AWARENESS

www.survive-miva.org Getting others back on the road to self-help

Missionary Vehicle Association - UK Registered Charity No. 268745

FREE The twice-yearly magazine of SURVIVE-MIVA - JULY - DECEMBER 2026 - ISSUE 80

END OF AN ERA

Thank you, Simon Foran

Simon Foran joined SURVIVE-MIVA as Director twenty-seven years ago, on his return from Chile, where he had worked for two years as part of the Catholic Institute of International Relations (CIIR). Simon has a master's degree in Spanish, and became proficient in local dialects while working in remote areas of the country. His proficiency in languages has been one of his assets while he's been working for our charity.

Simon has made a huge difference to SURVIVE-MIVA. He led key organisational changes, such as our move in the mid-1990s from a couple of rooms at Liverpool University's former Catholic chaplaincy to an entire building at Park Vale Road in Aintree; and he developed strong relationships with the recipients of our funding, always listening to and understanding what they needed.

In fact, this was perhaps Simon's biggest impact on SURVIVE-MIVA: he completely changed the charity's relationship with the missionaries who receive funding from us. He brought us out of the old-fashioned and outdated 'White Angels' era of development, where donors made decisions on behalf of the recipient poor communities, and moved us into an era of respectful partnership.

Nowadays it seems absurd that our charity would tell missionaries which vehicle they need and then put it on a boat and send it to them. Simon leaves us with an efficient system that has run smoothly throughout his tenure.

Thank you, Simon. You will be sorely missed.

Steve Atherton, Trustee

SURVIVE-MIVA is also bidding farewell to Finance Officer Margaret Jackson and Appeals Organiser Sue Valentine on their retirements.

Margaret worked as a bookkeeper and a parish secretary before joining SURVIVE-MIVA. Keeping our finances on track for 27 years has been no mean feat; and we're also in awe of her encyclopaedic knowledge of our donor database and all the fantastic people who keep us going with individual donations, some of them over decades.

Sue came to SURVIVE-MIVA, after a career in teaching, looking for a part-time job to "keep her busy". She certainly found that! For over 14 years, she has been tireless in calling parishes to request appeals - particularly impressive in the face of diocesan reorganisation, church closures, post-Covid slumps in giving, and the cost of living crisis.

We're enormously grateful to both Margaret and Sue for all their hard work and dedication. We wish them both a fruitful retirement, with time for new adventures.

Read on to see how your support is providing practical, everyday mobility to our beneficiaries overseas, and how your contributions bring hope to so many...

About

SURVIVE-MIVA

SURVIVE-MIVA is a Catholic lay association and a registered charity (no. 268745) founded in Liverpool in 1974. We exist to provide funding for essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the Church's pastoral care in places of difficult access.

We already have a network of lay speakers, based across Britain, who make appeals for funds in Catholic parishes via short lectern talks. We also aim to fundraise by building a wider network of advocates in community organisations, workplaces, schools, universities, and on social media. **If you're interested in volunteering with us, please complete the form on our website. See the back page for more details.**

We are grateful to the Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland for their support in our endeavours as the only UK-based charity to fund exclusively for transport.

Patron: Most Rev John Francis Sherrington, Archbishop of Liverpool

Director: Matt Jeziorski

Comms: Vani Cardui

Finance: Michael Farragher

Trustees: Stephen Atherton, Ian Crabtree, Sr Rose Mary Harbinson, Niamh Mahon (Chair), Liam Redmond.

NEW OFFICE

Another exciting change for the team is our recent move to new office space at the CoWorkz North Liverpool building in Sandhills.

For almost 30 years, SURVIVE-MIVA has lived at a former convent in Aintree - a great location with loads of space, where we've been very happy. But the building was never designed as office space, and as time has passed, it's become less suitable for our needs. Our new home, just a short distance away, gives us a modern, serviced office that will take us confidently into our next 30 years!

So please make a note of our new postal address:

SURVIVE-MIVA,

CoWorkz,

105 Boundary St

Liverpool L5 9YJ

If you have any old pre-addressed envelopes, please don't use them, and send all post to our new home!

OUR TRUSTEES

Stephen Atherton

Ian Crabtree

Getting others back on the road to self-help

NEW BEGINNINGS

Following the retirement of three core staff members, SURVIVE-MIVA has been at low strength in recent months. The Trustees, and our appeals administrator, Geraldine, went above and beyond to keep things running; and we'd like to thank everyone who has been patient with us during this time of change. We've also been unable to award any funding since the last issue of *Awareness* - but by the time you read this, we will be back on track and assessing our backlog of grant applications.

We're entering a brand new phase, with the move to a new office and the recruitment of new people. Our aims and values remain the same, but we will be adopting new systems, and broadening our outreach to reach new supporters.

Geraldine Roberts-Stone

After several years as our Appeals Administrator, Geraldine is leaving to pursue new opportunities in her career. We wish her all the very best for the future!

THE NEW TEAM:

Matt Jeziorski **Director** **Contact:** director@survive-miva.org

I am excited to be leading SURVIVE-MIVA in the next stage of its development. I join the team from The Orrell Trust, a community charity in Bootle, having previously worked for The Archdiocese of Liverpool and Pax Christi England & Wales.

