

***MASASI
& NEWALA
NEWS***

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“Masasi & Newala News” is produced by Gill Hucker with assistance from a number of other Masasi supporters. The Editorial Team would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has any comments, articles or information that they would like included in the next issue. If you know of anyone who would like to receive future copies of “Masasi & Newala News”, please send their name and address to Gill Hucker at the address below. There is no charge for the newsletter, but contributions towards the cost of postage are always appreciated.

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A note from the Editor

A happy new year to all our readers and very many apologies for the fact that more than a year has passed since the previous issue of M&NN appeared in January 2016. A great deal has happened during the past twelve months and we very much hope that this issue – the 30th since this newsletter first appeared in the Spring of 2002 – will give you a taste of what has been taking place in both the Diocese of Masasi and that of Newala and the way in which this relatively small charitable Trust has been able to help the development of various projects in this area.

But one very sad piece of news, of which many of you will already be aware, and that is the death of Brenda Stone who passed away peacefully in hospital on Tuesday, 2nd November 2016 at the age of 90. She had been in failing health for some time, but nevertheless in good spirits and in typical Brenda fashion, when she sent one of her regular and generous donations to the Friends at the beginning of August she wrote *“I have had many ups and downs this year, with at least 3 spells in hospital. Now I am in a convalescent/old people’s home ‘they say’ for six weeks. I keep planning my escape but so far have not got any good ideas”*. Sadly, her younger sister, Margaret, died six days after Brenda, at the age of 86 and Brenda had said they were having a race as to who would go first! Brenda’s funeral, took place at her church, St Margaret’s, in Coventry on 25th November and her long-standing friend, Kuan, from Singapore paid a particular tribute to her. Tim Brooke spoke about her time in Africa and we are delighted to be able to print his address on page 18. We are also very pleased to publish Susanna Grunsell’s personal memories of Brenda on page 22. Brenda will be missed by all her friends, not only in Coventry and other parts of the UK, but also much further afield. May she rest in peace.

The Christmas Newsletter from Bishop James gives a very thorough account of what the Diocese has achieved during 2016 under his leadership, and also his plans for 2017 and we are also pleased to publish details of Bishop James’ “Birthday Walk” to raise funds for the new Girls’ Secondary School at Namasakata. This is an extremely exciting project and we hope that it will receive a great deal of support. To walk 40 miles is quite an undertaking – especially in the heat of the Tanzanian sunshine.

Other articles include the Annual Letter from the CMM Sisters at Kilimani and Dirk Juttner’s report on his visit to a number of CMM Houses in Tanzania. There is a detailed report on the work of The Friends – with an appeal for a new Treasurer and a report from Stephen Jarvis on the very successful “SWIM” fund raising initiative,, as well as a report on Steve Arbery’s fund raising efforts on behalf of the Blind Unit at Mtandi. There is also an interesting report from Jennifer Oakley on her school’s links with Mnara Primary School on the Rondo plateau as well as a report on the two hostels for girls who attend Secondary Schools in Masasi Town. And last but not least, a brief report on the Diocese of Newala. As we do not receive any news from Bishop Oscar, the Friends concentrate their efforts on supporting Dr Lawi Issa who is doing amazing work in re-establishing the new St Michael’s Health Centre at Lulindi – where Brenda worked so many years ago. We hope you enjoy this latest issue of M&NN and apologise again for the long delay since the previous issue.

DIOCESE OF MASASI : CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

from +James Almasi

My dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas greetings and our warmest wishes for joy and happiness that lasts through the coming year. In this season of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I write to offer you our deepest thanks for your love for us and to express ours for you. We do celebrate this great love seen in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and ours to share with you this Christmas 2016.

Looking back over 2016_: it is good to look back over the past year and celebrate the goodness and faithfulness of Almighty God to us. Many of you have prayed and encouraged us in different ways. We do give God the thanks for your fellowship and partnership; for some of you we have been able to offer you our Masasi hospitalities and welcomes. Our hearts are full of thanksgiving to God for the partnership and fellowship between all priests and deacons across our Diocese and together with all Christians, we rejoice in the peace and the unity in all that has happened this year. All our clergies have worked so hard and so faithfully in their ministry. We do thank God for his grace and blessings so clearly seen in the parishes.

Ordination : We have ordained seven priests and three deacons in 2016. For this we have been pushed to create new six parishes and create two new deaneries. We thank God that evangelism work is growing fast. God is blessing us in this work in all the parishes and outstations.

Parish visitations : I have gone to many parishes, even more than last year. We have seen many confirmations totalling about nine hundred and forty seven candidates. Together with some Canons and the Evangelism Team we have spent, sometimes up to five days in a Parish to teach and encourage, to minister and to bless the congregations there. We enjoyed some very rewarding seminars in Liwale and in Kilwa Masoko – both of these churches are very small and are faithfully witnessing to the love of Jesus in very dominant Muslim communities: “difficult environments” as one church secretary described his community.

Across the Diocese, there are also some excellent building projects. We have tried to start new buildings, especially churches and some parish offices. The lack of rain this year that has meant bad harvests and this has reduced the incomes leading to reduced money available for the offerings, Christians have been giving sacrificially for their parishes.

The PWDF (Primates World Development Fund) Projects in Tunduru have seen many great developments in 2016 where seventy two villages are experiencing transformation through increased and readily available educational opportunities in agriculture, nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

We celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of our great Cathedral on 28th of August. It was a marvellous occasion with thousands of people worshipping with us for the service outside the Cathedral, including guests from our link Dioceses of Hereford, UK and Montreal, Canada. We so enjoyed the visits of Bishop Richard

and Kay Frith (Hereford) and Archdeacon Bill Gray (Montreal). We also enjoyed the company of many people from the Government, from other churches and faiths, from other parts of Tanzania and from many places in Masasi Diocese. We do thank God that with all God's glory everything planned went well and we thank God for all that happened in this great celebration. In the week that followed the anniversary celebration our guests from Hereford and Montreal were able to experience much of our Diocese, to travel to many places, to be greeted by the Christians as they laid Foundation Stones for churches, opened parish offices, preached and encouraged us during the many other ceremonies in our Diocese of Masasi. The Partnership between Montreal and Hereford Dioceses has been further strengthened as we have been continuing to communicate with each other and of course when some the key persons visited us this year.

Friends of Masasi ; The Friends of Masasi have continued to assist us as a Diocese, especially in Rondo for the Chapel which always has been at the heart of the diocese. In all needs we have, they have played their part. We do thank God for the work on the Chapel, for the ongoing work on the roof and for the protection of the windows that the Trustees have enabled; for the Land Cruiser, for the SWIM Project, and for support of the Blind School in Mtandi. The Trustees hard work and their love for Masasi is longstanding and always very generous and together with the prayers and support of many in the UK through the Friends of Masasi you all mean very much to us all and to me as Bishop. I do thank you, our friends and supporters, and the Trustees themselves.

