**St Philip & St James Christmas Appeal**

**Christmas is a time when we spend money on ourselves and our loved ones. Bringing people together to celebrate is bound to cost a bit of money.**

**But it is also a time when we think about people less fortunate than ourselves and remember the commandment to love our neighbour as we love ourselves and to do that before we spend money on ourselves and others buying things that nobody really needs.**

**Robin has picked out five small or smallish charities that have a link to somebody in our congregation or wider church community and you are invited to consider supporting them this Christmas, either by writing a cheque made payable to ‘The PCC of St Philip & St James Alderley Edge’ and writing ‘Christmas Appeal’ on the back of it and posting it through the vicarage letterbox OR by sending an electronic BACS transfer to Barclays Bank The Parochial Church Council of St Philip & St James Alderley Edge Account Number 40696668 Sort Code 20-53-77 and we will divide the money we receive evenly between the five charities. This will have the benefit of the charities understanding the level of support they are receiving from a Christian community.**

**Another option is to choose a charity from the list that especially appeals to you, look them up online and follow the instructions on their website:**

**Here are the charities speaking in their own words:**

**The Rossendale Trust**

**The Rossendale Trust provides supported living care to adults with learning and some physical disabilities, giving them the opportunity to live in purpose-built apartments and houses across Macclesfield and Buxton. We aim to create an environment where everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential and participate in the wider community. Our care model enables our tenants to make real choices in their lives, develop in confidence and enjoy increasing independence.**

**Embrace the Middle East Gaza Appeal**

**Embrace the Middle East raises funds to support the charitable outreach of churches and Christian organisations across the Middle East. The people of Gaza are facing a humanitarian crisis and desperately need our help.** Your donation will help our partners respond to the crisis in Gaza and its potential impact felt elsewhere including, but not limited to, West Bank and Southern Israel.

**Cribs International**

Our mission is to house women who are heavily pregnant or have a new-born baby and have fled conflict and exploitation. By providing shelter, safety and support, we get women and their families off the streets of Athens and empower them to begin to recover from trauma, get back on their feet, and rebuild their lives.

**ROAR**

Reach out and Recoverare an award-winning not for profit organisation, based in Macclesfield, built on the ethos of helping people to see the person and not the addict/label or stereotype. Furthermore, to support people to overcome traumatic and/or unpleasant life challenges, through love, care, and structure.

**Hope Central**

Hope Central is a Christian charity committed to bringing hope and relieving poverty in Cheshire East. At Hope Central we recognise that everyone needs a helping hand at some point and we want to provide support to anyone in need. We do this because we believe in a heavenly Father who loves everyone unconditionally, and we want to express that love in practical ways by supplying food to people in difficult circumstances and helping people address underlying reasons that contribute to their distress.