I am a marathon runner, morris dancer, rugby league fan [Warrington Wolves], and am at my happiest volunteering at Sutton Manor parkrun where you can find me most Saturday mornings.

Vanessa Cardui (Vani)

Comms

Contact: comms@survive-miva.org

I joined the team in April, after working with blockchain and AI innovation funds, supporting high-tech projects to deliver impact. At SURVIVE-MIVA I'll be supporting the grants process, and growing our community of supporters and donors, including some exciting new opportunities for volunteers. Chuffed to bits to be here!

Michael Farragher

Finance

Contact: finance@survive-miva.org

I joined Survive-MIVA in March as Finance Officer, following Margaret Jackson's retirement. I bring over 30 years of experience in the charity sector, mainly in project management and fundraising roles. Before joining Survive-MIVA, I worked with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and CAFOD. I'm delighted to be part of the Survive-MIVA team and to contribute to the charity's vital work.

Sr Rose Mary Harbinson

Niamh Mahon (Chair)

Liam Redmond

SUPPORTING US IN YOUR WORKPLACE

We rely on you, our network of supporters, to help us raise funds and awareness wherever you can. Our volunteer speakers do amazing work, but there are other ways to help us - for example, in your workplace. Here are a few ideas.

1) PAYROLL GIVING

This means your donation is taken directly from your pay or pension via PAYE. Like Gift Aid, you don't pay tax on your donation, so it costs you less to give - and unlike Gift Aid, it's even more efficient if you're a higher-rate taxpayer, as we can claim back tax above the basic rate (which we can't do with Gift Aid). It also means the tax admin is done for us,saving our small team some time. So:

Employers: Set up a payroll giving scheme if you haven't already. You do this by registering with a Payroll Giving agency approved by HMRC. For details search www.gov.uk for "payroll giving agency".

Employees: Once your employer has a payroll giving scheme in place (and if they haven't yet, ask them!) you just tell your payroll department which charity you support, and how much you want to give.

2) DONATE YOUR COMMUTE

These days, many of us work at least one day a week from home. This saves us a bit of money on our daily commute: the average UK train commute costs £19. If all the workers-from-home reading this decided to pay that saving forward by donating part of it to SURVIVE-MIVA, that would really add up.

On our website, you'll see our **Donate Your Commute** campaign. Even if you gave us, once a month, the cost of just one day's commute, that would help so many people doing vital healthcare and missionary work with *their* commute! Why not give it a go?

3) TALK TO YOUR TEAM

Could you tell your colleagues about SURVIVE-MIVA, what we do, and why you support us? With fundraising, half the battle is making sure people know of us - and you can help.

- Contact us and we'll post you some copies of *Awareness* magazine to share at work.
- If your workplace has any philanthropy or corporate social responsibility initiatives - a staff charities fund, regular charity collections, or similar - would you be able to talk there about SURVIVE-MIVA? Contact comms@survive-miva.org , and we can support you.

4) BUSINESS OWNERS

If you own a business, there are several ways you could work with us. Could you:

- Put a collecting tin for SURVIVE-MIVA on your counter? Or a poster in your window?
- Include something about us in your regular customer mailout (digital or physical)?
- Have a few *Awareness* magazines available for customers to take?
- Make us your company's Charity of the Month, and donate a small percentage of that month's profits to us?
- Mention us on your company's social media, or give us a follow?

Email comms@survive-miva.org

or complete our volunteers expression of interest form

www.survive-miva.org/volunteer/

if you'd like to have a chat about partnering your business with us.

Interest form

Getting others back on the road to self-help

SURVIVE-MIVA ARCHIVES

SURVIVE-MIVA began in 1974 as a student-led organisation based at Liverpool University's Catholic chaplaincy. Over the years it has generated a fascinating set of records.

We've realised that this material amounts to quite a significant archival collection. It charts the history of how Catholics in the UK have organised together, and evidences the changes in how we think about aid to other countries. It also contains first-hand missionary narratives which are very rich in social history, covering political change, wars, climate issues, women's activism, conditions for farmers, and the life of the Church in the Global South. In the archiving world, such stories are often called "hidden histories" - they're there in the records, but invisible unless you know where to look.

So we've decided that our records need to be preserved and made accessible. We have engaged prominent Catholic archivist Lawrence Gregory, Chair of the Catholic Archives Society, to do some initial cataloguing and preservation, and the collection will then be deposited at Mill Hill Archives in Formby, near Liverpool, the archival collection of the Mill Hill Missionaries, who have agreed to look after it for us in proper archival conditions. Ultimately, we hope to secure funding to digitise it, so it can be put online and made available to those in Africa, Asia and Latin America whose histories are held within it. All too often, records about the developing world are held in developed countries, where people whose lives are recorded in them cannot access them. But with the development of digitisation, archives can be opened up and "decolonised". SURVIVE-MIVA hopes to be part of that process.

