

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

NKOPE WATER SCHEME – Progress report

Work started in September on the intake well with concrete rings to house the submersible pump being sunk below the level of the lake. Those above the sand are now protected by gabion baskets full of large stones. The trench for the pumping main has been dug and pipes laid for 480 metres, about 80% of the distance to Nkope Hill. The

reinforced base of the tank has been laid. Progress is a little behind schedule and with the start of the rains the completion of the tank and all the trenching and pipework for the distribution main to the houses, schools and Health Centre will certainly not be quicker than anticipated. However, the outcome should be worth waiting for.



THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

Trustees are very grateful to all of you who support MACS either with your gifts of time, specific items or money.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for organising fundraising events, giving regularly by standing order, remembering MACS in your will, donating funds following memorial services, purchasing gifts from our Gift List or organising church collections.



As we try to keep our UK based administration costs down, we are grateful to those of you who receive our publications by e-mail. We remain happy to post to you as well, as we appreciate it's always good to have newsletters and Gift Lists to give to friends. Should you wish to change the way you receive mail or to alter the number of copies you receive, please contact us through mailinglist@malawimacs.org or contact the Secretary directly.

NEW PROJECTS

The following projects have been approved since the last Newsletter:

- Roofing St Steven's church, Makanjila
- Storm damage repairs to the Blind Unit Resource Centre, Nkope.
- MU nursery school kitchen and toilet St Peter & St Paul, Balaka
- Renovation of solar lighting for four staff houses, Lulanga Health Centre
- Purchase of industrial washing machine for St Martin's hospital, Malindi.
- 4th orthopaedic programme, Mangochi.
- Connecting staff houses and Kapiri Health Centre to the National Grid.
- 10 new pit latrines, Monkey Bay Primary school
- Double classroom block, St Mark's Primary School, Kawuza
- Roofing for Christ the King Church in Nabale, Monkey Bay
- Roofing for St Andrew's Church, Songani.
- £10000 for flood reconstruction work in the Diocese of Southern Malawi

From the Gift List and mini projects:

- Digging a well for Mkandwe Eco-village near Monkey Bay
- Goat pass-on scheme Misewe Village near Malosa
- Roofing of Nkanda Day Care Centre near Malosa
- Another 100 Chichewa/English dictionaries purchased

Fr MACDONALD NJALA BANDA: VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO MACS

It is now time for me to leave Chilema having stayed for five years as Executive Director. I started working at Chilema on 1st February 2011. The term of office is five years and it rotates between the Anglican Diocese of Upper Shire and CCAP Blantyre Synod.

As I am leaving the Centre, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to MACS and its supporters for the support I have enjoyed. When I came to Chilema, I discovered the Chalets which were built with funding from MACS. These chalets are bringing money to Chilema up to now and I have been able to run the centre because of the money that comes from the Chalets in addition to other sources within the centre.

MACS has also supported my work during my term of office in the area of the Women's Training Program. MACS has been supporting 10 women each year with fees for the training. A total of 51 women have been supported which includes Falesi Macheso who was assisted in a special way when she could not afford to continue and Zainabu Mussa, a Muslim young woman who is another big living testimony of MACS support during my term of office. MACS has also been donating equipment like sewing machines, fabrics and much more for tailoring and clothing and textiles.

We have also been receiving money to purchase additional resources for practical subjects of Agriculture and Food Security, Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles and Tailoring and Fashion Designing. The support of the Iford churches has been crucial to this.



My work was made easy because of the support MACS gave me and it is my hope that MACS will continue supporting Chilema as the centre continues to empower communities in Malawi. The Women's Training Program still needs more help especially with hostels and an additional classroom block. Accommodation for students is a major challenge too which needs to be addressed. I have learned a lot from my work as Executive Director. It was a very challenging job but I thank God that finally I have finished and made my little contribution to the work and mission of the centre.

Trustees send warm wishes to Fr Macdonald and his family for the future.

LINGA PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER'S HOUSE GETS A COMPLETE MAKEOVER!

Linga Primary School near the lakeshore at Nkhotakota has around 2,100 boys and girls, 8 school blocks, 22 teachers and 7 teachers' houses. Refurbishment has been funded by the Diocese of Birmingham and MACS has supervised the work on two dilapidated houses. Here is the latest newly refurbished house looking beautiful and the delighted headmaster and members of the school committee.