New Land Cruiser : For the first time since we were born in 1926, Christians in the Diocese have been determined in their offerings and gave about £8000 which the Friends of Masasi match funded so that we have now bought within a short time a Toyota Land Cruiser for the Bishop's use in travelling throughout the Diocese and other journeys.

At St Cyprian's Junior Seminary in Rondo we have seen continued blessings in all aspects of our work. The Year 4 exam results have again placed us as 2nd in the Southern Zone. We do thank God for the commitment and hard work of the students from Pre-form 1 to Year 4. The teaching staff have also served their students so well. I have been pleased to appoint Revd Phares Lihewe to be the Acting Rector and also Andrew Mchawa as the Second Master. This is good news for the academic staff at Rondo. However, we still need a Science teacher – someone who can teach to “A” level and if this was possible we could equip our boys in a better way for their education and perhaps become the 1st School in exam results. We do pray for a science teacher - someone who can teach well and train others also. Perhaps you know someone who would come to Rondo for even one year?

January visit to England : I was invited to attend the newly-appointed Bishops' Conference and spent a week in Canterbury with Bishops from across the Anglican Communion. We were much blessed in this conference, learning and listening from each other as young bishops. While in the UK, I was able to meet with many people; including friends in Hereford Diocese, in Liverpool and in Michinhampton and I was very happy to see Bishop Michael and Punitha Westall – my former college principal.

Visits : We have continued receiving many friends this year from across Tanzania, from the UK and from Canada. All these visitors have blessed us and we do welcome you all again and again. The “Rooted in Jesus” conference in September enabled us to encourage, equip and train nearly eighty evangelists in their work in the parishes to, “Go and make disciples” and to establish small discipleship groups in the parishes.

Strategic Plans for 2017 : the Management Team, Synod and I are working on a number of great projects across the Diocese together with developments to promote the ongoing pastoral care and worship in the parishes.

Bible School at Kwitonji : we are doing well in the development of our Bible School and already we have renovated the St Franciscan buildings by putting electrical wiring and through Hillary Buckingham, a RIJ facilitator, have money for putting in the water system. We are planning to open the School in February if we can get mattresses and other things needed – for example the cooking pots - for the thirty Catechists who will begin their studies. We plan to give many catechists the opportunity to increase their Bible knowledge, to develop preaching and teaching skills and of course, to encourage them in their own devotional life. In so doing we shall inspire them in their leadership of the parishes and out-stations; this is a highly strategic task for the growth of the church and development of faith in Masasi Diocese. We thank God for this development and are excited at the great opportunities it will offer us in developing our ministries in the churches through the coming years.

St Catherine's Girls' Secondary School, Namasakata : our dream of a Girls' Secondary School in our Diocese is strong. To raise funds and focus prayer I am doing a Birthday Walk, starting on 14th June, for St Catherine's; this will be a walk of about sixty kilometers from my family home in Sindano to Mtandi, where the walk will end with a Eucharist. Many of the young people will be walking with me, together with clergies and Christians from the parishes; maybe for one day or more as I walk through their parishes. Please come forward to pray and to sponsor me (detailed information next year) as I am determined to walk for this great project.

Pastoral visits in 2016 will include seminars for parishioners. Seminars which will be led in the deaneries and the focusing will be how the Diocese should change its attitude from being dependent on donors and others to being independent.

Evangelism to Kilwa Kivinje : we are planning for some seminars here and also for evangelism in this Islamic area at Kilwa Kivinje. We would like to assist this small group of Christians to build their church, as they now worship under a tree on land they do own but as yet have no building. Our efforts will be to have a camp in this Islamic area where our Christianity is struggling as they do not have even a shelter for worshipping.

Rooted in Jesus Junior : we will insist on the ministry for children as we begin a new department which Mama Catherine Ligunda, who has just finished her Diploma Course in Carlisle College in Kenya, will lead.

Courses for the students who are at various colleges : three young men are at St Mark's College for a Diploma Course (sponsored by Hereford Diocese); two young men are at the Institute of Rural Development and Planning in Dodoma (sponsored by African Palms UK) and one young man is at the Clinical Officers Training College in Mtwara (sponsored by Minchinhampton Parish, UK}. We do thank our sponsors very much for your love for us Masasi people.

Our Dispensary has now been designated as a Health Centre by the Government – good news! The development of the Health Centre in Mtandi is a great blessing. The buildings are finished, the doctor's house is completed but we have no doctor. We are still looking for a doctor for this new Health Centre. Anyone who would like to volunteer is welcomed. Perhaps you know someone who would like to come to Masasi for even a few months or longer and work with us and to lead the training of others. A genuine Masasi 'welcome' awaits our new doctor!

Your prayer for all these. Please join us in giving thanks to Almighty God for 2016 and all that has been achieved; we commit 2017 into his hands for his people here and for his glory.

Mama Askofu Veronica, my family and I greet you this Christmas time. We do pray God blesses you in the New Year 2017.

Yours, in Christ Jesus
+James

Rt Revd Dr James Almasi, Bishop of Masasi

Bishop James' Birthday Walk

Yes, dear Friends of Masasi, I am now preparing myself for a Birthday Walk! I shall be walking from Sindano to Mtandi - from my family home where my parents still live to my present home in the Bishop's House. In June, on the day of my birthday, I shall be walking from my home in Sindano. It was here where my father was the church catechist for many years and my mother was my Sunday School teacher. With my fellow walkers, we will finish the walk with a celebration Eucharist in the Cathedral so launching the project to build Namasakata Girl's Secondary School.

This is all for a very special reason. First let me give you the details:

- *Date of my walk?* Wednesday, 14th June 2017
- *Distance?* 40 miles
- *When will we be walking?* We shall start the walk at 05.00 hours and we plan to arrive at the Cathedral for 15.00 hours.
- *Parishes we shall walk through?* Four Newala Diocese parishes then through Mumbaka, Wapiwapi, Mkomaindo and finishing in Mtandi itself.
- *Who is walking with me?* Many of the young people in the Diocese and some priests.
- *Why am I walking?* Let me explain to you much more about our exciting 10 year project ...

My Bishop's Birthday Walk is to raise the profile of our project to build a Secondary School for Girls. We are walking to publicise and inform as many people about the project as possible, to encourage the Christians in prayer and to mobilize, not only their prayers, but also their giving; also we hope to gain sponsorship and gifts from our people for the building of this school.

We do give God thanks for the vision of +Trevor Huddleston in the foundation of St Cyprian's Junior Seminary at Rondo, for the recent restoration and developments in the Chapel and in the building of Years 5 and 6 classrooms. Our hopes and dreams to build a Girls' Secondary School at Namasakata are now centred on a Ten Year Project.

