

# Caring

## for others today



Features the work of 22 charities

**Sylvia  
Green**

Exploring  
Christian belief  
in action



**Ideal for KS2**

Barnardo's ■ BRF ■ CAFOD ■ Childline ■ Christian Aid ■ Compassion ■ The Donkey Sanctuary ■ Epilepsy Action  
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People ■ The Leprosy Mission ■ NDCS ■ Oxfam ■ RNIB ■ RNID ■ RNLI ■ RSPB ■ RSPCA  
Salvation Army ■ Samaritans ■ Sight Savers International ■ St John Ambulance ■ Tearfund

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BRF

# Introduction

This book is based on the teachings of Jesus and connects with modern-day citizenship. The material is aimed at KS2 pupils (7–11 year olds) for use in schools. It is also ideal for use in Sunday schools and other church-based groups.

Jesus didn't just tell us we should love and care for each other—he showed us by his own caring actions. The book, with its easy pick-up-and-use format, uses 13 examples of the life and teaching of Jesus as a springboard to explore the work of key charities.

Every chapter ties in with the non-statutory national framework for RE Breadth of Study themes, especially 3e, 3j, 3k and 3m. For example, the material will help teachers to:

- Explain the link between the teaching of Jesus and Christian action.
- Use the Bible and material from Christian organizations that help others, such as Christian Aid, CAFOD and Tearfund, as a teaching resource.
- Find out about a charity in greater depth.

Each chapter can also connect with ICT—using the internet—with the use of websites for the charities. There are strong PSHE and Citizenship links, and these are suggested at the beginning of each chapter. Some chapters can also tie in with History, Geography, Science and English.

The sections start with a Bible reading and expand to show that Jesus' teaching is not only still relevant today, but also very much in action.

Each chapter includes:

- Suggested PSHE and Citizenship links.
- Bible link: what Jesus said, taught or did.

- Learning from the Bible: what the Bible teaches us.
- What others have done: stories about people who cared.
- Charity link: how and why the charity was founded and what it is doing today.
- Reflection and discussion points.
- Practical link: what we can do.

Introductions to 22 charities are featured in the book, across a wide range of caring activities. Children can get to know a little about the founding and background of charities they may have already heard about. Schools and other groups may like to forge links with a particular charity.

There are many other charities doing wonderful work, that could not be included due to space restrictions. Maybe you will want to look into some of them yourself.

All the charities featured in this book are open to, and actively caring for, everyone, regardless of their race or religion.

# Caring for blind and visually impaired people



## Suggested PSHE and Citizenship links

**KS2 4f:** learn that differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors, including disability.

**5e:** meet and talk with people who contribute to society through international aid organizations.

Could also link to History 11a: Victorian Britain: a study of the impact of significant individuals (in this case, Thomas Rhodes Armitage, founder of the RNIB), and DFES Schemes of Work: Geography Unit 17: Global eye.

## Bible link

### Jesus heals people who are blind

*Jesus was followed by a large crowd as he and his disciples were leaving Jericho. Two blind men were sitting beside the road. And when they heard that Jesus was coming their way, they shouted, 'Lord and Son of David, have pity on us!' The crowd told them to be quiet, but they shouted even louder, 'Lord and Son of David, have pity on us!' When Jesus heard*

*them, he stopped and asked, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They answered, 'Lord, we want to see!' Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Straight away they could see, and they became his followers.*

MATTHEW 20:29–34

## **Learning from the Bible**

Close your eyes. Think about your everyday activities, such as going to school, eating, drinking, using the phone or watching television. Imagine how your life would change if you suddenly became blind. Open your eyes and take a minute to look at everything around you.

It would be wonderful if we could all cure blindness the way Jesus did, or even if we could be gifted surgeons or have a lot of money to give away. But even if we are not in that position, we can still care. We can all do something to help, however small.

## **What others have done**

### **Louis Braille**

Louis Braille was born near Paris in 1809. He had lost his sight by the age of four through an accident in his father's workshop. When he was ten, he was sent to a school for blind boys in Paris. It was one of the first such schools in the world, but conditions were very harsh and punishments severe.