Teachers are naturally reluctant to come to such a place where they cannot create a comfortable home. Many have to pay high prices to rent a small house. Some have to walk or cycle up to ten kilometres to get to school.

At Linga there remain five houses in desperate need of refurbishment.



The monthly starting salary for a qualified primary school teacher is £70

GOAT PASS-ON SCHEME AT MISEWE

Funds raised by members of the last Group Visit have paid for the purchase and distribution of twenty vaccinated goats, one to each of twenty vulnerable families in Misewe village near Malosa. Ownership of a goat can transform a family's standard of living, achieve freedom from debt, send a child to school. There is milk and meat to eat and sell and in time the sale of live kids. The first kid is given to the village committee which passes it on to another struggling family. A previous scheme which started three years ago with ten goats has now spread to ninety-eight beneficiary families.



“A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE...”

...in achieving universal health coverage.” So says Mr Winasi Boma, St Luke’s Hospital Principal Administrator, who is responsible for five deeply rural health centres.

Mr Boma said, “Nkasala is located in a hard to reach area and we are so happy to have a new, fully equipped maternity ward, with running water and electricity. Now pregnant women will be motivated to seek maternal care and staff will be encouraged to work in this beautiful place. This will in turn help the hospital to achieve its vision of preventing avoidable death, as well as providing accessible and quality care.”



Special thanks to the congregations of St Luke’s Church Watford and St Lawrence’s Church Abbots Langley who, working in partnership with MACS, raised significant funds to build and equip the maternity ward.

SUCCESSFUL RENOVATION

Five new nurses are thrilled to be living in comfortable accommodation in the grounds of St Luke’s Hospital in Malosa.

You can see that, before refurbishment, the hostel was unfit for habitation! It was difficult to get staff to work at the hospital with nowhere decent for them to stay. Now they are happy and motivated.



Contractor Eric Malawira presents keys to Principal Hospital Administrator Winasi Boma and nursing staff.

**Life expectancy
increased from 47 years
in 1990 to 55 in 2013**

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Margaret Campbell is joining the 2016 MACS Group Visit to Malawi in July. She bravely took to the paths in December at the annual London Santa Run, a 5k run in Victoria Park in East London, with 3963 other Santas! Margaret raised £250 towards projects that will be undertaken on the July visit.



Lizzie Pope and James Newbould competed in the Network Q WRGB National Rally in a Vauxhall Corsa in November in aid of MACS. They had an incredible time and raised a fantastic £728 towards projects to be undertaken on the 2016 MACS Visit.



During the last week in August 2015, trustee **Richard Davies**, his wife **Wylva** and a friend walked the 84 miles of the Hadrian's Wall path.

"We arrived in Carlisle on Friday in the late afternoon so we decided to quickly knock off six miles of the walk. Although we set off in the early evening sunshine, soon the clouds came over and the heavens opened. We were walking through thunder, lightning and torrential rain. It was so bad that a police van stopped and offered us a lift back. Our pride prevented us accepting this offer and we went the wrong way because the van was parked in front of the sign post! By the time we got back to Carlisle we were as wet as it was possible to be and cold and miserable, wondering what we had let ourselves in for.

We did not use our waterproofs again all week, the sun shone and the wind was at our back for six days. We enjoyed the magnificent scenery, the fascinating Roman forts, the company of other walkers and as many tea-rooms as we could find. We almost felt guilty collecting money for such an enjoyable and satisfying experience."

Over £700 was raised for the MACS bursary scheme.



Trustee **Annie Barton Hodges** organised a concert in the wonderful setting of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. The audience enjoyed wine whilst being entertained with Christmas music. Annie is grateful to her friends for lending their time and talents and to everyone who came to the concert. £1060 was raised for projects to be undertaken on the trip to Malawi that Annie will be leading later in the year.

WHO'S WHO

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Cox, Richard Davies, Brian Griffin and
Sally Huband.

ANNUAL SUPPORTERS' DAY and AGM 2016

September 17
10.30-3.30

St Saviour's Hall
St George's Square
Pimlico SW1V 3QW

Please bring friends!



ONLINE GIFT LIST

Alternative gifts for all occasions

www.malawimacs.org/product-category/giftlist/