

## **Barnabas Fund**

*The following article appeared in the November 2018 St Michaels Newsletter.*

The Barnabas Fund works in aid of the persecuted church throughout Africa and Asia. Most of the Barnabas Fund's aid goes to Christian churches in predominately Muslim countries. The fund concentrates on helping existing local Church and Christian communities to maintain their presence and witness rather than the fund setting up its own structures or sending out missionaries. Barnabas Fund also aids the persecuted Church by providing comprehensive prayer material. The fund believes that Christians should treat all people of all faiths with love and compassion, even those who seek to persecute them.

The Barnabas Fund believes that they should be on hand to help feed Christians who are temporarily in need. But sometimes their support is needed long-term. For example, Christians in Pakistan and Egypt are often trapped in poverty because of discrimination. Receiving regular food parcels transforms their lives. Barnabas Fund says; 'when they know where their next meal is coming from, they can use what they would have spent on food to pay for school fees or start a small business, so that they can lift themselves out of poverty and hunger for good.'

Barnabas spends a lot of effort in encouraging supporters to sign petitions, to lobby governments and write to MPs. Barnabas says that many MPs write in support of Barnabas' work because supporters in their constituency have written. Barnabas' website gives useful points to make when writing letters of this sort.