The pupils were taught to read by feeling raised letters on a page. The raised letters were formed by pressing copper wire on to the paper with a press. It was difficult to tell the letters apart and blind people were unable to write anything themselves.

Then, in 1821, Charles Barbier brought to the school a system that he had invented, called 'night writing'. It had been intended for use in wartime trenches so that the soldiers didn't have to

speak to each other and risk giving their positions away. It was a system of twelve raised dots used in different combinations.

The army had rejected the system as too complex. The young Louis, however, saw that it had potential if it was simplified. After experimenting for several months, he worked out a system using six dots. Over the next few years, he perfected it and even developed separate codes for maths and music. The first book in Braille was published in 1827.

Braille made it possible for blind people not only to read, but also to write. They could write in Braille themselves, using a stylus to make the dots.

Louis became a teacher at the school and gained much respect from his pupils, but it was some years before his system was widely adopted. Sadly, he did not live to see its success. Louis Braille died of tuberculosis in 1852 at only 43, but, fortunately, other people realized the importance of his invention.

## **The Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)**

Did you know that there are around two million people in the UK with sight problems? Another 100 people start to lose their sight every day. The RNIB is dedicated to offering practical advice and support to anyone with a sight problem.

### **Dr Thomas Rhodes Armitage**

The founder of the RNIB was Dr Thomas Rhodes Armitage. He was born in 1824 in Sussex and, although he started having trouble with his sight while studying, he eventually qualified as a surgeon.

After completing service in the Crimean War, Dr Armitage returned to London to work as a general practitioner and a consultant, but in 1860 his sight started to give him serious trouble. It became obvious that he would lose it altogether if he didn't give up his medical practice.

Dr Armitage was a wealthy man and money was not a problem, but he had seen medicine as his life's work, so its loss must have come very hard to him. However, he was a deeply religious man and he soon saw a way that his experience as a doctor, his wealth and even his blindness could help others. He is reported to have said, 'I cannot conceive any occupation so congenial to a blind man of education and leisure as the attempt to advance the education and improve the condition of his fellow sufferers.'

Having visited many blind people, Dr Armitage came to the conclusion that what they needed above all else was education. There were several different systems designed to help blind people to read and write at around that time (including Braille in France), but what was needed was a system of embossed writing that could be used throughout the whole country.

Dr Armitage was adamant that the best people to decide which

system best fitted their needs were blind people themselves. In 1868 he enlisted the help of three blind men and they formed themselves into a committee. This new society took the name British and Foreign Blind Association for promoting the Education of the Blind (later known as the Royal National Institute of the Blind, or RNIB).

The committee studied the different systems and interviewed many blind men and women to find out their views. Over many years, it was Braille that gradually came to the forefront, and in 1870 the first publication in Braille was printed in the UK. The system was then slowly adopted into schools for blind people.

### **The RNIB today**

Today, the RNIB has one of the largest Braille printing houses in the world. Its pioneering work gives help with Braille, talking books and computer training. Practical solutions to everyday challenges are offered to anyone with a sight problem.

The RNIB helps people with sight loss to stay independent in their daily lives, providing help in the home, holiday ideas, outdoor activities and arts and crafts. Other areas of help include employment, education, products and housing. It also campaigns to change society's attitudes and to raise awareness on many issues. For example, did you know that smoking doubles your chances of sight loss in later life?

The RNIB helps blind and partially sighted people to lead full and rewarding lives. It supports them, their families and professionals working with people with sight loss.



### **Find out more**

To find out more, contact Royal National Institute of the Blind, 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE. Telephone: 020 7388 1266; Fax: 020 7388 2034; email: [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk). The RNIB helpline (for information, support and advice): 0845 766 9999.

Check out the website: [www.mib.org.uk](http://www.mib.org.uk). On the RNIB website you can:

- Find out more about the work of the RNIB.
- Check on the latest news and campaigns.
- Read some real-life stories.
- Gen up on eye information and find out about looking after your eyes.
- Sign up for RNIB news and order publications.

