar shop, Aberash was able to set up her own bread business and build a new house. The group gave her a loan to access much-needed medical treatment.



Christian Aid works with local organisations in some of the poorest communities in the world. Support the Bishop of Ely's Lent Appeal and make sure even more people are able to receive our help.

Her children do their homework with a solar lamp, rather than the smoke of the fire. She still faces many challenges, but now she has hope for the future.

‘In the night time the children use the solar lamp to do their homework. Before, they’d come near the smoke of the fire where we were cooking’



Aberash and her family in front of the house they built with the help of the money generated through the solar shop.

Aberash is just one of many women transforming their lives through Christian Aid’s Breaking the Barriers programme. In Ethiopia, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Honduras, women are gaining access to business opportunities through sustainable energy technology.

Women like Aberash are claiming their God-given right to determine their own future, and doing so in harmony with the environment.

Please stand with Aberash and her sisters by making a donation today. Every £1 you give this Lent will be worth £5. Visit elydiocese.org/lent-appeal-2019

Pray with us

God of justice,
Lord of light,

We thank you for the
warmth of the sun,
giving life to creation.

Thank you for the
solar energy projects
bringing dignity and
empowerment to
women like Aberash.

Bless the work of
Christian Aid and all
those who will benefit
from it.

Through Jesus
Christ, light of the
world,

Amen.



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Dear friends,

This Lent I am very pleased to invite you to support this innovative project – a new partnership between the diocese and Christian Aid. You will be supporting women in developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty through environmentally-sustainable means.



Lent is traditionally a season of fasting, but we are reminded by Isaiah that God calls us to a fast which ends injustice, oppression and hunger.

I hope that you will find inspiration in the story of Aberash, and the difference this project is making in her life. Your donation will help women like her to find the dignity and fullness of life that all deserve.

Thank you for your support.



The Rt Rev Stephen Conway
Bishop of Ely

Your £16 multiplied to £80 can

give five women solar lamps for their homes, helping their children do their homework.

Your £75 multiplied to £375 can

train five groups of women in using solar power to grow their businesses.

Your £450 multiplied to £2,250 can train 50

women in skills to help them power ahead with their own businesses.

For more copies please contact:

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caid.org.uk/ely

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