

## Bishop Julian's Harvest Appeal 2021

*For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. (Matt 25:35)*

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I want to say thank you to those who contributed to the Harvest Appeal last year. Even in the depth of the Covid Pandemic we raised £22,400. A fantastic sum and a good target to try and better this year.

With that in mind, I am delighted to introduce the focus of the 2021 Bishop's Harvest Appeal. This year our churches and schools will be raising money in support of the Mosamaria Trust. Mosamaria is a charity which works with those most in need in our link diocese of The Free State, specifically supporting those who are impacted by the AIDS epidemic either directly or indirectly.



This year's appeal will focus on two specific aspects of their work, their Orphans and Vulnerable Children Programme (OVC) and their Adherence Programme.

The OVC Programme looks after children who have been orphaned by the various illnesses associated with AIDS. Often these children are looked after by their grandparents and live in the townships on the outskirts of cities like Bloemfontein. Mosamaria holds after school clubs which provide food and education for these children. They teach through games and songs and help with homework. They also run a sports programme which is designed to

develop their leadership and teamwork skills and gives opportunity to discuss things as simple as good hygiene. I have seen this programme in action for myself as it feeds and supports some of the most vulnerable children in South Africa.

The Adherence Programme is mostly aimed at adults who must take their antiretroviral medicines. This sounds simple enough but often the state clinics are run during the day and people must choose between working and receiving their medicines. For families on the breadline this is often a very difficult choice. The adherence programme encourages people to attend the clinics and is able to support families and individuals by allowing people to come to their own clinics before or after work. This means people do not have to make that choice between being fed and staying well, and has a huge, long term impact on the wellbeing of these families.



Many in this diocese have close links with the work of Mosamaria, particularly through the fundraising and awareness building work of the Blackburn Trust Fund which bears the same name. We have been able to obtain some pictures and stories which will be very meaningful and personal to people in parishes across Lancashire. More details will appear on our [diocesan website](#).

I have always enjoyed seeing the various exciting and creative ways people have responded to this appeal and this year will be no different I am sure! We know that the coronavirus pandemic has brought new and acute problems, particularly in places where poverty is already an issue. So, I am delighted that the charity chosen will work towards the relief of some of the hardship caused by the virus, supporting the most vulnerable.

I am also delighted that you can again donate online to this Appeal. Particularly in these difficult times it will make it easier for people in our parishes and schools. It will also make it more accessible to people without a church connection currently, but who may want to be generous in support of our worthwhile causes.

An annual appeal like this is a helpful reminder of the needs of those much less fortunate than ourselves. Out of our thankfulness may there be generosity. May the result of this year's appeal bring glory to God and blessing to many.

With my grateful thanks,



Julian Henderson,  
Bishop of Blackburn



### Ways to donate to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal



**DONATE ONLINE** using a debit card at <https://bit.ly/3sr1BSn>  
or <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/donate>

or scan the QR code with your smart phone camera which will take you to the donation page, where you can also Gift Aid your payment.