

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Afridev Water Pump at Sauya

At the end of October 2024, MACS received a request for a borehole from Fr John Gondwe, Parish priest at Sauya, a rural village in the Archdeaconry of Monkey Bay. He said that the nearest clean, safe, water was three kilometres away and so people often endangered their lives by drawing water from unprotected sources such as a well, stream or river. Last year during the cholera outbreak that swept through Malawi, members of his church and community lost their lives to the disease.



Happily, one of our MACS' supporters fund-raised £1200 for a 'water project', which his employer pledged to double! Therefore, when trustees met the following month we were able to approve funding for an Afridev water pump at Sauya. The project was completed by 23 December and on Christmas Day Fr Gondwe sent Grafiud Tione a joyful video clip of parishioners gathering at the water pump, dancing and singing praises to God for this life-giving provision.



Fr Gondwe wrote, "On behalf of All Saints parish, Sauya, I would like to register our vote of thanks to MACS for granting us a borehole which has now started giving clean and saltless water for the church and surrounding communities. This will help to reduce the impact of cholera due to the use of contaminated water and will live in the heart of the church and the surrounding communities for many many years to come. Let me also thank Mr Tione and the Diocesan Projects Officer, Mr Vic Mnelemba for their guidance and directions from day one up to the end of the project. Lastly we wish MACS well during this Christmas and New Year festivals."

Bicycles for Leonard Kamungu Theological College Students

For the past few years MACS has funded the purchase of bicycles for final year students at Leonard Kamungu Theological College (LKTC) in Zomba. These students are soon to be ordained 'Deacon' and posted to rural parishes throughout Malawi. The bicycle will be their only means of transport.

Africycle <http://www.africycle.org/> is a Canadian based charity that sends good quality, second-hand, mountain bikes overseas, including to Malawi. There is an Africycle base in Zomba, very near the theological college, that refurbishes and sells the bikes. Current prices are around £100. Mr Grafiud Tione, our MACS Representative, pays Africycle Zomba direct; the students select their bikes and are given the repair kit and maintenance training, included in the price.



Canon Charles Chiotula, Dean of LKTC, writes: *"May I take this opportunity to thank you Eileen and the entire MACS trustees for the support you always give to LKTC let alone the dioceses for providing mobility to our ordinands who soon will be ordained deacons. The bicycles help them a lot to reach out to the parishioners. Let me not forget Mr Tione who is very efficient and dedicated to his work. We have a good working relationship and I like the way he does his duties. Bravo Mr Tione, please continue helping LKTC."*

Projects Approved Since the Last Newsletter

- **Nkope Water (DUS):** commissioned a report from a Water Engineer looking at issues resulting from fluctuating levels of lake water and consequent erosion. Funded a circuit breaker and a surge protector and approved building two new septic tanks. Additional, much needed, protective and remedial measures are still under consideration though funding may be an issue.
- **Sauya Borehole (DUS):** funded the drilling of a borehole in this parish through a generous donation.
- **Africycles** for ordinands from Leonard Kamungu Theological College: 10 bicycles purchased with repair kits and training session for new ordinands.
- **Chilema Ecumenical Training College** funded: 90% of the fees for 10 women undertaking training from January – July 2025.
- **Bursaries:** approved the selection of new students for bursaries at Malosa Secondary School and St Michael's Girls' in Malindi. Agreed to support students at Malindi CDSS in addition to Nkope CDSS and M'manga CDSS.
- **Medical equipment for St Luke's hospital:** approved the purchase of much-needed equipment up to £2000 in value. This included further examination lamps and a water distiller.
- Developed and approved the use of a new **Gift List** .
- Approved a **Supporters' Trip** to be led by Felicity Shoosmith in August

Additionally Trustees have:

- reviewed policies, including Safeguarding policies, on an annual basis
- held a strategy day looking at, among other things, succession planning for trustees
- reviewed the website



Felicity Shoesmith

New Trustee in 2024

I spent my early childhood living at Chilema (1963-1971) and going to school in Zomba. My parents, Rev John and Alison Leake (now Alison Robinson), helped to establish Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre under the guidance of Bishop Donald Arden and in close cooperation with the CCAP.

As a small child I remember helping look after and playing with the children of the women attending a course that would still be running 50 years later, with some of the current participants being supported by MACS bursaries.

My brother and sister were both born in Malawi and felt very proud when arriving at Blantyre Airport a few years ago to be greeted by the immigration officer with a "welcome home".

A couple of years after leaving Malawi my father died. I did not return to Malawi until my mother and I visited in 2013 with our husbands.

Since then I have been back on a number of occasions and my daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine also visited with two of their cousins as part of a MACS supporters' trip in 2016, a great way for them to experience Malawi without their mother breathing down their necks!

In 2022 I retired from working in Local Government in the North East of England. I was keen to spend time supporting Malawi and becoming a Trustee with MACS has given me the opportunity to work with other Trustees, all of whom share a passion for Malawi and its people.

In May 2024 I joined Eileen on the Project Officer's trip and in August 2025 I will be leading our latest supporters trip.



During our visit last year I was able to visit my old home at Chilema and meet the current occupant.



