

## Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2009



**In the year 2000 the United Nations set a target to halve by the year 2015 the number of people who suffer from hunger (Millennium Development Goal 1).**

Steady progress was being made towards this goal, but with the world economic downturn things have changed. Progress has slowed drastically and in some areas is showing signs of reversing. The poorest people in the world are being hardest hit by this global upheaval. The numbers of people going hungry and living in extreme poverty are much larger than they would have been had progress continued uninterrupted. Economic hardship has pushed tens of millions of people into vulnerable employment and increased the number of those who, though employed, do not earn enough for themselves and their families to rise above the poverty line of \$1.25 a day.



These people are used to going several days with virtually nothing to eat. They are used to feeling hungry, and tired and being more susceptible to illness and disease as a result.

This Harvest Season, as we give thanks to God for all that He has provided, as we celebrate the bounty that we are able to share it is important that we remember that other people in the world are hungry. Always hungry.

As part of our response to God's provision in the Diocese of Lincoln we are holding a Harvest Appeal to raise funds to help people in poverty to grow food for themselves. The focus of our appeal this year is Shepherd Food Ministries, a charity set up in Lincoln by Ola Ogunyemi who is a lecturer at the University of Lincoln.

Ola is originally from Nigeria and he feels a real sense of God's call to find ways of supporting some of the poorest people in his homeland.

In 2007 he set up Shepherds Food Ministries (SFM) and Bishop John became a patron. SFM set about raising money to buy land that could be farmed to provide food for widows and orphans and disabled children. SFM is already feeding 130 families of widows and the disabled on a regular basis in Ibadan, south/western Nigeria and now that enough money has been raised to purchase land it is

planned that the food will be grown locally and enable these families to become self-sufficient.

In order to develop this community, and provide food storage facilities continued support for this charity is essential.

Donations to the Bishop's Harvest appeal should be sent to:  
Bishop's Harvest Appeal  
Diocese of Lincoln  
Church House  
The Old Palace  
Lincoln LN2 1PP

**There will be a special U2charist service on Saturday 17 October at 6.30pm in St Mary le Wigford Church, Lincoln, which will explore the theme of poverty and hunger in more depth. Ola will be there to talk more about SFM. For more information please visit the website [u2charistlincoln.wordpress.com](http://u2charistlincoln.wordpress.com)**