WINTER 2026

Vital Link

The Newsletter for Through the Roof | **www.throughtheroof.org**

Transforming Lives Through Jesus with Disabled People

A Life-changing New Chapter with Wheels for the World in Rwanda



International Missions Manager, Faith, shares Patrick's Journey

When 14-year-old Patrick arrived by ambulance at a Wheels for the World distribution in Nyagatare, Rwanda, he was the final person to be served that day. Yet his arrival marked the beginning of a life-changing new chapter.

Patrick had been living largely hidden from view. During a visit to the area, the Mayor of Nyagatare found him lying on the floor of his home. Patrick did not go outside, attend school, or take part in community life. Deeply moved by his situation, the Mayor wondered how children like Patrick could be helped.

The opportunity came when our local partner, Rev Dominique, and Carol Dyer, UK Team Leader for Wheels for the World, met with the Mayor and explained that a wheelchair distribution was taking place that week. Immediately thinking of Patrick, the Mayor asked whether the team could help.

Without hesitation, he arranged for an ambulance to bring Patrick from his home, some distance away, to the distribution centre. There, Patrick was assessed by therapists Helen and Moira, who provided him with a wheelchair tailored to his individual needs.

For Patrick, this wheelchair is much more than a way to get around. It opens the door to greater independence and inclusion. It gives him the opportunity to leave his home, attend school, receive an education and become a more active part of his community.

Patrick's story is a powerful example of what can happen when people work together. The actions of the Mayor, local partners, the Wheels for the World team and supporters like you have given one young boy greater freedom, dignity and hope for the future. It also demonstrates how compassionate and inclusive leadership can help remove barriers and ensure that disabled people are seen, valued and included within their communities.



From Crawling to Caring: Joyce's Joy of Motherhood

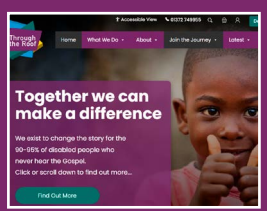
Joyce arrived at our Wheels for the World distribution in Nyagatare, crawling on her hands and knees, with her baby strapped to her back, hoping for a better future.

As a mother, having a new wheelchair will give her greater independence and enable her to care more easily for her child. Read Joyce's inspiring journey on the donation form (enclosed / at end of PDF).

In this issue:



Room at the Table: NEW Resource!



New season, new website.



Spotlight on Spring Harvest 2026.

Accessible formats available: large print, audio, braille.
Call 01372 749955 or email **info@throughtheroof.org**

New Resource for Small Groups: Room at the Table

Did you know that of the estimated 1.3 billion disabled people in the world today, only an estimated 5–10% will ever hear the Gospel in their lifetime?

(Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization).

This means that disabled people are one of the largest unreached people groups in the world today!

Through the Roof is on a mission to change that sad situation so we've produced a new resource for small groups: **Room at the Table**.

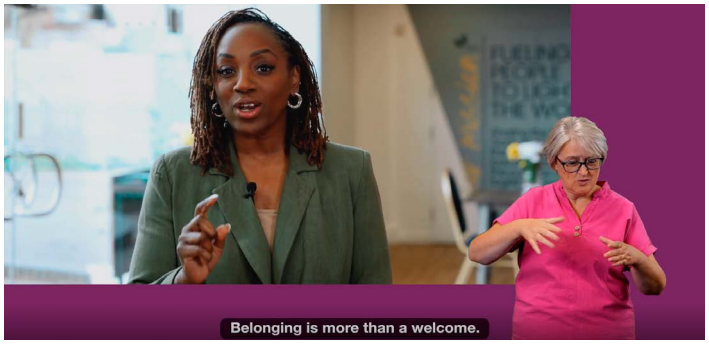


We long for more disabled people to **access** the Good News of Jesus, **belong** within Christian community, and be **commissioned** to share the love of Jesus and build His Kingdom together. This high impact video series with Discussion guide helps churches to explore what the Bible says about disability inclusion and move from awareness to action – nurturing Access, Belonging, and Commission (the ABC journey) together.

The resource features **powerful stories of disabled Christians** in **8 short videos** (approx. 10 mins each) to run over **five sessions** of 75 minutes each, and provides:

- **Biblically grounded teaching** on disability inclusion
- Personal faith stories rooted in **lived experience of disability**
- Space to start or deepen a conversation about disability inclusion, along with **tools and support** to build confidence
- Practical tips, **ideas and action points** that you can use to take the next step towards disability inclusion in your community.