Older children might like to log on to the website for 11–16 year olds with a sight problem: [www.sortit.org.uk](http://www.sortit.org.uk)

## **Sight Savers International**

Sight Savers believes that everyone has the right to sight. It is dedicated to combating blindness in developing countries by working with partner organizations in the least-served and poor communities.

Sight Savers International was founded by Sir John Wilson in the 1950s. Sir John was himself blinded at the age of twelve as a result of an accident in a school chemistry laboratory. Through his own determination and courage, he still managed to graduate from Oxford University. Sir John had a dream to help more people in the world's poorest countries to see again. Setting up Sight Savers was the first step towards achieving this goal.

Did you know that a large percentage of blindness is preventable? Sight Savers revealed this to the world after carrying out a statistical evaluation of blindness in Africa. A big breakthrough came when Sight Savers identified the cause of river blindness and pioneered a disease-control programme.

Cataracts in both adults and children are a major cause of blindness. What happens is that the lens on the eye clouds over and stops light from entering. In the 1960s, Sight Savers launched high-volume cataract surgery in India.

Trachoma is a painful eye disease that occurs in poor areas with little sanitation, and it can easily lead to blindness. Sight Savers piloted a trachoma-control programme in the Gambia and now that country will be one of the first developing countries to eliminate it as a blinding disease.

Other projects have included launching a revolutionary Braille production unit in Africa, and introducing in-country training programmes.

### **Sight Savers today**

Today, Sight Savers continues to support ongoing activities that prevent blindness, restore sight and provide services to irreversibly blind people.

Over three million cataract operations have now been performed and over 50 million treatments have been provided against river blindness.

The number of blind people in the world is going down, thanks to the work of organizations like Sight Savers. But there remain some frightening facts:

- There are still an estimated 37 million people globally who are blind and 124 million people who have low vision.
- 90 per cent of these people live in developing countries.
- Every five seconds, another person in the world goes blind.
- Every minute, a child goes blind, and less than half the children in the developing world who lose their sight will survive to become adults.

The astounding fact, however, is that 75 per cent of blindness is either treatable or avoidable.

Sight Savers is working towards ensuring that children with eye conditions are treated as early as possible. When the blindness cannot be treated, it supports education in mainstream schools so that children can learn the skills necessary for them to lead full

lives as adults. It also gives those children the chance to mix and make friends with sighted children.

Sight Savers' vision is of a world in which no one is needlessly blind and in which everyone who is irreversibly blind or severely visually impaired enjoys the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities as people who are sighted.



### **Find out more**

For general enquiries and for information on materials and assistance that Sight Savers can provide for schools and youth groups, contact Sight Savers International, Grosvenor Hall, Bolnore Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4BX.

Telephone: 01444 446600; Fax: 01444 446688; email: [generalinformation@sightsavers.org](mailto:generalinformation@sightsavers.org).

Check out the website: [www.sightsavers.org.uk](http://www.sightsavers.org.uk). On the Sight Savers website you can:

- Learn much more about the work of Sight Savers.
- Discover just how amazing it can be to give the gift of sight.
- Check on the news and read about the latest campaigns.
- Arrange to receive regular updates and information.
- Click on the photo gallery.
- Learn more about the human eye and how we see things.
- Log on to the schools page to see what a Sight Savers' fundraiser can do for your school.
- Play the 'eye doctor' game.
- Find out about Vision 2020.

### **Reflect and discuss**

- Think about the three men we've just heard about who have contributed so much towards helping blind and visually impaired people. Being blind themselves, they were aware of just what

kind of help blind people needed, but on the other hand, their blindness must have made it very difficult for them to achieve what they did. Discuss your thoughts on this.

- We have heard that less than half the children in the developing world who lose their sight will survive to become adults. Why do you think that is?

