

LETTER FROM MOLDOVA



**Marcham  
Moldova  
Lifeline**

I have been fortunate to go to Moldova three times this year, where I have been able to watch the work of the charity 'Agape' at close quarters. As a number of people in Marcham have been generously supporting the Marcham Moldova Lifeline, I thought you would like some first-hand feedback on how your money is being used out there.

For those who may not know too much about Moldova (and I didn't, before I first went there!) it is one of the poorest places in Europe. Sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine, it fell into economic collapse after the end of the Soviet Union, and has never got back on its feet. A quarter of the population has left, looking for work elsewhere. This leaves many children on their own, sometimes cold, hungry, and in danger. Moldova is one of the main places in Europe from where people are trafficked – taken into slavery, often for prostitution. A small Christian charity called Agape has worked for the last 18 years to protect these children 'at risk,' and help their families work out of destitution. For the last few years, All Saints' Church in Marcham has been developing a 2-way link with Agape. And in the last few months, this link has spread out into the wider Marcham community. Some Marcham people who had been out to Moldova last year wanted to make sure that Agape's work could continue.

So it's been incredibly exciting to see how our goal for the Marcham Moldova Lifeline (to raise £3,500 for Agape, this year and next) has been exceeded more than we could have imagined. So far, over £6,000 has been given this year. This is amazing! How has it happened? It's been a combination of lots of people's hard work and generosity, including:

- Pledges and gifts from individuals
- A share of Eddie and Pamela's leaving present
- The Burns Night Dinner
- The 'Easter Traditions' Evening
- The Isis Orchestra Concert
- A gift from 'Little Angels'
- The Marcham Society raffle
- The Cake Stall at Marcham School Fete
- Mums & Toddler Group Coffee Morning

This is a fantastic example of the community working together. What has been raised  
*September 2009*

will allow us to fulfil our commitment to help support Nicu and Lili Bocaneala, who run Agape, as well as providing for:

- A building fund to help destitute people rebuild their homes;
- An emergency fund for Moldovans in dire need.

During my visits I have seen how effective these funds can be in making a difference to people's lives.

For example, I saw how a hovel had been rebuilt into a decent house, with some money and help from the Agape team. This meant that the children who lived there were no longer going to be taken into care because of their living conditions. Agape's work allowed this family to stay together. The building fund which we will provide will enable Agape to give more of this kind of help.

A brother and sister were recently helped by Agape to rebuild their derelict home to prevent them being taken away into care. The MML Building Fund will allow Agape to do more of this kind of work.

It was also moving to see how money which I had taken out to Moldova for Nicu to have in an Emergency Fund was put to use straight away. A brother and sister were about to be abandoned by their mother, who was leaving for Russia to look for work. This would have left the children neglected, and open to abuse or being trafficked. Nicu immediately started working to protect these children, as well as providing for their immediate needs – the boy got some new glasses to replace his broken ones.

But it's not just money that makes a difference to those in need in Moldova. Marcham people have also been generous in knitting warm winter clothing, which has found its way to some really appreciative families. Gifts in kind like this, as well as moral support and prayer, are valued more than we can begin to imagine.

If you sometimes feel that you don't know what happens when you give money to charity, here is a way of knowing that your money will go straight to help people in dire need, who are not touched by the well-known charities. And what's more, there are no 'overhead costs', apart from the occasional bank transfer fee.

I want to pass on this message which the Agape team said to me repeatedly: 'Please thank all the people in Marcham. We are so grateful to them.'

**MARY INNES**

**MARCHAM MOLDOVA  
LIFELINE**

**For information, contact:  
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*Dear Editor*

**ANSON TRUST UPDATE**

During the summer we met with Ed Vaizey, our local MP. He had asked to be updated on developments and he has offered to chair a public meeting in the village. The Directors are keen to take advantage of his offer at an appropriate time. *(See notice on page 3 ED)*



Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to proceed with the 'games wall'. The Parish Council, although generally supportive, have asked us for further information before agreeing a financial contribution.

Several favourable comments have been received on the appearance and condition of the Anson field. This is the result of the appointment of a new contractor, who is providing a much better service.

Finally there have been a number of reports of vandalism / inappropriate behaviour on the field at night. We have made representations to the police. However, the only way to get action is for anyone who sees bad behaviour to report it directly to the police (0845 8 505 505). Though we are happy to make the report, any delay while you contact us means that the police are less able to take effective action.

**THE DIRECTORS**, The Anson Trust

**Garford will be hosting its ever popular  
Cream Tea Club**

on Sunday, 13th September  
between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
in the Village Hall.

Admission Free  
with cakes and  
tea on sale and all  
proceeds to village  
activities.



In October, we will be having another Quiz Night on Saturday 3rd followed by a Harvest Supper on Saturday, 17th, both events taking place in the Village Hall. More details shortly.



**LOST CAT**

Has anyone seen **Katie**, a b&w short hair cat? She has been missing from Howard Cornish Road, Marcham since 15 August. Did she creep into your shed or garage to avoid the rain, or just get lost?



**Call Roy 391072.**