

## St Luke's Charity of the Month for May 2021

### Mary's Meals

Two devout Scottish brothers' decision in 2002 to meet the need to deliver aid to eastern Europe in the aftermath of the Bosnian war resulted in a never-ending stream of giving by the public and total commitment by the brothers to humanitarian work in Bosnia and then Liberia and by 2012 in Malawi where they started Mary's Meals (MM) to feed 200 pupils in one school. Today MM feeds over 1.8 million children every school day in many schools across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. MM also carries out vital emergency relief work and has played a vital part in helping refugees from war and in situations of natural disaster.

For many children the meal they receive through MM may be their only meal of the day. The average **cost of feeding a child for a whole year is £15.90**. Costs are kept as low as possible but in-country inflation in the last three years has pushed up costs of local food which is where most of the food is purchased. This is an important way to support the local economy, respect local culture and food preferences and avoid long-haul transport costs. MM works with local communities to build kitchens and recruits many volunteers to cook and serve meals. Mary's Meals continues to devote at least 93p in every £1 donated direct charitable work.

Mary's Meals is well known to St. Luke's. One of the founding brothers, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, has visited St Luke's twice to speak to the congregation. In the past, members of the congregation have been active in fund-raising which enabled the building of a school kitchen in Malawi and this was followed by 5 years of committed-giving to provide hundreds of pupils with a meal at that school. St Luke's congregation have also filled back-packs at Harvest time which have been sent out to children in schools where Mary's Meals is providing food.

Please give generously this month either by cash/cheque in church, using a MM Gift Aid envelope, or send a cheque to Tony Adams, our Treasurer, or via the MM website.

There is a vacancy as St Luke's champion for this marvellous charity which we have supported for some years. Find out about the charity's work from their website [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) and please tell Anne Bourne if you wish to be their Champion. Thank you.