Find Room at the Table taster clips on **youtube.com/@TTRChangesLives** and on our social media **@TTRChangesLives**



Hear from **Andrea**, who shares how God is using her gift for prayer amid living with chronic illness, often from her bed or sofa! Or **Neil** who shares the joy of being commissioned as a vicar and missionary to the Deaf community. **Mark** is a church leader and speaker who shares the transformative impact of living interdependently as part of the whole church community. Or **Ife**, who shares the impact of knowing that he is created in the image of God when confronted by the world's attitudes and expectations... And **Heidi** who lives with Downs Syndrome and uses her platform as a disability advocate to reflect the love of God... There are so many more stories to hear and to tell.

In the Bible the church is compared to a living body; each member and part different from one another, but each needed to enable it to function and flourish, all under Jesus **(1 Corinthians 12)**. Everyone is needed to fulfil the mission of reaching our world with the love of Jesus.

Why not join the conversation with your church small group?

You can get hold of a copy of the resource for your church or small group on our website at **www.throughtheroof.org/shop/**

‘Let’s break through that roof, because Jesus is waiting for you’

To launch Disability Awareness Week this year, it was fantastic to work alongside the Church of England Disability Project, with one of our Roofbreakers, Lynda Herbert, preaching for the Church of England’s national online service on 20 Sept 2026 (available on **youtube.com/thechurchofengland**).

Lynda is a licenced lay Minister and Reader and is also a wheelchair user. Disability Awareness Sunday means a lot to Lynda. She explained that, 30 years ago, she sustained a spinal cord injury and her world changed overnight. Lynda spoke about how important her faith has been to her on this journey:

‘It was prayer that got me through all this, for in Jesus I have found the strength and the comfort that I have needed to survive the every-day.’

Lynda preached about the original ‘Through the Roof’ account of the four friends and the paralysed man **(Mark 2)**, and how Jesus understood their need for access. Jesus’ heart was that no one should be left out.

It was appropriate that Lynda shared her personal story from St Swithin’s Church in Holmesfield, Derbyshire, where Lynda has advised them on building improvements.

Lynda pointed out in her sermon (from St Mary’s, Hook, Yorkshire) that 2,000 years ago it was the built environment that was the barrier for the paralysed man and his four friends; often this is the same in the church today, because we have so many older buildings.

Lynda’s final message for everyone was…
‘Jesus is for you. So, let’s break through that roof, because Jesus is waiting for you.’



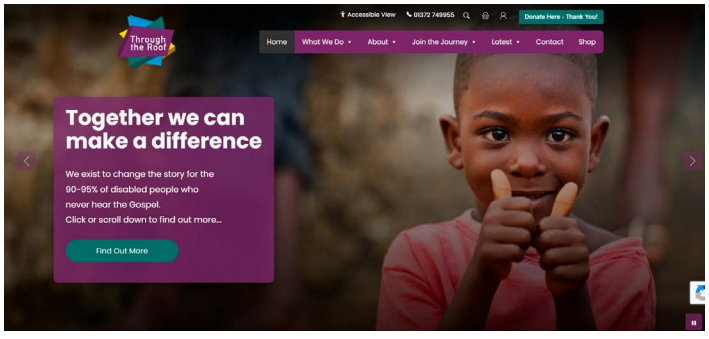
Disability Awareness Sunday (DAS) was celebrated this year by churches across the nations, with over 700 UK churches requesting the free DAS resource pack, by Roofbreaker Triona Brading, on the theme of ‘One Body, Many Parts’ **(1 Corinthians 12)**.

Remember, it’s not too late to celebrate: any Sunday can be Disability Awareness Sunday! Just search ‘Disability Awareness Sunday’ at **www.throughtheroof.org**

‘See, I am doing a new thing!’ (Isaiah 43:19)

Tim Wood, CEO of Through the Roof, on a new season and a new website.

I had the privilege of going on Sabbatical recently – providing time and space to meet with God. I came back refreshed and, in some ways, changed, too. Through the Roof’s website has also undergone changes and is looking refreshed. We’re delighted that it’s now live to view on your computer or mobile.



We’re updating the content to better reflect the charity’s current work and adding videos to bring it to life. We hope the structure makes it easier for supporters to find what they are looking for. Clicking the ‘Accessible View’ button above the top menu also enables visitors to choose their preferred view. Please do send any feedback on the site to **annette@throughtheroof.org**

New visitors can quickly find out about our main areas of work: Equipping Church, International Mission and Enabling Community. Returning supporters can be updated on the latest news, blogs and events. We also hope everyone will find the ‘Join the Journey’ section clear and engaging, so that together we can change the story for the 90–95% of disabled people who never hear the Gospel. Visit now at: **www.throughtheroof.org**

‘But I tell you…’ (Matthew 5:21)

Trevor Hahn, our Chair of Trustees, reflects on Jesus’s New Covenant.