By January 2026, on the 100th anniversary of the founding of our Diocese of Masasi, we hope to see the completion of the buildings and the first students enrolled in this new school. It is our shared belief that this Girls' School is very important for us in the Diocese of Masasi. Let me give you some background information about this project and why it is important to us here in Masasi.

Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyrere, the Father of our Nation and first President, often spoke of education and development saying, "Development through education". How right he was! Now, some 56 years later, the Diocese is committed to harnessing the vision and the opportunity to provide for the girls of our Southern Zone in Tanzania.

We are seeking to build and develop a school for girls at Namasakata. This is itself an historic site for here was a well-known and successful Theological College serving the Diocese in the last century, a College with its own great famous history with many wise and good priests trained and with many years of faithful service.

We do have a long and good experience as a provider of quality education for boys. At Rondo, there is the Junior Seminary which achieves a very high standard of education. Rondo is currently the second ranked school in the Southern Zone on results. So we have the expertise in Masasi Diocese for the building, the development and the provision of teaching to a high standard to remedy the current situation in the provision for girls in the Diocese of Masasi and further afield.

This new school will provide high quality teaching and learning; education of a high quality across the curriculum will be available to girls of all faiths and those with none. The accommodation provided will provide a safe place and a loving environment for girls, for their study, for quality living recreation; a place of security to live, to learn, to grow and to thrive. It will be a school where potential and gifts can be harnessed and encouraged, released and expressed; a place where faith is developed, matured and expressed in the life and witness of the community within which it is situated. The vision is strong, the purposes are proven, the potential is very exciting and the Diocese is committed to this project: Namasakata Girls' Secondary School.

The ruling party under our President, Rais Dr John Pombe Magafuli, has an aspiration to provide free and safe secondary education for girls but the cost to the Government is truly enormous – too great for Tanzania just now, so parents have to pay fees for education after primary school. Out of an often small budget - a harvest dependant budget - there is often not money available in a family budget for the education of girls.

In these days of the development of attitudes and opportunities, in the current changes in culture, the development of Namasakata Girls' Secondary School is a key opportunity. Indeed we would suggest this school is a necessity for the girls of the Southern Zone so that they can achieve their full potential and fulfill their God-given destiny. It follows too that educated mothers will in turn provide better homes and better upbringing for their children, which will in turn impact on the development of the nation, potentially of Africa too. Tanzania is committed to improving educational opportunities for girls and we wish to play our part in this national programme.

Historically, in Masasi as in most African countries, the education of girls was not seen as a priority; it was not as important as it was for boys. Boys were to be prepared for their key roles in the home, in life and in the community. Men had the role as head of the family, as the provider and protector. It was through the male line that the family was known; the man was the link with the past and the ancestors. It was the task of the woman to bear children, to manage the home, to provide and care for the man; she was to provide the heir, the children, the food and clothing, to attend to the nurture and education of the children and as well as this, to ensure the children provided financial security for the ageing parents.

In recent years attitudes to women, to their education and their career opportunities have changed; women's own aspirations have changed. Women, as in the West, are now active in politics, in business, in commerce and in industry. In all walks of life, women are discovering their own significant contributions to their villages, their local communities and to the nation. There are a number of reasons for this: the international political pressures on governments, including our own present government – led by the United Nations and the African Leader's Forum, the rapidly increasing and developing educational and economic opportunities open to women,

the impact of the internet, the expanding social media and communication together with the impact of rapid globalisation.

This is good, very good, but still we are lacking the diversity and opportunities for girls' education. This is the same across much of the nation but especially in our Southern Region. Our women are leading the way in many places as they have responded to a stirring in their hearts and minds for a fulfillment and destiny in their lives; this is often led by the younger generation – both male and female. Many women across Africa have now achieved high office in politics and law, in local government, in education and the health service, in industry and commerce, in the arts and cultural life of their nations and recently in world affairs. Tanzania is one of these countries.

It is in the field of education that these aspirations and hopes for women must be serviced and encouraged. Girls are increasingly seeking and wanting to walk into their destiny, to achieve something in their lives, to fulfill their God-given aspirations and to find joy in their lives in different ways to that of their parents and grandparents. It is the hope of many parents that is increasingly driving the change in the nation. The providers of education must respond to this move, this desire for change - we hear the challenge!

In the Southern Zone, there is not sufficient opportunity for girls to receive the quality of teaching and learning that is required for them to fulfill the potential they have for themselves, for the potential they hold for the nation and indeed for the global community. Even when admitted to a secondary school, the girls face serious problems in their desire for education. There is a severe lack of safe and secure accommodation, many girls report sexual harassment and sexual abuse from teachers and from the families where they lodge for their schooling, there is a poverty of equality of opportunity and they face a lack in personal and emotional support during their studies.

In Masasi, women's development has been slower to have an impact than in much of the rest of Tanzania as it has not been so well connected with the Central and Northern Zones for reasons of transport, communication, rurality and economics. However, the Southern Zone is "catching up". In the rural areas of Masasi, in the scattered villages, many parents have considered the education of girls not to be a priority. Ours is an agricultural based economy and as

such there is often a pressure on family budgets unless the harvest is very good.

So: boys are educated first and the girls relegated to second place. Many of the educational opportunities and facilities are focussed on boys. Historically, we have been guilty of this too in the provision of a boys' secondary school (Rondo Junior Seminary) and we have not cared for our girls.

This must change. Indeed we are starting now to make the necessary changes. We in Masasi Diocese seek to be history makers, to be game changers, to see girls educated in the freedom, in the safety and in the joys and pleasures of childhood and adolescence which they are entitled to receive. We are excited by the vision.

So: I write to ask for your prayers. Prayers for our walk, for the project to be received well by the people of the Southern Zone and by the Christians and others in our Diocese; prayers for God's great blessing upon this 10 year project; prayers for the finances to be given, for the personnel to see to the construction and the planning of the school; then for the appointment of the teachers and administrators.

We are engaging in action and in prayer; it is through this walk that I will publicise widely and strongly the vision for girls' education across the area. Then the work begins to raise the money, to survey the land and examine the buildings that remain, then to build this dream will be fulfilled in our time!

Already, sponsor money is being given. I have already received numerous sponsor gifts of 50,000/= from people here (£17.00). If you do wish to sponsor me, please send anything you can spare to The Friends of Masasi and Newala who are receiving any financial gifts you are able to give. Thank you.

Thank you for reading this much, for your interest, for your prayers and if you chose for your sponsorship. Thank you also to our great partnership with you and the Trustees of The Friends. God bless you.

