

# THE HEDGEHOG AND THE FOX



## FACE-FAW: Shac Rocks

Victoria Collis

If you've ever been to Ampleforth College, you know that Shac Rock isn't just an event—it's an institution. Imagine a chaotic mash-up of teenage angst, questionable musical talent, and a whole lot of passion. Since the 1990s, students have gathered every year between the end of the first term and the beginning of the second to throw together a rock concert that has somehow survived the test of time. But here's the thing: it's not just about the music. It's about something far more important.

Yes, we're talking about the charity that makes all of this possible: Mary's Meals. You see, Shac Rock isn't just a random excuse for students to break out their air guitars and pretend

they're Jimi Hendrix. (Although, let's be real, the outfits do have a certain rockstar vibe.) It's actually a fundraiser for an incredibly worthy cause—one that provides education and meals to children at Chigwaja Primary School in Malawi.

Since 2013, Ampleforth College has been sponsoring this school, and the impact has been nothing short of life-changing. Every year, the school aims to raise £13,500 to ensure that at least 705 children receive food and education for an entire year. That's right—705 kids who would otherwise go without a meal, a classroom, or the chance of a better future. By the end of this event, every shred of dignity lost during

## Some of the Charities we support through FACE-FAW include:



A C N

## EDITORIAL: FACE-FAW

### *It's your school charity.*

FACE-FAW stands for **F**riendship and **A**id. It is our student-led charity at Ampleforth College, and it's how we co-ordinate our charitable giving.

The word "Friendship" expresses the motivation to respond to the suffering or needs we see in the world, the word "Aid" the response, the action.

FACE-FAW is an invitation and opportunity for all of you.

In this newsletter, we will tell you about some of the charities we support, share some news about the impact this support has had, and as well as some stories from the students who have been involved and the activities we have led.

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

*Matthew 25:40*

*"How we practice charity defines us as individuals. The way we encourage and foster it will shape the future of our societies."*

*Magnus MacFarlane-Barron, founder of Mary's Meals, from his book Give*

# The Legendary Shac Rock: More Than Just Music (It's a Lifeline!)

Victoria Collis, cont. from p1

that off-key cover of Sweet Child O' Mine will seem worth it.

But here's the twist: this isn't just about handing over some change and calling it a day. No, Shac Rock is a full-on rock festival (minus the high ticket prices and certain other festival staples). It's about gathering with friends, cranking up the volume, and belting out renditions of the greatest hits from rock legends: Jimi Hendrix, U2, Santana, Guns N' Roses, and—dare we say it—the Red Hot Chili Peppers. No big deal, right? Just a few of the biggest names in rock history being channeled through the voices of students who—let's be honest—probably aren't destined for the Billboard charts. But hey, it's all for a good cause!

And while the music brings us together, the charity is what keeps us going. The truth is, this event raises approximately

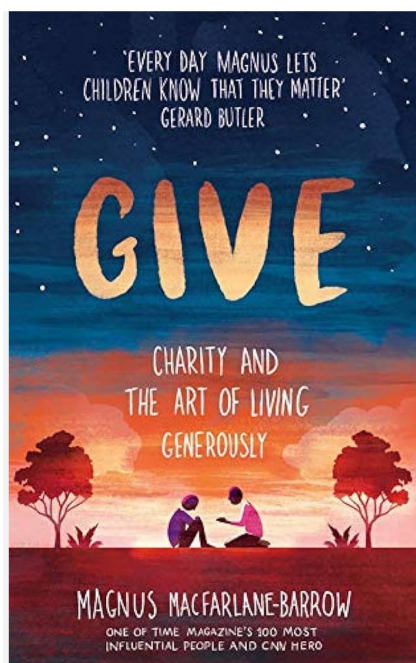
£5,000 each year—an incredible feat. But we still need another £8,500 to reach our £13,500 goal. And let's not sugarcoat it: this is urgent. While we're here enjoying a great time with our friends, children out there—31 of them every three minutes—are dying from malnutrition. Thirty-one. Every. Three. Minutes. It's almost impossible to comprehend.

Now, this is where we need you—the students of Ampleforth College. We've been given an incredible opportunity, one that many of us likely take for granted. We have the chance to make a difference, not just in the life of one child, but in the lives of generations to come. So let's get serious for a second: this isn't just about ticking off a feel-good charity box. It's a life-or-death situation. These kids need us, and we have the power to change their futures.

And remember: this isn't just

about charity—it's about living out the Ampleforth ethos and the Benedictine core values we spend so many hours talking about. We all know the saying: "Do unto others..." and all that. Well, now it's time to do, not just talk. By pulling together, we can smash that £13,500 goal and send a message that we're not just here to play air guitar—we're here to change lives.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."  
—Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



“By practising charity more fully we will come to know ourselves more fully. We might discover along the way that it is not only the poor person over there that needs charity, but ourselves too. Within our very selves we may even discover famines - parts of us starved of love - or areas of darkness into which we have never before ventured. These journeys into charity might take us beyond the monthly direct debit donation we rarely think about (good though that is), or the sponsored run with our friends that is mainly fun (good though that is) and ask us to embrace things that involve risk and discomfort. Our relationship with charity can be a key that opens previously locked rooms where our greatest treasures lie in wait - where gems such as joy, peace and a deeper sense of meaning and purpose glimmer in the dark.” Magnus MacFarlane Barrow (founder of Mary's Meals)

# Watch: Lette's story

here you can learn about one child's journey

**Part 1: Child 31.** This is a very powerful film about the work of Mary's Meals. The opening sequence—the first 3 minutes—introduces us to Lette.



