

Bishop of Edinburgh Lent Appeal 2019

I invite you to focus your Lenten giving this year on two important causes.

Our international charity offers free healthcare in places where medical services are in short supply. A Christian organisation, *Mercy Ships* brings hope and healing to thousands of people each year in some of the world's poorest nations. Closer to home, *Fresh Start Borders* (an initiative from Selkirk churches) offers practical help to those moving from homelessness into housing. Poverty may be less visible than in the city but it is, nevertheless, a painful reality in our Borders towns too.

Both these causes invite us to be Christ to others, speaking good news to the poor and helping to transform the lives of those in the greatest need. I commend them to you and to the diocese and ask you to give generously.

+John



Set up in 2008 by the Selkirk Council of Churches with assistance from Scottish Churches Housing Action and grant funding from Awards for All, **Fresh Start Borders** provide starter packs of household goods and essentials to people in need who are moving from homelessness to a permanent tenancy.

Individuals and families alike are referred to us by support workers from Scottish Borders Council, local housing associations, Citizens Advice and other local charities. Each starter pack, which is made to meet individual requirements, contains new or good quality second hand essential items and cleaning materials. Money raised and donated enables us to purchase new kettles, toasters, duvets and pillows for every pack and when possible, we purchase portable heaters and microwaves for clients in need of these particular items.

In recent years, a rising number of people are needing our help. Relying on grants and fundraising to continue the provision of starter packs, the organisation is run by local volunteers and dependent on goods donated by the public.

Your support ensures we can continue making a difference to vulnerable people in the Scottish Borders.



www.freshstartborders.org.uk

 Fresh Start Borders

Registered Charity SC041071

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Mercy Ships UK funds the world's largest hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*. This ship, staffed entirely by volunteers and funded by donations, travels to the world's poorest nations to provide free surgeries for patients with no access to healthcare.

Patients like Baby Junior:

When he first arrived on the dock of the *Africa Mercy* cradled in his mother's arms, Junior weighed less than 2KG. He was born with a cleft lip and palate that made it nearly impossible for him to nurse, and at just three months old he was slowly starving.

With treatment on board the *Africa Mercy*, three months later, weighing a whopping 6.4 kilograms (14.1 pounds) and three times the baby he was when he first arrived, he was now strong enough for surgery to repair his cleft palate.

"His cleft palate repair was the culmination of our team's efforts," said Janet Stucky, the volunteer Clinical Dietician and Infant Feeding Coordinator. "a successful surgery, which will change his life forever."



Baby Junior is just one of the thousands of patients that Mercy ships has helped. Conditions that are almost unheard of in the Western world such as Club feet, Obstetric Fistulas and benign tumours can become life threatening in countries where there is no healthcare.

Help us **#Changetheodds** for patients like Baby Junior.

www.mercyships.org.uk



MercyShipsUK



MercyShipsUK

Registered Charity No: 1053055 (England & Wales) SC039743 (Scotland)

Donations should be made payable to your local church

If you are eligible for GIFT AID, contact your treasurer, to maximise your contribution.

For any information please contact the Diocesan Office on 0131 538 7044

or email: BishopsPA@dioceseofedinburgh.org