Your friend and Bishop,

+James

What an exciting project this is! We are tremendously impressed by what Bishop James has written and only wish we could be at the Cathedral on the afternoon of Wednesday, 14th June 2017. We can almost see the procession as it winds its way up to the Cathedral – there will be singing and dancing and music as it progresses along the dusty road and there will be some very weary people, but what a joyous occasion it will be and how we would love to be in that procession!

The Trustees of the Friends are fully supportive of all Bishop James' plans for the Girls' School at Namasakata and are more than happy to receive donations via our bank account. Donations can be made in a number of different ways :

- **By cheque, made payable to the Friends of Masasi and Newala (Birthday Walk) and sent to Gill Hucker, 6 Erme Park, Ermington, Ivybridge PL21 9LY. If you are a UK tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid form on the last page of this newsletter, and enclose it with your cheque**
- **By BACS payment direct to our bank account with HSBC: Sort Code 40 36 22, Account No. 52840596. If you email us to let us know you have made a donation via this route, we will acknowledge your gift and, if applicable, we will also send you a Gift Aid Form to complete and return to us.**
- **Direct through our website - friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk - via the Mydonate button. Debit or credit card donations made via this route are credited to our account each month and any Gift Aid that can be claimed is included. This is the simplest and easiest way for charities to receive donations and we are very grateful to BT for providing this free service for Charities.**

We very much hope that similar sponsored walks, to support Bishop James' Birthday Walk, will take place in the UK. As many of our supporters are "senior citizens" we would not expect you to walk 40 miles – but how about walking 4 miles? Please be assured that whatever you do, your efforts will be very much appreciated.

BRENDA IN AFRICA

Address by Tim Brooke at Brenda Stone's funeral - 25th November 2016

I was in Tanzania with Brenda, though only for four and a half years. I now live here in Coventry and my wife Gill and I have been proud to count Brenda as one of our best friends. Like so many people, we shall miss her deeply.

There are marvellous African nuns in Tanzania and last month they sent us a gift of a beautiful candle they had made. Gill suggested: why don't we light it for Brenda? And that is what we will do now. [*The candle was then lit by Brenda's friend from Rwanda, Alphonsine*] It is inscribed with the words 'Fadhili za Bwana ni za milele', 'the Goodness of the Lord is for ever'.

In January this year the current doctor at Lulindi where she had worked as a nurse, Dr Lawi Issa, sent an email asking for a photo of Brenda. It was to be put up in the rebuilt Lulindi Health Centre. I immediately thought of the picture in the book 'Against All Odds' published here in Coventry in which there is a whole chapter about Brenda's life. That was duly sent with some others. Two photos of Brenda are now in fact hanging on the wall of the new 'Brenda Stone Maternal & Child Health Building'.

Dr Issa met Brenda here in Coventry not long ago. He told the staff at Lulindi three weeks ago about her death. The older ones, who had worked with Brenda, burst into tears.

But Brenda left Tanzania in 1976 and it is now 2016! It is a mark of the impact she made that she is still remembered there 40 years later, above all as Mama Lishe, Nutrition Mother, for her work going round villages in the remote Anglican Diocese of Masasi.

It was in Egypt that Brenda had been inspired - by army chaplains she met during her time in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) - to become a missionary nurse. After six years of training she set sail for what was then Tanganyika in 1954.

Sailing back to England in 1956 for her first leave she got caught up in the Suez crisis. Her ship had to turn back in the Red Sea and go round South Africa, a six-week trip. As usual Brenda saw it all in a positive light - it gave her the chance to see Capetown!

Like me, Brenda was a member of UMCA, the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, founded as a result of Dr Livingstone's journeys in Africa. We took more or less monastic vows - signing on the dotted line that we would not get married, that we would obey our Bishop (Trevor Huddleston) and that we would live a life of relative poverty. We were paid £30 a year + our keep.

Later Brenda probably saved Bishop Trevor's life. She came out of Lulindi hospital to greet him one day and opened his Landrover door, whereupon he started to fall out in a diabetic coma. She quickly shut him in again and ran for a

stretcher. Only by shouting into his ear as loud as she could did she then get him reluctantly to swallow some warm milk.

She was always very amused how many members of the mission ended up leaving so that they could get married. The quiet, almost furtive, romances which went on are a major theme running through her 70-page African memoirs.

Brenda was enormously proud of what she saw as her two great personal achievements: the training up of local staff as Medical Assistants to take over from the Europeans (the country had achieved independence in 1961) and the dramatic improvement in the health of small children.

Many children had poor health. Little babies were OK but, as soon as they were weaned, at about one year old, they became prone to all sorts of infections. The answer was better nutrition. At first Brenda showed the mothers posters with what she called 'improving messages' but they didn't work.

Oxfam then gave Brenda a car so that she could go out to the villages not with posters but simply with a large cooking pan. She would arrive, light a small fire on the ground and cook maize porridge in the pan. The trick was then to throw in whatever protein there might be at hand - groundnuts, beans, milk, even dried fish - to demonstrate what healthy food was. This is what she did for her last five years in Africa. It saved lives!

At one point Brenda listed what she liked about being in Lulindi.

- The sun shines every day
- We have a lot of fun, and a little joke goes a lovely long way
- In a few years one can see an enormous improvement in the health of the children
- There is no telephone as yet, ah bliss!
- We have dancing in the Nurses Home
- It's exhilarating to be caught up in this exciting period of growth and development in a young country
- The work is so URGENT, there is no doubt we are needed.

Brenda was a cheerful, compassionate, practical, enormously positive person in spite of getting more and more frustrated recently at not being well. Since the beginning of the year she has been saying she was ready to go.

Her regular parting shot, with a twinkle in her eye, was a cheery 'Be sober, be vigilant!' That came from the night-time service of Compline which we used to say every evening in UMCA . The service begins 'The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end'. Three weeks ago that prayer was literally granted for Brenda.

Archbishop Rowan Williams has said that Christian people should be holy people and that holy people means being joyful people.

With her unfailing cheerfulness Brenda was a truly joyful, holy person.

BRENDA IN HER OWN WORDS

I thought it would take years for the idea of Family Planning to catch on, but (perhaps because I had been around for a long time and people knew me) the mothers were thrilled to hear of this new service and many were thankful to join immediately. At a preliminary meeting in a school, I nervously broached the subject, not at all sure how it would be received, and then said, “if anyone is interested??” whereupon the entire meeting rose to its feet and came towards me! “Me first!”

.....

We decided to cook UJI, the same sort of maize gruel which all the children were given at home, and then improve it by adding protein foods. We did it their way, which involved begging a bit of burning wood from a nearby house, starting a fire, fetching some water, and cooking a huge pan of the gruel, and then adding whatever Protein food could be obtained, sometimes milk, eggs, pounded up ground nuts or cooked beans, sometimes even dried fish. (I did sometimes put in an egg, but this was not a good idea as everyone knew eggs make your hair fall out!!)

