

# **NEWTOWNARDS & DISTRICT CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE**

Chair: John Doherty  
37 Ballymaleddy Road Comber  
Newtownards BT23 5RD  
Tel. 91872280 07765900988

Secretary: Karen Hamilton  
61 Balfour Street  
Newtownards BT23 4EE

Treasurer: Margaret Cully  
8 Brooklands Road  
Newtownards BT23 4TL

5 July 2021

Dear Editor,

I would be grateful, on behalf of the Newtownards & District Christian Aid Committee, for the opportunity to thank the people of the Newtownards area for their generous support of Christian Aid Week in May 2021. After the cancellation of the door-to-door collection in 2020, it was a relief to be able to deliver gift envelopes into so many homes during 10 - 16 May this year. However, the Committee had a challenge: if Volunteers couldn't safely collect gift envelopes, or have any doorstep conversations as has been the custom for many years, how could families contribute their gift?

The answer was three-fold:

First, the Carville family from TopSpot in Francis Street, agreed to continue the tradition of acting as a dropping off point for people to bring their gift envelopes. A record £3,983.18 was received in this way, and the Committee is most grateful to them and their staff for their kindness. In a similar way, Volunteers from Conlig Presbyterian Church raised £1,781.00 through use of a 'dropping off' point.

Second, an Online donation page was created in the name of Newtownards & District Christian Aid Committee which attracted a further £820.00 and, finally, members of various local churches brought their gift envelopes to place on the church Offering plate. So far, the churches have raised almost £4,000.

It is worth reflecting that many donors completed a Gift Aid declaration slip and this HMRC scheme should boost the value of eligible gifts by well over £1,000.

All of this means that Christian Aid projects will benefit by more than £11,500 from the Newtownards area alone. The Committee is most grateful to those who gave, and also to the many Volunteers who used a lot of shoe leather in order to deliver thousands of envelopes.

In a year when our community has been particularly anxious about health issues, it is good that we are supporting communities in other countries where the challenges of Covid-19, Climate change and grinding poverty pose a huge threat.



John Doherty  
Chair

37 Ballymalady Road Comber BT23 5RD

**Further Information: John at 07765 900 988**