

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2016.

Achievements and performance.

Introduction:

2015-2016 has been a challenging year for everyone in Malawi. The flooding in early 2015 gave way to drought in early 2016 and a significant shortage of affordable food remains a problem for many, particularly in the south and central regions of the country. The value of the Kwacha has moved considerably from 637 in April 2015 to 959 at the end of March 2016. Against this background, the trustees have sought to be as supportive as possible when asked for help.

Grafiud Tione, our Malawi representative, has continued to carry out and expand his responsibilities in an excellent way. He has been involved in the tendering process for larger projects, the procurement and delivery of materials and the supervising of smaller building projects, attending site meetings, controlling and disbursing payments and also supervising and reporting back on a regular basis to trustees. He is in regular contact with our Projects officer, Eileen Eggington. Grafiud and Eileen were accompanied on the annual inspection tour in May 2015 by new trustee Brian Griffin.

During the year trustees have met on seven occasions and approved grants totalling £154,138 for new projects. More than xx project applications were received throughout the year. Of the 30 presented to trustees for consideration 25 were approved. 24 projects were completed during the year and another 13 are on-going, still under the supervision of Grafiud Tione. Following the retirement of founding trustee Anthea Griggs, and of Dr Susannah Woodd, a new trustee, Gillian Barber, joined us. Gillian has extensive experience in the health sector in the third world, including Malawi, and is taking over responsibilities related to medical projects.

The 2015 Appeal to help with Flood relief raised a total of £20,742. A total of £13,834 has been sent to Malawi now with an emphasis on food security, livestock replacement and shelter for individuals. Reports have been received from the Diocese of Southern Malawi indicating how the money was spent. Our Project officer visited the area in 2015 to see for herself what is being done. Richard Barton also visited on a visit early in 2016.

Our sponsorship of students in boarding schools has run smoothly and has expanded to fund a total of 11 boys and 31 girls at secondary school in Malosa and Malindi. We are grateful to Bishop Ramsey High school for their support in this scheme and also to the Gibbs Trust who provided a grant that enabled us to meet the extra costs that arose when the government increased school fees. Plans are underway to extend our sponsorship scheme to benefit students in two Community Day Secondary Schools. Brian Griffin is leading on this project.

Our annual Gift List, sent out in October 2015, raised a total of £6,874 and enabled around 15 smaller projects to be carried out. These are administered in the main by Richard Barton and Grafiud Tione and include such things as a Goat Pass on scheme, the provision of solar lamps, dictionaries and other resources for teachers, support for Mother's union groups, women's training and bicycles for clergy.

Excellent newsletters have been sent out twice each year informing supporters of developments and progress and highlighting areas of achievement and success. Facebook and Twitter have kept some

supporters more regularly updated. We are grateful to supporters who now receive communications by email, thus reducing our postage costs.

Projects

A total of £154,138 has been allocated to projects during the year. Inflation has reached 25% in the last year, putting increased pressure on the Kwacha cost of projects.

Parish and Diocesan Support £49,136

Trustees have been working to produce standard plans for priest's houses and to agree a policy for how many are built and the extent of local input/ self-help necessary. Requests for training are considered favourably. Examples of grants made in these areas in the last year are:

- Roofing churches at Makanjila, Christ the King, Nabale and St Andrew's Songani.
- Upgrading of rooms at Kaphiridzinja cottage, income generating project.
- Kitchen and pit latrines for MU at St Peter and St Paul, Balaka DUS.

Health £58,126

MACS continues to agree to a wide variety of requests supporting building, training, treatment programmes and the provision of particular items.

In particular trustees were delighted to hear of the success of the Ophthalmic surgery training pilot scheme Dr Will Dean talked of at the 2015 Annual meeting. This scheme is now expanding considerably and is recognised as the way forward in surgical training in the third world.

Other examples are

- The provision of a commercial washing machine for St Martin's hospital
- The electrification of Kapiri Health Centre, DLM
- Construction of incinerator and placenta pit at Nkasala DUS
- Purchase of drugs for St Martin's and lakeshore health centres DUS
- Repairs to solar power at Lulanga
- Funding an orthopaedic clinic at Kasungu in conjunction with the charity Feet First.

Education £82,011

- Repairs to the Nkope Blind School resources centre, following damage caused by a falling tree.
- Donation of £1000 towards replacing theology books following a fire in Mzuzu University.
- Bursary schemes benefitting 42 secondary school students.
- Building a classroom block at St Marks, Kawaza DLM
- 10 pit latrines built at Monkey Bay Primary school DUS

Community and Training £10,138

- Funding a short course in training in Natural medicine at Malosa
- Paying 80% of the fees for 10 Anglican women on the Chilema training course. This included supporting up to 5 wives of Anglican clergy.

Miscellaneous £6,703

- For Mkate wa Moyo

Fundraising

We are very grateful to all our supporters who raise funds by a number of different methods. Following talks by trustees, some groups choose to raise funds for specific projects. The Iford group of churches continue to support the work of the course for women at Chilema.

During the year some good fundraising has gone on such as the sponsorship of Lizzie Pope in a national car rally; running marathons; concerts etc.

We communicate with our supporters and the general public through our 2 newsletters, via the website, Twitter and Facebook. The fundraising sub-committee produced a Gift List that raised ££6,874 since its launch in October 2015.

Supporters

We remain indebted to all MACS supporters, be they individuals, churches, schools or other groups of people. Your financial as well as your prayerful support are greatly appreciated. Together with the people of Malawi, we are working towards a better future.

Julie Lupton

Secretary.