‘It took a long time. By the time we got out the mugs and handed it out to all the children it was often about 11 o’clock and the sun getting high in the sky, but they scoffed it all and some-one usually licked the cooking pot (sufuria) clean. Sometimes I had a mugful myself, it was good. I loved to see this part of the clinic, it reminded me of my Dad, saying when we were children, “I love to see my kids eat”. So I insisted on doing the whole thing every time even though sometimes the fire wouldn’t go, and it was hard to resist the normal nurse’s urge to GET ON with the more usual activities.’

(From Brenda’s African Memoirs)

On her return to Coventry she continued nursing till she retired at 60. Her time in Africa led to much other activity too – a weekly stint in the Fairtrade shop, raising money for the Blind School founded by Bishop Trevor in Masasi – not to mention collecting thousands of pounds for Christian Aid. She made friends with refugees and worked with Churches Together with Refugees in Coventry. She also ran the Monday morning Toddler Group at her church.

In 2012, Brenda became a local celebrity as the series ‘Call the Midwife’ was broadcast on BBC TV. She was one of the last surviving midwives who had done their training with the Sisters of the Community of St John the Divine in Poplar. The community eventually moved to Birmingham. They had a special service in Birmingham Cathedral at which Brenda met Jennifer Worth when she was in the process of writing her book. She asked Brenda for anecdotes about her time in Poplar, some of which, like this one below, were incorporated into both the book and the series.

Most births took place in people’s houses. The midwives insisted on having as much heat and light in the bedroom as possible. On one occasion, to Brenda’s amazement, she saw a tortoise crawling across the floor. It had been hibernating in a box under the bed and thought that spring had arrived!

Personal memories of Brenda – from Susanna Grunsell

In 1967 Bishop Trevor answered my offer of help, as a hospital-trained nursery nurse, in his Diocese. He gave me the opportunity to spend 18 months working as a “companion” to Brenda at Lulindi. When told I was travelling by bus from Kampala, she is reputed to have said “I think I might get on with this girl”.

We have been very good friends since then. Once left on our own in Lulindi and the other European and trained staff had gone to Masasi, we realized we urgently needed staff to run the hospital – not only the three wards, but also the TB and Leprosy long term wards and the Out Patients.

I remember vividly spending many evenings with Brenda, working out a curriculum, timetable and “lectures”. This would be a basic nursing course which we would deliver to the young people as they were recruited. They came, both sexes, from the local Secondary Schools and we interviewed them to select the best. We had a young Tanzanian Rural Medical Aid. William Chikumba – equivalent to a fourth year medical student, who gave the lectures on the main diseases we treated in the hospital. Brenda was supposed to be just the administrator, as I remember, but as ever in her life, she turned her hand to tutor, senior nurse and health educator, as well as staffing emergency ops – we only had funds to run the electricity generator for about six months in total of my time there.

Brenda was such a wonderful companion to me – coping with my youth and inexperience. Her great sense of humour got us through many dark times of the extreme malnutrition we encountered and tragedy of life decisions made by the local people. A young child’s life or returning to their homes to plant crops for the next year, taking the child home to die.

My short time there was certainly God given, for which I have been eternally grateful.

Hapa kazi tu - Get down to work!

Just after my visit last year a new President of Tanzania, John Magufuli, a Christian, took office, following a Muslim, as has been the custom in Tanzania. "Hapa kazi tu" is the slogan with which he came to power. This slogan, "Get down to work", has already brought about some radical changes in the country. He arrives early in the day, unannounced, at Government offices, and if any members of staff are not there or sleeping they are sacked. Hundreds, if not thousands of 'ghost workers' have disappeared from pay rolls, and the rush hour is now one hour earlier in Dodoma, the capital! A public holiday has been cancelled and the money saved is being used to buy hospital beds. There are many other examples such as fighting corruption vigorously and imposing a work ethic based on his slogan.

The new President is also keen to make Tanzania more self-sufficient. His policies are now starting to 'bite'. For example, with the price of sugar almost doubling, people will think twice about the usual four spoons of sugar in a mug of tea. The Government is also cutting down on imported goods in an effort to achieve self-sufficiency within the country. However, the introduction of import taxes (mostly 20%) on goods destined for charities is a big blow to many NGOs.

This is the background against which the CMM Sisters are working. The President's plan to cut imports to encourage self sufficiency will be good for the country, but the resulting rise in prices will be hard for the Sisters and other charities and NGOs, as will the new import taxes.

As I began my visit it was clear that the CMM Sisters are working hard, as ever, and achieving much, in spite of setbacks like the poor harvest this year due to the lack of rain. This has created big problems in many areas. The rainwater harvesting tanks not only at CMM houses were only partly filled.

The number of orphans assisted by the Sisters is ever increasing, not only in the schools. They took me to see an elderly couple looking after twins, the mother having died at birth. The sisters supply them with milk for the babies daily. These two boys, now eight months old, looked really well fed and happy.

At another house, the sisters had taken in a baby, which the mother had abandoned in a rubbish dump directly after birth. A passerby heard the cries of the baby, which has been called Anna after the lady who found her. Anna has now been with the Sisters for several months.

The Girls' Hostel, which I opened last year, is full of happy and contented young girls, relieved to be in a secure place at last, getting a chance to

study and enjoy life at school. Several of these girls, however, come from very poor subsistence farming families, and their parents cannot afford to pay for their daughters to have breakfast before walking the hour it takes to reach the schools. The Sister in charge hopes to start a vegetable garden, and to keep some chickens as well, so that she can sell the eggs and the produce to fund the feeding of these girls. I hope we can start a bursary fund to support the daughters of the poor subsistence farmers in this hostel to ensure that they do not become a financial drain on the limited resources of the CMM Sisters.

On a Sunday morning a group of girls from various backgrounds sang and danced in a traditional manner during the service. They had planned and performed on their own without any help, which is impressive.

I visited the CMM Sisters' Health Station in Sayuni in South West Tanzania with the Swiss doctor, Dr Fluckiger. We saw the new MCH Unit (Mother and Child Health Unit), which was in its final stages of building. We were also able to witness the progress in many other areas of treating patients, especially those with Aids. This project, supported by the Old Catholic Churches for five years, has now ended. However, we did not get the Health Centre Status recognition by the Government as expected, because the requirements for this recognition have recently changed drastically. The new regulations require a 'Health Centre' to be almost a hospital, with a fully equipped theatre, surgeons and anaesthetists to perform operations, which is clearly beyond the means of the CMM Sisters.

At the school for blind children, which can be rather depressing, I was delighted to see a little albino boy taking his blind friend by the hand to run to their class. Albino children, especially in Tanzania, are in danger of being kidnapped and used for witchcraft.