I have been so encouraged over the last few months with all the activities that Through the Roof has engaged in. Our recent Board meeting highlighted so many churches engaging with our Disability Awareness Sunday materials, over 700 churches spreading the word to their congregations; our recent Wheels for the World mission to Rwanda; the Together programme, with the Calvert Trust holiday; as well as new resources in production and our new website nearly complete… just to mention a few of the things going on! What a privilege it is to serve our God and to know His blessing.



Reading through the Beatitudes recently, one of the phrases has really struck me afresh. Jesus says (in **Matthew 5:21**), **‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago… but I tell you.’** Jesus was talking about the law of Moses, including the ten commandments, the law that every faithful Jew must keep, and He took it a step further. For example, the law said, **‘do not commit adultery’** but Jesus said, **‘anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’**

Jesus was saying that we should not stick rigidly to the law of Moses; that abiding by the ten commandments, and other rules, was insufficient. He wanted us to go further, deeper, continuing to grow in faith, to more fully reflect the life that God wants us to live. Jesus concludes this section of Scripture by telling us (in **Matthew 5:48**) to **‘be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.’** I doubt my wife would be satisfied with our marriage if the only positive thing I could say about it was that I have not committed adultery!! I think she would expect the bar to be placed higher. But we can only do this in God’s strength, as God’s **‘power is made perfect in weakness’ (2 Corinthians 12:9).**

God has blessed Through the Roof so generously over the years and we have seen so much fruit: joy, provision, and growth through the anointing of the Holy Spirit partnering with you all, His faithful servants at Through the Roof. Our new website has a page called ‘Our story’ where you can read the journey Through the Roof has travelled, and all that has been achieved, at **throughtheroof.org/about/our-story/**

But just as Jesus said, **‘but I tell you…’**, I believe God wants us to press on and press in to all that God has planned for the future. There is yet still more… And I can wholeheartedly stand with the Apostle Paul when he said, **‘Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 1:6)** Amen. Let it be so.

Please pray: for Through the Roof as our story continues and God writes His-story. We trust in God’s provision in the coming years, as we seek further funding for the Roofbreaker project and encourage churches to partner with us in mission.



‘How fantastic the Calvert Trust holiday was!’

Praises and thanks to God for the great time had by all on the Together on Holiday week at Calvert Trust, Devon, earlier this year. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, with laughs, tears and reflection, which has created so many blessings and fond memories.

Holidaymaker, Ros, shares its impact.

‘It’s been quite remarkable to see how much it did for my daughter, Ellen. She absolutely loved the activities; the fact of having no boundaries to what she was enabled to do even in a wheelchair was a fantastic confidence booster for her. She rose to every challenge and enjoyed seeing others do the same. She thoroughly enjoyed joining in the devotional sessions, the worship (she loves singing), and even prayed aloud on one occasion.

She was delighted to meet up again with people she has got to know through the holidays over the years. At the end of the holiday she was referring to them as “our friends”. That might not sound particularly significant, but Ellen has never called anyone friend before!

It was wonderful to hear people sharing what God had done in their lives, and I came away inspired to go on reaching out to people with the good news that we have to share. Heartfelt thanks to everyone!’

We are very sad that Calvert Trust Devon has closed. We are however reminded that: **‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens’ (Ecclesiastes 3:1).**

We particularly want to thank our wonderful organisers, holiday leaders and helpers, and our fantastic guests, all of whom have made the holidays so special and memorable. Above all we are very grateful to God for the blessings of the holidays, time spent with Him, the fun and challenging times, and the deep bonds of friendships formed.

Looking ahead to 2027

Please join our online ‘Virtual Pilgrimage’ starting on **18 Jan 2027** as we journey along **St Cuthbert’s Way:** the 62-mile distance between **Melrose** (Scottish Borders) and **Lindisfarne** [Holy Island] on the coast of Northumberland, England. This is a time to reflect on the earliest days of Christianity in the British Isles, and how it may be speaking into your life today. Please visit our website to register at **throughtheroof.org**

Farewell to Suzanne!



