

Rev Gilliean MacLean
The Manse
Margnaheglish Road
ISLE OF ARRAN
KA27 8LL

February 2012

Dear Rev MacLean,

We celebrate our 10th anniversary this year and a decade of providing millions and millions of life-changing meals! Thank you for your amazing support which is allowing us to provide over 600,000 of the world's poorest children with a meal every school day.

For the likes of Pooja, who left home at the age of nine to work as a housemaid, her dreams of becoming a teacher move closer to becoming a reality thanks to the Mary's Meals she receives in India. Alec, 14, from Malawi was weak, skinny and suffered from headaches before he started receiving Mary's Meals – he tells us, he no longer suffers. You can see these stories, and read more about how Mary's Meals is transforming the lives of so many impoverished children who would otherwise miss out on an education, in the enclosed Mary's Meals magazine.

We hope you enjoy the new format and look of our annual magazine which is packed with information and stories about our global work – only made possible by the kindness and generosity of people around the world. Throughout this year we will keep you updated with news of our work. To save costs we plan to communicate most often using email, so those of you who have previously provided us with an email address will receive regular updates in that way. For those who haven't, you will receive a further three letters by post during 2012 – but please do consider providing us your email address. This will significantly save costs and allow us to stay in touch with you more regularly.

When I wrote to you a year ago, we were celebrating reaching our half a million milestone. To know, 12 months on, we are now feeding over 600,000 children every day is a great encouragement to me and I hope to you too. When you consider it costs us a global average of just 6 pence to provide a nourishing meal to a hungry child, no support we receive can ever be too little.

I want to thank each one of you whose contribution, whether through donations, volunteering or prayers, has made Mary's Meals possible. It makes me more determined than ever to continue with this work so that in 2012, our vision for every child in the world to receive a good meal in a place of education, continues to burn brightly.



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow
Mary's Meals CEO

If you would like us to send updates by email rather than post to help us keep our costs down, please contact us on 01838 200605 or email info@marysmeals.org

Some key dates for 2012

Mary's Meals – A Ten Year Celebration (Saturday, April 21st)

Everyone is welcome to attend the first Mary's Meals open day to be held in England. This family event will include updates on our work, music, and a talk from Mary's Meals founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow. The event will be held at The Tabernacle, 35 Powis Square, Notting Hill, London, W11 2AY from 1.30pm to 3.45pm. Refreshments will be available.

RSVP colin.macintyre@marysmeals.org or you can contact our London office on 0207 253 9572. The address is 188 St. John Street, London, EC1V 4JY.

We'll announce details of our annual Open Day in Scotland as soon as these are finalised.

10th anniversary celebrations

We hope to hold celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of Mary's Meals throughout the year. If you have any ideas on how you can help us celebrate this special year, please get in touch at info@marysmeals.org

World Porridge Day (10th October)

This global event is a chance to celebrate the work of Mary's Meals and the difference a mug of porridge makes to the lives of thousands of children. Please keep an eye on our website for ideas and events taking place.



12-year-old pupil, Malawi

"I have tea with milk for breakfast, but nothing to eat. I have porridge at school. At home in the evening I have sima (boiled maize powder), sometimes I have something with it.

"Social studies is my favourite school subject. In that subject we learn about our culture. At weekends I study and I read. I want to be a lawyer.

"Likuni phala makes a child learn and listen and not be hungry. I learn better now than before Mary's Meals."