The Playgroup at Chilema is named in memory of my father. Pictured here are my mother, Alison Robinson (nee Leake), my brother and sister and the current nursery teacher

Gift List

We have now developed a new, limited gift list allowing for donations of £10, £20 or £30 against specific items. At present these items are:

- Bursaries
- Mattresses for hospitals and health centres
- Books for Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre
- Contribution towards an Africycle bicycle for ordinands

See website, malawimacs.org, for full details

Potential MACS Supporters' Regional Get-togethers

We are aware that some of our supporters enjoyed coming to London for a face-to-face Annual Supporters' day. As the Zoom meeting allows supporters from further afield to participate, we plan to continue with this format. However, we are happy to consider holding regional supporters' meetings which enable people to meet one another with more social time included.

If any supporters would like to be involved, offering a suggested venue and programme, some MACS trustees would be happy to attend and to share updates on the work of the charity.

If you would like to offer to help in this area, please contact Julie Lupton, info@malawimacs.org, tel 01580 291658 or message on 07884306997.

Focus on Fundraising

Did you know you can raise money for MACS every time you make an online purchase?



Just register with www.easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate MACS as the charity of your choice. Then each time you shop, enter via the easyfundraising portal and a percentage of your purchase will be credited to MACS. It's as simple as that! For example are you booking a TUI flight? Do it this way and MACS benefits! Do you book through Booking.com, buy from Tesco online etc? Most companies will donate a small amount and it all adds up. Please give it a go.

Plants for Malawi

For a number of years Sally Huband has been selling plants in aid of MACS.

'It all started when I retired and had time to do more gardening. Anyone who loves plants, knows it hurts to put good plants into the compost, because you have too many seedlings or need to divide herbaceous plants that have got too big for their boots! Once you have supplied all your friends and neighbours with your extras, what to do with the rest?

So I put up a stall outside my house and started selling home made marmalade and plants in aid of MACS. It was fascinating, as many customers would pop into my garden and ask about the plants and often became regulars. This went on happily for many years raising a significant amount of money. However, about 8 years ago, I hurt my back and realized I couldn't continue doing it.



Fortunately, another plant stall had opened in the village to raise funds for our Voluntary Driving Scheme which takes people without transport to medical and hospital appointments. Jenny and Gill who ran the scheme came and collected my remaining plants and equipment and incorporated them into their venture.

Since then it has grown and grown. I continue to supply them with plants and in return am given a generous donation for MACS. We now bulk buy peat free compost which lives in my garage, Jenny and her husband Alan mastermind the stall and Gill continues to help with growing plants, taking over the watering if Jenny is away.

Jenny advertises on a Facebook marketplace page when particular plants are available and keeps us informed of plants which are selling well. 2024 raised £3,800 and Plumpton is not a large village.

To any gardeners out there, who support MACS and have a suitable spot for a stall, I can recommend it as a very enjoyable way of raising funds.

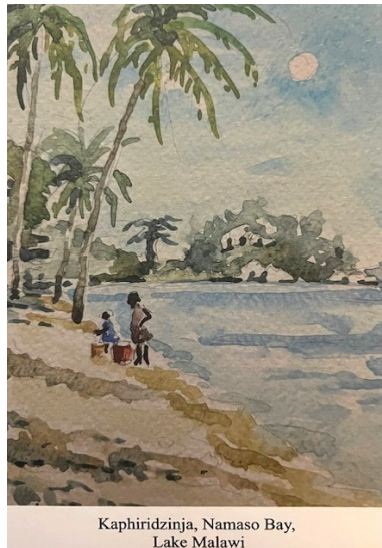
Malawi Notelets

Trustee and talented artist Adrian Brown has produced notelets from his watercolour of the view from Kaphiridzinja Cottage, Namaso Bay.

These can be purchased at a cost of £12 for 8 notelets, including postage.

The preferred payment method is by bank transfer, using reference, 'notelets', to:
MACS CIO,
sort code 20-54-25,
account number 70069507.

If this is not possible, please send a cheque payable to MACS, to the Treasurer, Colin Gardner, (address on back page).



Kaphiridzinja, Namaso Bay,
Lake Malawi

Raising money for a specific project has proved popular with a number of organisations, allowing supporters to see exactly where their money is going and the difference it is making. Examples of this is a school which has for many years supported bursary students at Malosa Secondary school, a church which has recently committed to supporting Community Day Secondary School bursary students through their four years of secondary education and a church which raises money for medical causes.

MACS CIO SUPPORTERS' DAY

Still on Zoom! Bringing together supporters from all over the UK and well beyond. Join us on

Saturday 27th September 2025

10.30 am to 1 pm

The programme will include updates from a number of trustees, including the chairman, treasurer, project officer and other trustees who have recently visited Malawi.

Our Malawi Representative, Grafiud Tione, will be there.

There will be opportunities to talk with other supporters and to consider how to develop the work of the charity.

Join us on Zoom by contacting the Secretary at info@malawimacs.org

MACS WHO'S WHO

Patron: Jane Arden, MBE

Chairman: Martin Herrick

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Secretary: Julie Lupton

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Trustees: Gillian Barber, Adrian Brown, Margaret Campbell, Richard Davies, Andrew M, Felicity Shoosmith.