*Please do watch the rest of this film when you have the time. It is old—so some of the figures in the film have now changed—but it is, I hope inspiring!*

**Part 2:** The camera crew catch up with Lette's story 9 years later. This will allow you the opportunity to understand the impact your donations are making to the lives of children living in chronic poverty.



Let us remember those living in chronic poverty, those who find themselves in crisis and those coping in the aftermath of natural disaster. We pray that as a community we will be responsive to emerging humanitarian crises and that our school charity, FACE-FAW, can be a focal point and an outlet through which we can act to show solidarity and support.

We pray for all those suffering the terrible effects of war. We pray for those that have died, the injured, the displaced and dispossessed. We pray for an end to war, for justice and reconciliation, and for the restoration of peace to war-ravaged homes, schools and communities.

We pray for our school and our students: open our ears to the appeals of those who suffer and our hearts to compassion, that we, moved by the spirit of friendship and charity, may respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Bless the work of our student charity, FACE-FAW and the charities we support. Inspire our students and this community to see how the poorest parts of ourselves can be transfigured by the transformative power of little acts of love.

## What's next? Y12 Sleepout, Saturday 8th Feb

# Learn about *Mary's Meals*—a charity our school supports through FACE-FAW

Mary's Meals, writes *Noelle Savarimuthu*, is a charity that provides life-changing meals to children in some of the world's most impoverished countries. With the simple yet profound mission of offering a daily meal to children at school, the organization helps to break the cycle of poverty and hunger that holds so many young lives back.

In the darkest corners of the world, where meals are scarce and dreams seem distant, Mary's Meals steps in to offer a warm plate of food—and with it, a spark of hope. A simple meal may seem insignificant to us, but for these children, it is the difference between the crushing weight of hunger and the promise of something more—a chance to learn, to laugh, and to be a child again. It's not just

food; it's a chance for a better life. When Mary's Meals provides a meal, it is more than nourishment—it is a symbol that someone cares, that someone believes in them. Every day, this meal gives children the strength to sit in classrooms, to raise their hands, and to dream beyond their unfortunate circumstances. It is the gift of possibility, the promise that no matter where they were born, they too have the right to an education and a future they can be proud of. Behind every plate served is a community of people who believe in the power of kindness.

Founded by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, the organization began with a simple idea: providing daily meals to children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

The aim was not only to feed children in school but also to encourage them to attend, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty. By offering nutritious meals in schools, Mary's Meals makes education more accessible and appealing, especially in regions where hunger is a barrier to learning. The charity was created out of a deep desire to address both hunger and education simultaneously.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was inspired to start the initiative after meeting a group of children in Malawi who expressed their wish for food to enable them to attend school. This simple yet powerful idea has sparked a global movement, bringing hope and opportunity to children who might otherwise have gone without both.

***Just £19.95 is enough to feed a child in school for a year through Mary's Meals***



**Sponsor A School: Chigwaja Primary School, Blantyre, Malawi.**

**Number of children in school 705 (338 Boys and 367 Girls)**

**School sponsored by Ampleforth College and Abbey Trust.**

# THANK YOU, FROM MARY'S MEALS

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your precious gift of £13,500.00, received last year, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children through our **Sponsor A School** project. By sponsoring an entire school, you are helping to bring food, joy and hope to so many children. As part of our Double The Love appeal, our donation last year was matched – all thanks to a group of generous donors who are doubling donations, up to £1 million, at this time.

The matched amount will not be allocated to the school that you sponsor – it will be allocated to Double The Love appeal, helping to feed even more hungry children across the 18 countries we work in.

***“Our vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.”***

ing the meals. I love school and I especially love that I am learning to read and write.

“I hope to be a doctor when I grow up. I want to help people.”

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your incredible generosity which will have a life-changing impact on some of the world’s poorest children, providing them with energy, education and hope for a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Barlow, Executive Director, Mary’s Meals UK



This is to certify that:

**Ampleforth College and Abbey Trust**

Raised: £13,500.00

Date: Jan 2024

**THANK YOU!**

Your gift has helped to change the lives of children in some of the world's poorest communities.

Matt Barlow  
Executive Director, Mary's Meals UK

marysmeals.org.uk

Mary's Meals: Child Sponsor, Donor, Adopt, Sponsor, School Program, PAFI 199, Registered Charity, SC022960, General Company No. 0202484

mary's meals

## Sponsor a School programme:

Certificate of appreciation

**Sponsor A School**

mary's meals  
A single donation to ward hunger

With special thanks to  
**Ampleforth College and Abbey Trust**

For sponsoring feeding at  
**Chigwaja Primary School**

Mary's Meals is a global movement of people from all walks of life, united by the belief that no child should endure a day without a meal. We set up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger would otherwise prevent children from gaining an education.

**Thank you – you are amazing!**

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow  
Founder and CEO  
Mary's Meals International

In 2013 the student Director of FACE-FAW, Oliver Legard (J2013) led us to adopt through *Mary's Meals* a school in Malawi – first funding a kitchen at Chigwaja Primary School, and we have, since then, funded meals for the children.