## **Practical link: What we can do**

- If you know or see somebody with a sight problem who you think may need help, then ask them. Let them tell you what kind of help they need. There are some helpful hints to bear in mind on the RNIB website.
- Learn more about how blindness affects people. For example, you could ask one of Sight Savers' fundraisers to come to your school or group. They will organize activities to help pupils learn about the effects of blindness—including the popular 'smelly' game. (See contact details above.) You could also send for Sight Savers' educational packages and links to the curriculum.
- If someone in your family wears glasses, next time they get a new pair, suggest they take the old pair into an optician's. Glasses can be reused or recycled for use in developing countries, and most opticians collect them for this scheme.
- Help the RNIB and Sight Savers to continue their vital work.

## **How to help the RNIB**

### **Recycling**

The RNIB accepts the following items:

- Old mobile phones and used ink cartridges (other than Epson inkjet cartridges). Schools and other groups can receive a collection box, which will be delivered to you. The boxes will be collected free of charge when they are full. Call freephone 0800

980 5375. Unwanted chargers and phone accessories will help to raise extra money. Please package everything carefully to avoid damage.

- Stamps. Leave approximately 1cm of envelope with each stamp and sort into first class and above, second class and below, foreign and commemorative. Send to RNIB Supporter Care Team, Falcon Park, Neasden Lane, London NW10 1RN.
- Coins: both foreign coins and notes and British coins (either out of date or current). Collect and sort them and call the Fundraising Enquiry Line on 0845 345 0054 or email [fundraising@rnib.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rnib.org.uk).

### **Raising money**

You could hold a ‘feely bag’ competition, either as a class or group, or at a school fair or fête. Different items are put into cloth bags and people have to feel the bags to guess what the items are. They could pay a small fee and the one who guesses the most items correctly receives a prize. (Perhaps one of the items in the bags could be the prize.)

## **How to help Sight Savers**

### **Raising money**

- Sight Savers can provide leaflets, posters, sponsorship forms, balloons, badges, stickers, pens, T-shirts, ideas and advice. Just 12p protects one person from river blindness for a whole year. 50p provides treatment to prevent trachoma. £17 pays for an operation to restore the sight of an adult with cataract and £27 pays for a child’s operation. £25 provides a book in Braille for a blind child. (More facts and figures are available from Sight Savers.)
- Perhaps you could look at what you are likely to spend 12p on—a small packet of sweets, for example. You could even make a list or chart of what 12p would buy in the UK, including items like ‘half a tin of baked beans’ and so on. You could

hold a sponsorship event at, say, 12p a lap. With each lap you complete, you will be protecting a person from river blindness for a whole year. At 50p a lap, each lap would be providing one treatment to prevent trachoma.

**Ideal for**  
Collective worship  
Class assemblies  
RE  
PSHE/Citizenship

**Ideal for KS2**

Barnardo's ■  
BRF ■  
CAFOD ■  
Childline ■  
Christian Aid ■  
Compassion ■  
The Donkey Sanctuary ■  
Epilepsy Action ■  
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People ■  
The Leprosy Mission ■  
NDCS ■  
Oxfam ■  
RNIB ■  
RNID ■  
RNLI ■  
RSPB ■  
RSPCA ■  
Salvation Army ■  
Samaritans ■  
Sight Savers International ■  
St John Ambulance ■  
Tearfund ■

As well as teaching about God, Jesus also taught how to behave and how to treat and care for each other—in fact, how to be a good citizen. Furthermore, he didn't just tell people what to do; he showed them by his own example.

This book, with its easy pick-up-and-use format, uses 13 examples of the life and teaching of Jesus as a springboard to explore the work of 22 key charities. It tells the stories of people who have dedicated their lives to helping others and the charities that grew out of their concern. It offers the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the issues raised and practical suggestions to help children get involved, however small their contribution might be.

Topics covered include caring for people with physical disabilities such as visual or hearing impairment, caring for children, caring for people who are hungry, unwell or living in poverty, caring for those on the outside of society and caring for God's creation.

**Each chapter includes:**

- Bible passage written in full
- Pointers to help children learn from the Bible
- Stories of what others have done
- Stories of key charities
- Suggestions for discussion and reflection
- Practical ways to get involved

The material is ideal for use in collective worship, class assemblies, RE and PSHE/Citizenship and provides cross-curricular links into subjects such as ICT, History, Geography, Science and English.

**barnabas**

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