APPEAL FOR BACK ISSUES OF *AWARENESS*

As part of our Archives, we want to collect and preserve 2 copies of every issue of *Awareness* magazine. But some are missing - we have no copies of Issue 43, or most of the issues from the 1970s

Do you have copies of any of these, that you would be willing to donate to the Archives?

If so, please get in touch by phone, or email **comms@survive-miva.org** .

NEWS FROM FUNDED PROJECTS

Each issue we do our best to keep you up to date with the progress being made by those you have supported. Whilst we recognise that there are no easy or quick solutions to the problems our beneficiaries face each day, we do know that being mobile does enable them to tackle jobs they would otherwise have great difficulties doing.

We aim to provide a practical means for people with skills and experience to share what they have with the people in isolated places around them, and so here we present some of the latest 'investments' made possible by your generosity.

KARADIPATTI

Madurai District, Tamil Nadu

The Franciscan Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (FSPM) were funded by SURVIVE-MIVA in 2025. Their *Infant Jesus Health Centre* at Karadipatti provides medical care to rural hill villages and to migrant workers in the quarries on the outskirts of Madurai, where the main medical issues include poisonous snake bites, respiratory problems and infectious illnesses. But for many patients, transport to the health centre was difficult, so villagers asked the Sisters to organise outreach clinics. The Sisters have been doing this in some 17 villages at a 20km radius from their main clinic, in spite of the serious transport problems it presented, as they had no vehicle of their own, and the cost of hiring one was steep. So they applied for funding to SURVIVE-MIVA, and bought a Mahindra Bolero NEO+ P4, a nine-seater diesel SUV, at a cost of £13,900.

The vehicle has greatly facilitated the Sisters' regular visits to the interior villages, where they conduct health clinics, provide ante-natal and post-natal care, distribute medicines especially to poor and elderly people, and conduct health education initiatives engaging the local communities.

"We serve people better now and get back on time to our mission convent. Thank you SURVIVE-MIVA"

For example, polio vaccination campaigns for children under 5 have been carried out with the active participation of local women; and health education campaigns have been delivered, teaching villagers preventive measures for viral fevers such as dengue, malaria and typhoid, and first aid for snakebites.The vehicle is also used to transport pregnant women and the very sick to hospital.

The Sisters say: *"Sisters constantly sensitize the community on first aid practices. Sisters explained to them the first aid practices to be followed for snakebites and especially motivated them not to panic.*

"Sisters are actively involved in healing ministry with the help of the vehicle which was financially supported by SURVIVE-MIVA. We are ever grateful to SURVIVE-MIVA for its timely financial support which enable us to work effectively and to be regular to the distant and interior villages. We serve people better now and get back on time to our mission convent. THANK YOU SURVIVE-MIVA."

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ST JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH

Katoro, Geita, Tanzania

In July 2025, SURVIVE-MIVA supported the parish of St Joseph the Worker in Katoro, north-western Tanzania, to buy bicycles to enable catechists to reach isolated villages. Parish priest Fr Bernard Makutano has sent us an interesting completion report, detailing how the project went.

The parish itself made a contribution of around £500 to the cost of the project. Together with the £4,000 donated by SURVIVE-MIVA, the parish was able to buy and assemble 42 Phoenix bicycles - the Phoenix is a popular Chinese roadster brand widely exported all over the world, and known for its durable all-steel construction and suitability for rough roads. Each of the 42 bicycles was given to one of the parish's catechists - 18 men and 24 women.

Fr Makutano says:

"We sincerely thank your generosity for this grant as it has put us in a better position of providing pastoral works in the Parish, for the Catechists have now the reliable means of transport. They will be able to preside over the liturgical services on Sundays and days of obligation in the absence of the Parish Priest in the outstations. They will be able to teach catechism to the children, youths and the elderly in the outstations."

"This grant has put us in a better position of providing pastoral works in the Parish, for the Catechists have now the reliable means of transport"

DRIVING US ON

If you've been inspired by the difference SURVIVE-MIVA is making for those providing healthcare and missionary outreach in places of difficult access, then we'd love you to get involved in any way you can to support us.

We'd like to give a huge thank you to all our existing donors, who are the backbone of all we do - your generosity makes such a difference.

DONATE TO US

- ☐ Regular donation. Regular donations, however small, help us plan. Set up a direct debit via your bank, donate online at www.survive-miva.org, or ask your employer about payroll giving.
- ☐ One-off donation - via bank transfer, online at www.survive-miva.org, call us on 0151 523 3878, or use the enclosed form. Sort code: 08-92-99 Account number: 6562 8977. Please use your postcode as your reference.
- ☐ Remember us in your will by leaving a legacy.

JOIN OUR NETWORK OF ADVOCATES

We already have a fantastic team of volunteers who deliver lectern talks about SURVIVE-MIVA in churches up and down the country.

But now, we want to expand this group to include anyone who is interested to advocate for us more widely - in your workplace or business networks, in your social club or association, in your children's school, your University, or on social media.

Interest form

If you'd like to join in - and develop your fundraising and advocacy skills along the way! - please **email comms@survive-miva.org**, give us a **call on 0151 523 3878**, or **complete our volunteers expression of interest form**. See QR code, left

FOLLOW US!

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www.survive-miva.org

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