Visiting the school for children with learning disabilities I was, as usual, given a hearty welcome by the children and their teachers. I was asked if I could provide dolls and toy animals so that the staff could teach the children the names of the parts of a body and the names of the animals.

The generous gift of chalices, patens, ciboria, candlesticks and other items of church ware from a closed church in the UK were gratefully received and immediately put to use at the services in the Convent chapels and churches. This need demonstrated so clearly that in Africa Christianity is growing at a fast rate.

Gloria Deo - Glory to God,
or as they would say in Swahili, **Tumshukuru Mungu!**

Dirk Juttner, November 2016

**COMMUNITY OF ST MARY, KILIMANI MASASI, PO BOX 502
MASASI
MTWARA REGION, TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA
ANNUAL LETTER NO 32 - YEAR 2016**

Dear friends and Partners,

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” (Micah 4:2)

We chose the words of Micah, as we go up to the mountain of God, our hearts and minds raised to be with Him in prayer, so that when we come down from the mountain we can walk and labour in the valley in His service. When our Lord calls us to serve him, he does not promise an easy way. He calls us to follow him with courage, with tenacity, in the face of all difficulties. The call is unmistakable.

We thank God that this year we have passed through many difficulties but as we mentioned above, we’ve seen the hand of the Lord has been with us, helping us, guiding us and leading us to the green pastures. May his Name be glorified.

On 6th January, this year our dear Sister Magdalene CMM, the 4th Mother Superior, fell and broke her hip. She had a hip operation and she is now doing well. We thank very much the CSP Sisters for their great financial support and all friends and relatives who helped us while she was in Ndanda Hospital. God Bless them.

In April this year, Mother Superior visited UK for a month through the invitation of the CSP Sisters and the Board of Trustees of the African Sisters support group. While in UK she was able to visit York, the Community of the Order of the Holy Paraclete at St Hilda’s Priory, Whitby and the Community of Holy Name, Derby, Coventry and other places.

We would like to thank them so much for their great help and support to CMM Sisters.

In August, this year we had a Conference of Nuns and Monks of Anglican Religious Communities of Central and Southern Africa which was held in Sayuni, Njombe from 11th – 15th August 2016. The participants came from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania

which hosted the Conference and the theme of the Conference was: The Growth in Religious Life.

We would like to thank Dr Max of Partner Sein and the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland for their great help to our Sayuni Dispensary. Through their help this year we were able to extend another building for Reproductive Child Health, Preventative Mother to Child Transmission and Care and Treatment Clinic; also for helping other projects for the Sisters in Sayuni Convent.

Our Njombe Nursery School had Standard VII School Leavers for the first time this year. The Regional Commissioner of Njombe, Dr Rehema Nchimbi was the Guest of Honour and the former Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Tanzania the Rt Revd Donald Mtetemela was the Celebrant at the Service held for that purpose.

Also the School needs dormitories for the boys and girls who live far from the school and where the school bus can't reach. It is not easy for the parents who have been transferred from Njombe to other regions to leave their children behind as there is nowhere safe for them. We need your help so that we can build the dormitories to help the children and their parents in case of immediate transfers. The results of their exams were very good. All Class seven students have passed to Form I. In the District level they took the second place and in Regional level they took the fifth place. Congratulations to the teachers of St Mary's Pre and Primary School for their good work.

Newala Nursery School has a problem over the land but we hope by the end of this year it will be sorted out.

We would like to thank very much the Friends of Masasi for helping the Sisters Education at Rondo Junior Seminary. One of the Sisters has completed Form IV this year and also thanks for helping two Sisters studying at St John's University College, Dodoma; one is taking an Agriculture & Livestock Course and another Sister is taking a Diploma Course in Social Welfare Development.

Early in November this year a big fire occurred at Sayuni and destroyed the timber fields; it has caused a big loss. The people whose fields have been destroyed are demanding to be paid as soon as possible so that they can plant new trees next January to replace the burnt ones. Please pray for the Sisters as they are worried they don't know what to do.

We would like to thank the Reverend Fr N.D. Nixon of Missionaries of St Andrew, Australia for helping our CMM Houses including Zambia. Without his help, most of the houses couldn't have been as they are.

We would like to thank Dr James Almasi, the Bishop of the Diocese of Masasi for helping the CMM Sisters at Mtandi to renovate their house and also the Sisters in Njombe for buying solar equipment for their farm house in Lutikila.

As we couldn't have enough space to mention every one by name, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and partners inside and outside the country who helped us in thoughts and deeds, in one way or another, financially or materially please accept our sincere thanks. Your help is highly appreciated. God Bless you.

Please pray for our Houses in Mtwara and Tanga that need renovation. Also we need your help to build our Noviciate House in Songea as we mentioned in our last year's annual report. We have not yet started.

CMM Sisters, Community of St Mary

When this letter was sent to us it included several photographs – including one of Sister Magdalene CMM taking her first tentative steps with a walking stick, after her hip operation, the new building under construction at Sayuni Dispensary, the celebrations at Njombe Nursery School and the members of the African Sisters Support Group at Shoreham, as well as a photograph of the participants in the Conference of Nuns and Monks of Anglican Religious Communities of Central and Southern Africa which was held in Sayuni, Njombe from 11th – 15th August 2016.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to include these photographs in M&NN as they do not reproduce sufficiently well but we will try and include them on our website.

We are pleased to print the report on the following page from Steve Arbery, one of the Trustees of the Friends, who has undertaken a personal challenge, together with a friend, to support the Blind Unit at Mtandi Primary School. This unit was established by Bishop Trevor Huddleston and was initially a Diocesan initiative. Later it became part of the Government-funded Mtandi Primary School, which is adjacent to the Cathedral complex and very familiar to anyone who has ever visited Masasi. Brenda Stone worked tirelessly to raise money and to support the children in this special unit; she was particularly anxious to ensure that sun hats were available for all the children with albinism – seemingly perhaps a very small thing, but Brenda knew that how important it was for these children to have protection from the effect of the Tanzanian sunshine.

Fundraising for the Blind Unit at Mtandi Primary School

Last year (2016) my optician friend and I decided we would raise £5000 to help the children in the blind unit at Mtandi Primary school. The unit is part of Mtandi Primary School and has about 70 pupils, the primary school over 1000. The children in the special unit have a variety of problems with their sight and many are totally blind. Some suffer from albinism and some have other physical difficulties.