We’re sad to have said goodbye to **Suzanne Lyse**, our former Team Administrator (pictured, left, at this event in Ewell with our Operations & Events Manager, Jan Nicholson). As the first point of contact for the charity, Suzanne warmly welcomed everyone, encouraging them to join us on the journey of disability inclusion.

She has been faithfully supporting the team – we all thank God for the fun and fellowship she brought to the TTR family. Suzanne continues to be a Roofbreaker and TTR supporter.

We pray for God to bless her as she seeks His guiding in her next steps, exploring how God wants to develop and use her giftings in the future. We are pleased that we will stay in touch. Thank you for all your work and dedicated service to TTR and its people, Suzanne!

Please pray: for all TTR and DCF holiday-makers, past and present, thanking God for blessing all these times of great fellowship.

Spring Harvest 2026: a glimpse of... Heaven in glory

Grace Bloxham, our Roofbreaker Co-ordinator for Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England, shares insights into her time at Spring Harvest 2026.

Spring Harvest was always a highlight of my year, and returning in 2026 was no exception. I first went in 2010 and as a family we went every year (one year twice!) until COVID.

This year looked a little different because I went with Through the Roof, supporting young adults with additional needs as they moved out of the age-bracketed groups. My job was simply to help them access what was going on, encourage them to connect with one another and join in with the sessions. They made it so easy for me! They were the loveliest group and I ended each day exhausted from all the worshipping, dancing and activities, but completely full of joy.

The key verse for Spring Harvest this year was **'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' (Mark 12:30)** and the young adults in Skegness really lived that out. They danced, signed, waved flags and ribbons and worshipped with everything they had. I learnt so much from them about what wholehearted worship looks like.



It was also special experiencing Spring Harvest again with my family, as I first attended when I was a child and this year I went with my own child. My mum, who uses a wheelchair, was remembered by the accessibility team from years ago and supported so thoughtfully throughout the week. My dad, who now has hearing loss, found the subtitles in the main sessions really helpful. The accessibility team positioned my parents somewhere they could both see and engage fully, and those small acts of welcome made such a difference.

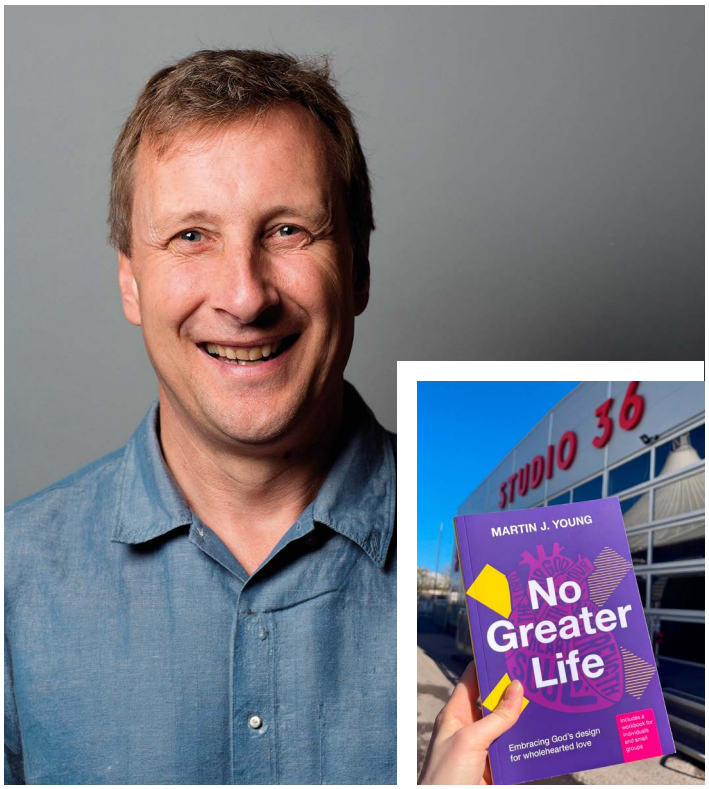
Whatever group or venue you attended, what stood out most was seeing hundreds of people coming together, different in so many ways yet united in Christ as one body to praise Him. It felt like a glimpse of what Church on earth, and Heaven in glory, is meant to look like. I already can't wait for next year.





Please pray: for accessibility at all Christian events, and for large-scale events like Spring Harvest to set the example for disability inclusion in Church conferences. Please also pray for Through the Roof staff who serve at Spring Harvest on the accessibility team: Katie, Janet, Grace and Carol. In 2027, Katie and Janet will serve again as Disability Consultants at Minehead and Skegness respectively; with Carol and Grace again providing Young Adults' Additional Needs Support at the respective venues.

