

Leicester Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025



Sri Lanka is known for its beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, and historical sites.

But right now, the country is facing the worst economic crisis in its history. Families are struggling with soaring prices. Food, fuel, and other essentials are in short supply. Three in ten households do not have enough food.

And life is even harder for families affected by leprosy.



Equipped to thrive

Leprosy affects millions of people living in poverty across the world. Although there is a cure, the disease continues to rob people of family, community, jobs and dignity.

Discrimination means many people with leprosy are treated as outcasts. Fear of losing all they hold dear means sufferers hide symptoms for as long as they can.

If leprosy is not cured quickly, it has devastating consequences. Nerve damage steals the feeling in your hands and feet. This stops the warning sign of pain if you burn yourself, or cut your foot on a sharp stone. Small injuries can quickly become infected, leading to deep ulcers that won't heal.

Your fingers begin to stiffen and curl into your palms. You lose the ability to grip a tool to work, or a pen at school. One by one, you lose every opportunity to earn a living and be independent.

Leprosy thrives where there is poverty. A good food supply is one of the ways to fight this disease. Lack of nutrients weakens your immune system, making you more likely to get leprosy. Without good food, recovery is also much slower.

That's why the economic crisis in Sri Lanka has been so devastating for communities affected by leprosy. Many can barely afford to eat once a day. **Families are trapped in a cycle of poverty and poor health.**

This Lent, you can break this cycle.



Reverend Joshua is the founder of Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM), our partner in Sri Lanka. When he was a child, the civil war forced his family to leave their home. Growing up in refugee camps, food was scarce. He had to make the most of whatever local produce he could find.

When he grew up, God called him to help people living in poverty in Sri Lanka. He has a real heart for families affected by leprosy and ensures they have a sustainable supply of nutritious food.

Rev Joshua help families to start their own vegetable gardens. Crops mean they are not only able to feed themselves, but they also sell produce to provide an income.

He even brings communities together for cookery classes! Rev Joshua uses these opportunities to teach about nutrition and break down stigma against people with leprosy.

Today, people like you across the UK are partnering with Rev Joshua to help people affected by leprosy live life in all its fullness!

Meet Vavi

Vavi lives in a remote village in northern Sri Lanka. Living in poverty, meeting her family's basic needs was a daily struggle.

But when she thought life couldn't get any harder, Vavi was diagnosed with leprosy.

Like many people in rural areas, Vavi got her water from a community well. But when her neighbours discovered she had leprosy, they stopped her from using it. Her friends turned their backs on her. She was shunned and unwanted.

It became difficult for her to find water for drinking and cooking. It was even hard to keep clean. Can you imagine how scared she felt? Vavi was diagnosed after leprosy had damaged her nerves. Lack of feeling meant she kept hurting herself. But she had no clean water to clean cuts and prevent infection.

Vavi's employer did not understand why she was slower at work. He didn't care that her hands were disabled. Before long, she lost her job.

Vavi felt desperate – would she ever work again? What would happen to her children if she couldn't provide for them?

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice...to set the oppressed free?'
(Isaiah 58:6)



Rev Joshua's team heard about Vavi, and reached out to support her.

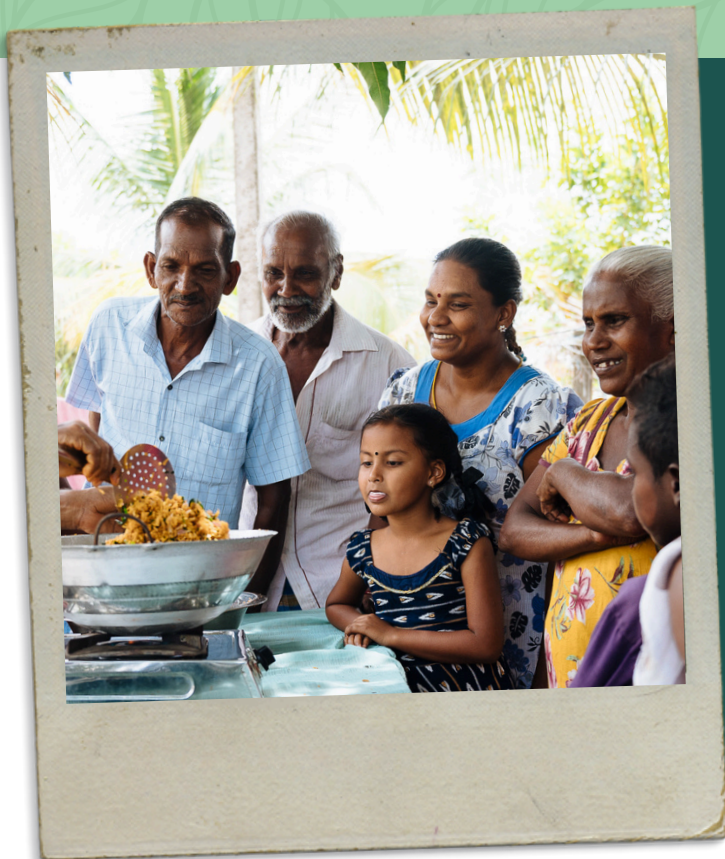
Now, Vavi has a well of her own. She and her children have fresh, clean water! She was also given the plants and training she needed to start growing vegetables and coconuts.

Today, her garden is bursting with life. "It is like heaven on earth," Vavi says. "With my coconut trees producing nuts, and by growing vegetables, I am able to live a healthy, happy life."

Not only can she enjoy the beauty and produce of her garden herself, but she can also sell lots of produce!.

Vavi's self-esteem is restored. She is independent, and can rely on her new, sustainable income. She is safe in the knowledge that her family will never face hunger or thirst again.

Your impact



This Lent, will you help to break the cycle of leprosy and poverty in Jesus' name?

Today, you can make sure that people like Vavi have everything they need to rebuild their lives, with plates full of nutritious food and gardens bursting with produce. What a blessing!

Together, let's help more families like Vavi's thrive.

£30 provides 20 coconut trees. Your kindness will give someone like Vavi the plants they need to feed their families and sell produce.

£86 provides a family with plants, seeds and tools – everything they need to start a small-scale home garden and a build a sustainable income.

£200 will enable 100 families to learn about nutrition and how to grow good food, thanks to Rev Joshua's community meals and ongoing support from his team.

Make a donation at
leprosymission.org.uk/donate/leicesterlent

SCAN ME! →