In the previous issue of Masasi & Newala News I described in more detail the plight of the blind children at the unit and the difficulties faced by disabled children in Tanzania. Despite the efforts of their carers and teachers, the children in the unit are impoverished educationally. Their general wellbeing, especially the children with albinism, is also of considerable concern. The facilities at the unit - classrooms, educational equipment, play areas - are all far below the minimum standard we would expect to see in a similar unit in the first world. The unit lacks specialist equipment for teaching Braille and as a result opportunities to read books in Braille do not exist. The sight of some children could be improved by surgical intervention but for nearly all the cost (about £400) is far too expensive and because the operations

take place in Dar, there are additional costs for transport and for staff to accompany the children.

Our fund raising efforts are bearing fruit. We have about £4000 in the bank and this year we will hope to raise the remaining £1000. A quiz night is planned for March and other fund raising activities are being considered. My grandson ran an eight mile 'marathon' last year to celebrate his 8th birthday and raised £200. He says he will run nine miles when his next birthday comes round. The 'Centipede' challenge (to raise £1000) has also proved popular. This involved being one leg of a centipede and hosting a coffee and cake morning (afternoon or evening) and raising £10. Some hosts were 12 legs! There are still 'legs' available. The challenge also made for very pleasant social gatherings.

Our next step is to discuss with the new Head of the unit how we best spend the money raised and we hope to work with both the Tanzanian Development Trust and African Palms on this, as they have both given considerable support to the unit over the past 18 months. We think priority should be given to those whose sight can be improved. We could spend £5000 a hundred times over and still there would still be a considerable need for capital expenditure on buildings and equipment. Then there is the cost of specialist teachers.

Somehow I think raising £5000 will be just the beginning of a longer term programme of support for the Unit. If anyone reading this would like to know more about what we are doing and how you might help please get in touch with me: stevearbery@gmail.com or 01386 750877. I would like to stress that although I am a Trustee of the Friends of Masasi & Newala, I am doing this fund raising as a personal initiative and all the money raised so far has been transferred to the Friends' account, where it is ring fenced for the Blind Unit.

Thank you.

Steve Arbery

Report from the Friends of Masasi & Newala

In February the Trustees were delighted to be able to have an opportunity to meet with Bishop James in London, following his visit to the Archbishop's Conference in Canterbury, and we had a very successful full day meeting with him at the offices of US, not far from Waterloo. Bishop James updated us on all the developments in the Diocese and his plans for the future – information on all of which is contained in his Christmas newsletter.

We were fortunate enough to be able to obtain accommodation for +James at the Clergy House of St Matthew's Westminster, which he very much enjoyed – a good location, good company and an excellent breakfast and although it was a bit of whirlwind, we felt that his time in London was a great success.

When we heard that +James was coming to England at that time of the year we were concerned that he would not have adequate warm clothing but much to our delight, one of our long-standing supporters and a friend of +James, Sylvia Kassulamemba, managed to buy a wonderfully warm and capacious man's overcoat from a charity shop in Reading, where she lives, and not only did she have it cleaned but packed it up and sent it direct to Canterbury (c/o The Archbishop) so that the coat was waiting for +James when he arrived. He was delighted with it and wore it constantly, and when he flew back to Tanzania, it remained with the Trustees so that it is ready and waiting, should +James make another visit to England during the wintertime.

As far as a new vehicle for Bishop James was concerned, the Trustees agreed that following the massive and generous support given by the individual parishes in Masasi (totalling in excess of £8000), the Friends would go ahead with the purchase of a new Toyota Landcruiser for the Bishop. As a registered charity the Trust was able to purchase this through the good offices of WEM Hamburg, direct from Japan, cif Dar at a cost of £18,806. This was an incredibly good price, considering that if bought in the UK, a similar vehicle would cost more than £35,000 (to which would have to be added the cost of transporting it to Tanzania).

The Trustees knew that they would also have to pay the clearing charges, which were likely to amount to approximately £2000 but decided to go ahead with the purchase and we are delighted to report that the vehicle arrived in Dar, as promised. There was a short delay before it was cleared from the docks, but in the end everything went smoothly and the new Landcruiser is now proving incredibly valuable to Bishop James and enabling him to travel much further afield in the Diocese than had been possible previously – and, we hope, in relative comfort. Bishop James has asked the parishes for their continued support for the new vehicle to ensure that it is serviced on a regular basis, and also to help with the cost of the diesel and we understand that this support has been forthcoming, which is very encouraging.

Bishop James outlined his plans to open a Bible School for catechists at Kwintonji; this will entail rebuilding/ refurbishing the original buildings of the Girls' School, which was established on this site in 1911 and, most importantly, using this site will maintain the legacy of the UMCA missionaries. He explained that the Diocese has thirty parishes and fifty priests, but each parish has as many as 14 outstations, which are largely dependent on the catechists. There are approximately 400 catechists, both men and women (similar to Lay Readers in this country) in the Diocese of Masasi and it is hoped to run 6-month courses, each attended by 50 people. The catechists would be taught by the Vicar General, Father Douglas Msigala and by Father Charles Saidi and the parishes, which already pay the priests' stipends, would be responsible for the catechists' living expenses while they were studying at the Bible School. The Trustees offered their support and congratulations to Bishop James on the plans for the Bible School and agreed to pledge £5000 towards all the costs involved. £2000 was sent in July last year for the purchase of beds, and we have just sent a further £3000 + £350 from the SWIM project to pay for the provision of a mains water supply to the School.

After the special meeting with +James in February, the Trustees only had one meeting in 2016 and that was on 17th September. The delay in holding another meeting was because Jennifer,

Jonathan and Dirk, as well as Shirley Talbot's two sons, James and John, were all planning to visit Tanzania during the summer months and we felt it important to wait until we had the reports on their visits and were therefore completely up to date on the current situation in the Diocese, before the Trustees met together.

The Trustees spent a considerable time discussing St Anne's Guest House at Mtandi, which the Friends built and equipped between 2002 and 2004. The Guest House has proved to be a valuable asset for the Diocese but the Trustees who stayed there this year reported that the building is in need of general maintenance work and refurbishment, both inside and out. After discussion it was agreed that this is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore the Friends would not be able to give any financial support to St Anne's at the present time.

It was agreed to continue to support the Bishop Trevor Scholarship Scheme for at least one more year and therefore four new students started in January 2017. Our readers may recall that the BTSS was originally established following the service in Lancing Chapel to dedicate a stained glass window in memory of Bishop Trevor. Archbishop Desmond Tutu gave the address at this service and the entire collection was given to the Friends. Through the BTSS the Friends have provided funds for a total of thirty students, both young men and Sisters from the Community of St Mary, to undertake a four-year course of study at the Rondo Junior Seminary. The money from the original collection at Lancing College ran out several years ago, but the Trustees feel that this is such a valuable scheme and so very much in the spirit of the Trust, that they have ensured that it still continues. Many of the young men and women who have benefitted from the scheme have progressed on to work as teachers, priests and health workers and the Trustees have agreed that as long as funds are available, they will make every effort to ensure that the scheme continues.