A Church where all are welcomed and sent



Martin Young, Spring Harvest speaker and author of 'No Greater Life', reflects.

In **Mark 2**, we encounter community in action. Altogether, the paralysed man and his four friends are determined, supportive, courageous and full of faith as they break through the roof. The group had a co-mission: access to Jesus, overcoming barriers.

As Jesus followers, being sent is part of the journey. It is a way of life. In my book, **No Greater Life**, the theme-book for Spring Harvest 2026, I explore the biblical Great Commandment. Through the Roof embodies this calling: to love God and others, so all can be commissioned in the Kingdom.

Having spent over 30 years in ministry, I now lead Saltmine (**www.saltminetrust.org.uk**) working with artists to engage people with the creativity of God's Kingdom. I'm thankful for Through the Roof, working so everyone can fully belong, serve and express the creativity and power of the Kingdom.

Together, let's continue to build a Church where all are welcomed and sent.

The Faithful Four by Hyatt Moore

Hyatt Moore, the acclaimed US artist behind The Luke 14 Banquet mural created for disability ministry Joni and Friends, has unveiled a striking new painting, The Faithful Four.



The large-scale canvas is inspired by the account in Luke 5, where a paralysed man is carried by his four friends to Jesus. Unable to get through the crowd, they climb onto the roof, make an opening, and lower their friend down before Him. The teamwork between the paralysed man and his four friends, their practical love, perseverance and faith transform a seemingly impossible situation into a life-changing encounter with Christ.

For Through the Roof, this artwork has a special significance. Our charity takes its name from this Gospel account, and the image captures the heart of our Roofbreaker project. Roofbreakers are disability champions who work in churches and ministries to improve access, belonging and commission.

Like the paralysed man and his four friends, Roofbreakers work alongside disabled people, recognising the shared journey of faith that we are all called to go on in pursuit of Jesus.

We hope this inspiring painting will encourage many more churches and individuals to become Roofbreakers in their own communities. Find out more about our Roofbreaker project on our new website **www.throughtheroof.org** (then go to 'What We Do' then 'Equipping Your Church').

Meeting Joni



Tim Wood, our CEO, shares the joy of meeting Joni Eareckson Tada in person.

After 20 years' of working for Through the Roof, I was very fortunate to take my recent Sabbatical. During that time, it was a huge privilege for me to visit 'Joni and Friends' (JAF) in California – the organisation instrumental in enabling Through the Roof to launch nearly 30 years ago.

After a tour of their Headquarters, I spent time with several members of their leadership team and most inspiring of all, met with Joni Eareckson Tada in person for the first time. An internationally recognised author and speaker, Joni is a true pioneer in disability ministry and founded her organisation nearly 50 years ago!

Joni has been a wonderful supporter and friend of Through the Roof and I was delighted I could thank her personally for her prayers, guidance and cheering us on over many years. Seeing her incredible artwork adorning the walls of the offices and meeting Joni in person strengthened our sense of common purpose. It also highlighted the value of Christian disability ministries working together across national boundaries.

Since visiting Joni and Friends, the conversations have continued with the JAF leadership which we hope will lead to a deeper working relationship, affirming our partnership in the Gospel.

Room At The Table

We hope you enjoy using our new resource 'Room at the Table', available at **www.throughtheroof.org/shop**. If you are happy to give feedback, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with us at **info@throughtheroof.org**

International Mission opportunities



Upcoming Wheels for the World trips

Kenya (Kimilili): 10–20 Feb '27; with ICFEM.
Uganda (Soroti): 26 May–5 Jun '27; with Preacher's Mission Africa.
India (Vijayanagaram): 15–25 Sep '27; with Sathyam Ministries.
Email **Kathy@throughtheroof.org** for info.

Future International Roofbreaker events
Led by in-country teams and local networks:

Kenya (Elburgon): 27 Jan–6 Feb '27; Ps Davis
Nigeria: June 2027 Dates and details TBC
Ghana: July 2027, Dates and details TBC

Please do support these missions in prayer.
More info from **Faith@throughtheroof.org**

Advent blessings
from Through the Roof

Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd is a Registered Charity no. 1087788 with registered offices at Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4TQ. Registered UK Company no. 04201510.

New Beginnings

transform lives through Jesus, bringing a new season of joy.



Meet Joyce, with her baby boy: their lives transformed by the gift of mobility.

