

## Water in 2018

Water has been in the news frequently this year.

### **For us in Shropshire**

Early on – our fields were water logged

Later – the ground and the grass, the plants – including some crops – looked parched.

Elsewhere – there have been floods in some places and massive wildfires aided by drought in others.

There are some well-informed predictions that the most precious commodity on earth will soon not be oil or gold ... but water.

As Christians, we do value what we have been given in the natural world – and we are used to thinking about sharing resources fairly – often in the past concentrating on food. In recent years, we've perhaps become more aware that access to water is even more fundamental. No growth of crops without water, no livestock or human flourishing without clean water.

This harvest time – as in the last few years, we have the opportunity to contribute to Water Aid – which is a way for us to help communities elsewhere in the world with this most precious and necessary aid to life and health.

Here is just one story about their work:

*Eduardo, 48, lives with his family in Wawa Bar a community in Nicaragua. Eduardo lost his left arm in an accident on a fishing boat and couldn't go back to work on the boat straight away so he would help out at home. One of the tasks was to collect the water his family needed. However, the nearest water source was 30 minutes away and Eduardo would have to do this trip at least three times a day. It was very difficult for him to make this journey and to carry the water he collected back home. It would take him most of the day and his four children would often have to help him out. There was little time for Eduardo to do anything else to help his recovery.*

*The water the family relied on wasn't clean. Eduardo's young children were often sick from drinking it and they would miss school because of it. But everything changed when WaterAid installed rainwater harvesting tanks in Wawa Bar. Eduardo's family were amongst the first to receive their tank and a bathroom which gave Eduardo his dignity.*

*Life for Eduardo has now completely changed. He has returned to work and has been able to buy his own fishing boat, giving him a chance to earn money and support his children in the future. He says: 'The task of collecting water is easier and less time consuming now. Having the bathroom in our home is also a great help, we no longer face any difficulties if we have to use the bathroom at night. It's been seven years since I had my accident and it took a long time for me to recover both mentally and physically. I met some people along the way that really helped me reflect and grow from the accident. I feel lucky to be working now. I didn't have time to work before but now after the projects I do and I feel so much better.'*

May we give generously today in thankfulness for our own water situation and supply.