



See the Way

15 February – 14 May 2019

Fundraising Ideas

What one gift can achieve

When your congregation, family and friends contribute to **See the Way**, they'll want to know what their support can achieve – and so will you. Here are a few inspiring facts:

- Every **£1** your congregation raises between 15 February and 14 May 2019 will be **doubled** by the UK government.
- Worldwide, an incredible **3 out of 4** people who are blind don't need to be. Most blindness is caused by cataracts which can be removed by surgery.
- **£39** could pay for a **pair of glasses** to open up the world for someone with poor vision.
- **£95** could fund surgery to remove a cataract from the eye of a child, enabling them to see.
- **£190** could fund cataract surgery for a child blind in both eyes, helping them **See the Way** to a brighter future.
- **£387** buys an ophthalmoscope, an invaluable instrument to diagnose problems with the retina and identify the best way to treat them.
- **£584** will pay for a week's training for two ophthalmic technicians so they can maintain eye care equipment to ensure safe, high quality surgery.



Dining in the Dark



Format

There are two ways you could do this; the first is with a formal, sit-down meal, where you cook in advance. The second is a more informal party-style gathering, where guests can help themselves to snacks and you play games.

For the meal, you may want to serve the food without a blindfold to avoid any accidents, but then make sure you are all eating 'blind'. For the gathering, buy a range of snacks in different types of packaging e.g. olives in a jar, crisps in a tube and let the guests open them 'blind'.

Invites

Invite family, friends, neighbours or your fellow church members. Make sure you explain that it's a fundraising challenge for Christian Blind Mission's **See the Way** appeal, and that you will be eating with a blindfold!

Donations

Ask your attendees for a gift at a level you think is appropriate. Keep in mind that if you have dinner for six, and each person (including you) gives just £16, you can donate £96 to our **See the Way** appeal. And because all public donations to **See the Way** will be doubled by the UK government, your £96 would become £192, enough to give sight to a child like Allen who is blind in both eyes.



Remember, between 15 February and 14 May every £1 you raise will be doubled by the UK government, so you can help twice as many people **See the Way to a brighter future. Please note the government cannot match any donations raised outside of these dates.**

During the event

While you are eating the meal or party snacks, discuss the experience with your guests. Consider cooking dishes and providing snacks with strong and subtle flavours or unusual textures and ask them what each one is.

For extra challenges whilst blindfolded you could also try to:

- Play a game
- Post something on social media
- Set up text-to-speech on your mobile phone
- Try reading braille
- Clear away



Discussion points

- What is easiest about dining without sight?
- What is most difficult?
- Does food taste different when you can't see it?
- Was anyone nervous about trying any food?
- How easy was it to work out what each dish was?
- Did anyone guess wrong, and was there any dish people couldn't identify?
- How easy did people find it to cut their food and keep it on their fork?
- Did anyone drop their food?
- Was anyone tempted to laugh?
- What words would you use to describe how a person feels when they are needlessly blind and trying to eat when other people are watching?

What will you give up?



Obed, from Rwanda, East Africa, had to give up football when he couldn't see the ball. He desperately wishes he could join in with his friends, instead of sitting on the side-lines, but his cataracts make it too difficult, and also painful in bright light.



Will you give something up this Lent so children like Obed don't have to? Whatever you choose to give up during Lent, why not donate what you save. Every pound you raise will be doubled by the UK government, so you can help twice as many people **See the Way** to a brighter future.

Light of prayer

During the **See the Way** appeal – between 15 February and 14 May – fill a wide bowl full of sand and make tealights available for church visitors and members of the congregation. Encourage your church members to say a prayer for people who would be overjoyed to receive the gift of sight, if only they had the doctors or medicine to free them from blindness or low vision.



Ask everyone to think about their own sight, if they are blessed to have it. Has their vision changed over the years? How has it changed? What has made it better? What has made it worse? What are they grateful for? Do they know or live with someone who is blind or has low vision? Has any experience during the **See the Way** appeal changed the way they think?

Sponsor a day without sight

This could be a fantastic activity for young people, a youth leader, pastor or vicar – or anyone who can sacrifice the time and energy to face this challenge. The idea is to raise sponsorship from church members, friends and family to spend a whole day completely blindfolded.



You might want to do this on a day you don't have too many commitments, but you could really challenge yourself to try it on a day when demands of university, school, work and home are at their highest.

Think about what activities you will and won't be able to do, and consider what help you will need. Have your resources and helpers prepared before you start. Try the following and note down how often you need someone's help:

- Brush your teeth
- Can you shave, apply make-up, style your hair?
- Choose what you're going to wear and dress by yourself
- Make a hot drink. (Please be extra careful with boiling water. Ask someone to supervise this task.)
- Make a sandwich for lunch
- Go for a short walk
- Leave a note for someone
- Make a telephone call
- Tell the time
- Pay for something at the shop

Imagine how frustrating it would be if you were really blind and knew that, if only you had the money, a doctor could perform surgery that would restore your sight tomorrow?

Need help?

If you need any help or advice, you can contact our team on: email community@cbmuk.org.uk or call 0800 567 7000. We can also supply free donation envelopes, posters, sponsorship forms, balloons and leaflets.

Sending in your donation

After you have collected your gifts for **See the Way** please send in a cheque with any completed Gift Aid envelopes giving us your name, church name and phone number. Or make your donation online at www.cbmuk.org.uk/seetheway-fundraise.

About CBM and See the Way

Every day, people in the world's poorest places become needlessly blind because of conditions that can be easily treated. Too often for people living in poverty, losing your sight also means losing the chance to go to school, live independently or earn a living.

Learn, pray and fundraise with your church to help people **See the Way** to a brighter future - and between 15 February and 14 May the UK government will match every £1 your congregation raises for our **See the Way** appeal - so every collection, sponsored event or other fundraising activity during this time will have double the impact in the world's poorest places.

Public donations will support CBM's work preventing blindness and transforming lives wherever the need is greatest; match funding from the UK government will improve access to sight-saving eye-health services in Rwanda.

Contact us:

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