

Tearfund Wales Appoint Local Specialist Volunteer Manager

Tearfund recently appointed Pembrokeshire's own Fiona Michael as their Tearfund Wales Specialist Volunteer Manager and Church Liaison Officer, following in Miriam Evans' footsteps after her retirement in March.

Fiona lives in St David's, with husband Geraint, a Baptist Minister, and their two small children. They are leaders of Y Groesfan, a fresh-expression of church initiative.

Working in a local comprehensive school prior to the new role, Fiona's work for BMS World Mission and Youth for Christ Cymru, has increased her awareness of the need to work together as church, in order to reach out to our communities in Wales and overseas.

"I'm excited to be part of a Christian organisation which looks holistically at releasing 50 million people from spiritual and material poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches. Wales is a caring nation, people are important to us. Tearfund's all about people, and the impact that God has on lives and in communities. When God transforms lives, communities are transformed." said Fiona.

Fiona recently met with Tearfund's Voluntary Media Officer, Sharron Hardwick, who said:

"I'm looking forward to working with Fiona. I know she's planning to meet with lots of local Tearfund supporters, whilst connecting with hundreds of Welsh Tearfund volunteers. We're keen to encourage new people to get involved in Tearfund's work, and believe that together we can make a difference."

Fiona talked about Tearfund's crucial work, responding through local partners, continue working with those affected by the recent food crisis in East Africa.

She also shared about Tearfund's **We Are Church** Harvest resource. **We are Church** calls God's worldwide church, to stand with poor and vulnerable people. It includes four inspiring short films, a PowerPoint presentation, children's materials, an eye-catching poster, a song, a quiz placemat for a harvest meal, individual response leaflets and so much more.

Tearfund recognise that as local churches overseas fully understand that Jesus challenged Christians to look after each other, and then recognise the unique position they are in to reach out to their communities, they can be catalysts of huge and lasting transformation.

Fiona sees huge parallels between community transformation overseas and in Wales. Her personal vision is to see communities in Wales transformed, learning a lot from partners overseas as they are seeing it first hand, saying:

"I know we can pull together to pray and support each other. I would like to give the people of Pembrokeshire a challenge - what one thing can you do

between now and the Olympics in 2012 to help ordinary people who live in the developing world lift themselves out of poverty?”

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