

## St Luke's Charity for April is Mission Aviation Fellowship

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) carries out this type of activity:

*'You go to bed knowing that you actually touched a life!'* exclaimed MAF Kenya's Operations Manager, Caleb Likhanga, from his office in Nairobi. Hundreds of miles to the north in Dukana, Kenya, Missionary Eddie Anderson agrees.

Two children were in critical conditions. One was the baby son of a church member and the other child was a baby of a destitute woman from Dukana. *'Without the flight from Dukana to a major facility like Kijabe Hospital in Nairobi which has a heart unit, they would certainly die within days.* Eddie and his wife Rachel have been working in Dukana with African Inland Church for the past 11 years. It is a three day drive to the capital Nairobi from Dukana. Rachel is a midwife and shares Christ's love with women at the clinic who have never heard of Jesus. She's made an impact but nothing speaks more than helping people in time of desperation. Rachel had felt in her heart she should visit the family from the church for whom she had delivered a healthy baby the day before. Checking the baby's vital signs, she saw its oxygen levels were dropping quickly. Rachel ran home to get the car and drove the mother and baby to the local clinic where the tiny child was given oxygen. But the baby's life still hung in the balance.

Rachel called Eddie and he called in a medevac. This ten-month old baby was taken to the clinic but he was almost comatose. He and his mother were then entered in the medevac log and – by the grace of God - both the babies were approved for travel. MAF Pilot Daniel Loewen-Rudgers and his Cessna 206 aircraft formed a vital link between Rachel's initial diagnosis and life saving hospital treatment. He arrived at Dukana with an AIM AIR nurse. *'We had already got stuck in Dukana twice before, because of soft runway, but this time it was dry enough,'* recalled Daniel.

Thirty miles outside Nairobi, Kijabe Hospital has its own little airstrip. *'Because it's on the edge of the Rift Valley'* says Daniel, *'we get strange winds.'* He overflew the strip three times to check it was safe to land. The approach was fine. He landed and taxied to a place where two missionary families were waiting to drive the passengers straight to hospital. The newborn baby which Rachel had visited initially, underwent a successful operation and is the youngest to survive such a heart operation in Kenya. Tragically the 10 month old baby died before open heart surgery could be performed.

St Luke's has supported MAF for many years and, even though we will still be subject to Lockdown regulations, please give generously. Donations can be given through the plate at Sunday Services, using a Gift Aid envelope if appropriate, send them to St Luke's Treasurer or make a donation via their website [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org).

If you want more information then visit the MAF website or contact Michael Curry who is the charity's champion in St Luke's.