

## Mission for the month - Tearfund

As mums and dads around the UK rush about in preparation for their children returning to school, remember those around the world who do not receive an education. In 2016 this amounted to 263 million children, adolescents and youth which represents nearly one-fifth of the global population of these age groups. Although the number of children, adolescents and youth who are excluded from education fell steadily in the decade following 2000, partly as a response to the millennium goal initiatives; this progress has essentially stopped in recent years. One of the main reasons is the increased number of conflicts around the world. But these figures are particularly high in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of children who are engaged in child labour that is considered detrimental to their health and development is around 1 in 4 children.

Tearfund continues to speak out about these issues and helps in practical ways, for example:

- In the **Ivory Coast** their partners have focussed on access to water and basic sanitation and this has resulted in an increase in school attendance as diseases related to dirty hands have decreased. A village chief says *'As children's health has improved so have their marks in class'*.
- In **Angola** where many people face food shortages the local Missionary School decided to teach skills to overcome hunger. Their classes included gardening and nutrition which taught students the skills required to grow food essential for survival. This has again resulted in healthier children who are more able to learn.

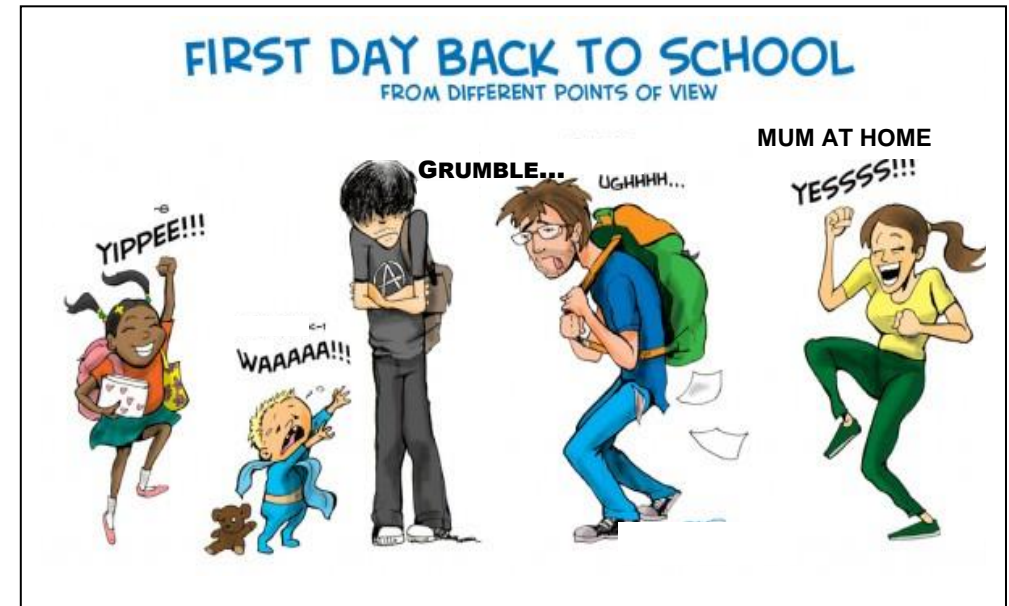
### Vicar's Comment

I wonder if you've ever had the experience of tidying a room and it taking far longer than you planned. Why? Well because as you went through all of your stuff, you kept finding things that you'd forgotten existed and so you spent time looking at them. Perhaps you stumbled across an old diary or book of photos that you'd forgotten you had. Whilst it might feel frustrating that it makes the task longer, I imagine there's a chance you were glad to have been reminded of such half-forgotten memories.

In my own walk with Jesus, I've realised the value of spending time looking at the foundational truths of my Christian status which in the busyness and pressure of everyday life might become obscured. In Christ, God gives us eternal life. He forgives us our sins. He makes us part of his family. He gives us his everlasting love. He gives us his Holy Spirit to live within us and give us new life. Spend time with the big gospel truths; dwell on them, because God wants Christians to know their status. As Ephesians 3: 19 shows us, God's desire is that in Christ we 'know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.'

# St Christopher's Church

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### Memory verse

'The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.'

Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)

# September 2019