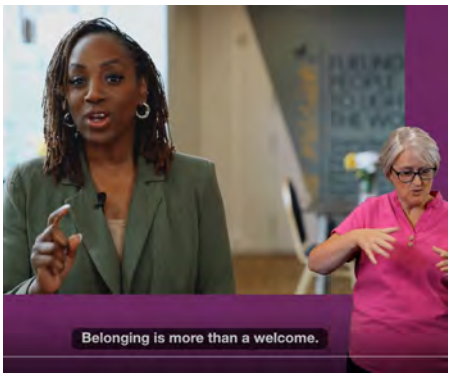
"I want to be able to earn my own living and look after my baby. I have disabled legs, so I need a wheelchair to help me move around. Thank you so much for this new wheelchair!"

Joyce is from Nyagatare, Rwanda. She is 25 years old and has been unable to walk since birth. When Joyce had her baby, she had to carry him on her back while crawling on the ground (pictured below on the right). Now, thanks to supporters like you, Joyce and her child have the freedom of mobility, through the gift of a new wheelchair.

Your support changes lives:



£15
could contribute to our Roofbreaker project, facilitating the journey of disability inclusion.



£24
could contribute to the ongoing provision of our new video resource "Room at the Table".



£47
could help refurbish a wheelchair, ready for our trained volunteers to fit.

Donate now

give a gift to bless others this season.

Scan the QR code for our Just Giving page or visit **www.justgiving.com/ttr** to donate directly and securely online

– please state **in the Message box if donating for a specific purpose**

Through the Roof is a registered Charity no. 1087788 with registered offices at Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden SM4 4TQ. It is also a registered Company no. 04201510
01372 749955 : www.throughtheroof.org

Please return this form to:
Through the Roof, Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden SM4 4TQ

Your details: *

Full name (inc title): .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Giving / Supporting our work:

I'd like to donate to:
Please tick a box below to show your preference(s)

- ☐ Where the need is greatest
- ☐ UK Roofbreakers
- ☐ "Together" fellowship
- ☐ ABC Resource.
- ☐ Wheels for the World (general support)
- ☐ Sponsorship: wheelchair (name for certificate) _____
  - ☐ £79 from the UK to destination country
  - ☐ £47 to cover wheelchair refurbishment.
- ☐ Sponsorship: Bibles
  - ☐ £24 to give an audio a Bible
  - ☐ £12 to give a printed Bible

Your preferences - how would you like to hear from us:

Tick here to receive our:

- ☐ Vital link newsletter by email
- ☐ Vital link newsletter by post
- ☐ Vital link in alternate format
  - ☐ Braille ☐ Audio ☐ Large print
- ☐ International mission news
- ☐ "Together" news
- ☐ Disability awareness Sunday information
- ☐ Weekly Prayer Support email
- ☐ Please unsubscribe me.

Gift aid:

Gift aid enables us to make your gift go further at no additional cost to you. To enable us to apply for gift aid please advise your full name, including title and middle names, and your full address, in the "your details" section (see top left) to allow us to apply for gift date.

I would like Through the Roof to treat as Gift Aid donations** all qualifying gifts of money made (please tick all boxes that you wish to apply then sign and date below):

☐ On this donation ☐ In the past four years ☐ In the future

or ☐ I am unable to Gift aid my donations.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

*** W**e take your personal data and privacy very seriously and only use your information to Best provide you with the products and services you ask for e.g. sending our newsletter or accounting for donations. We only hold Personal data for as long as it is needed, and it is held severely and never passed on to external organisations. More information can be found in our privacy policy at www.throughtheroof.org

****** I am a UK taxpayer and understand but if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Dita claimed on all my donations in that Tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your donations on your self assessment tax return or ask HM revenue and customs to adjust your tax code.

How to donate:

•By cheque made out to Through the Roof •By bank transfer (BACS) to: Through the Roof Charitable Trust, sort code: 82-12-08, Virgin Money account number: 20047444 (please use your name & purpose of the donation as the reference) •By Credit Card (please complete details below).

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made out to Through the Roof

☐ I have sent my money by bank transfer, my reference is _____

☐ I would like to donate £ _____ by credit / debit card number: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Issue number (If applicable): ☐☐☐ Valid from date: ☐☐ / ☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐ / ☐☐

Name on card: _____ Security code / CVV (Last 3 numbers on back of card): ☐☐☐

☐ I would like to make a regular donation of £ _____ to be used for: _____

☐ I have set this up with my bank ☐ Please send me a form to enable me to do this.

☐ I do not require an acknowledgement for my donation

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____