It was also agreed at this meeting that £1000 would be sent to Action Medeor (in Germany), earmarked for St Michael's Health Centre at Lulindi, to enable them to purchase drugs and other

consumables and that £1000 would be sent to the CMM Sisters as a one-off payment to help with the university fees of two Sisters. In addition the Trustees agreed to pledge £1000 for books for the newly established Library and the Junior Seminary.

The Trustees' next meeting will on Saturday, 4th March 2017 when they will again review the current financial situation and, after discussion, will decide what support they feel able to give to the two Dioceses during the coming 12 months.

Appeal for Treasurer

The Friends of Masasi & Newala is a small Registered Charity with a Board of eight Trustees. It was originally set up in 1990 by the Reverend Canon Ronald Cox, fondly known as Ronnie to so many people. Ronnie had worked with the UMCA in the Diocese of Masasi for very many years and when he returned to the UK he continued to support the Diocese and the people of Masasi to the best of his ability. In 1990 he was given a relatively modest sum specifically for the Diocese of Masasi and probably because he was not in the best of health, he decided to set the wheels in motion to establish the Friends of Masasi Charitable Trust. The aims of this Trust - laid down by Ronnie and unchanged to this day - were for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and the provision of health care in the Diocese of Masasi. Sadly Ronnie died in January 1991 before the Trust was registered with the Charity Commission but, wisely, he had already appointed five other Trustees who continued to administer the Trust as he had specified in the Trust Deed.

The Trust has now been operating for more than 25 years and from its very modest beginnings it has succeeded in providing well in excess of £500,000 worth of support to the Dioceses of Masasi and Newala - an amazing achievement for such a small charity. Apart from recent appeals to its supporters (for St Cyprian's Chapel, the SWIM project and Steve Arbery's personal project to support the Blind Unit) the Trust has never engaged in any fund raising and it is administered solely by the eight Trustees, none of whom claim any expenses apart from essential postage and the cost of producing Masasi & Newala News. There is no doubt that the Trust has

benefitted tremendously from the generous donations given by its supporters, and over the years it has received two very generous legacies – and to all these wonderful people, the Trustees are enormously grateful.

Gill Hucker was one of the original Trustees and has always acted as Secretary and Treasurer, ably assisted by the other Trustees, but she admits that she is now “running out of steam”, although she is more than happy to continue as Secretary and to be responsible for the general administration of the Trust.

We are therefore seeking a Treasurer to oversee the Trust’s finances, to reconcile the bank accounts each month, to make payments to Tanzania as instructed by the Secretary, to submit accounts to the Charity Commission on an annual basis and to complete the Gift Aid claim form and submit it on a regular basis to HMRC. The Trust has no investments, merely a relatively small sum in a deposit account (which is earning a miserable 0.01% from 22 February!), the balance of its money being held in two HSBC accounts, a Business Money Manager and a Community Account. All donations are paid into the BMM account, funds are transferred from this account to the Community Account when money has to be sent to Tanzania and all international transactions are via the internet.

As the Trustees are scattered through various parts of the UK - Devon, London, Gloucestershire, Hereford, Warwick and Worcester - they only meet twice a year, usually at the home of Stephen and Linda Jarvis in Minchinhampton (which seems to be the most central location for everyone). Meetings are held on a Saturday, and there is no requirement for the Treasurer to attend these meetings, although he/she would be very welcome to do so. However, the Trustees would require a statement on the Trust’s finances to be circulated prior to each meeting. There is no remuneration involved, but reasonable expenses such as postage, would be reimbursed. Ideally the Treasurer should have an interest in the Dioceses of Masasi and Newala and preferably have first knowledge of what life is like in this area of Tanzania, although obviously this is not essential.

If anyone should be interested in taking on this post, please email Gill Hucker at gillhucker@btinternet.com or ring her on 01548 830407 for further information.

SWIM 2016



To try and raise the profile of the FoM&N, the Trustees decided to hold a regular event, such as a coffee and cake morning, which would also give an opportunity to raise funds to assist the Diocese of Masasi. This suggestion was discussed with the Bishop of Masasi, and Bishop James came forward with a request to support water projects in Masasi.

The initial idea was to have small group events nationwide, all around the same date, each raising a small amount towards a grand total to fund the two projects that Bishop James had nominated. The two schemes that needed funding were, new guttering on the north side of Mtandi Cathedral, and additional water conservation at Rondo School. The plan was to write to all supporters on the Friends' database, who received Masasi & Newala News, and invite them to hold a Coffee Morning or something similar, around the weekend of the 24th and 25th September.

Well - the response from all the readers of this magazine was nothing short of amazing. Almost by return cheques were being sent in, and by the early summer these donations had amounted to more than our original target of £1200 - and we had not held a single Coffee & Cake Morning at that point! Some supporters held a barbecue, others organised a raffle; there was a breakfast before church, as well as a cake and coffee morning. The total, assisted by Gift Aided donations, has now exceeded £3000. All of this will be spent on water projects in Masasi, and the local Diocesan team are considering which new ventures should have priority. We have already been asked to fund the installation of running water into the Bible School which will cost around £300.

On behalf of all the Trustees I would like to say a big thank you to all the readers of M&NN; you have been wonderful in your response to our **Save Water In Masasi** campaign, and the proceeds are already making and will continue to make a vast difference to the lives of people in Masasi.

Thank you.

Revd Stephen J Jarvis



Connecting Classrooms

The British Council continues to offer schools the chance to link with schools in Tanzania and I am glad to say that my school has been able to sustain a link since 2008. St Barnabas C.E. Primary School, Worcester, where I am a teacher, has been linked to Mnara Primary School in Lindi Rural School District since then and many teachers have visited each other in each school. As Mnara Primary school is a stone's throw from Rondo Junior Seminary, our link has not only enabled us to work alongside Mnara, but also to get to know Rondo teachers. Sadly, the British Council has now withdrawn support for Tanzanian teachers to visit the UK as there are too many concerns in the ongoing immigration situation, that they will fail to return to Tanzania.

We have not visited since February 2015 but with modern technology it is easy to keep in touch these days. At the beginning of our partnership there were many challenges with communication, but smartphones have revolutionised keeping in touch. One of the difficulties for schools is typing and printing costs as the staff set many tests and also write their own national examination papers, which are then marked by other teachers; there are no centrally set O levels! This is an expensive process and sometimes fraught with challenges if the electricity supply stops. With a smartphone, teachers have been able to send photos of handwritten papers for me to type and these can then be emailed back to Tanzania to be printed.

The Diocese of Masasi is always so welcoming to us when we visit Mnara. To climb the 19 km up to the Rondo plateau would be an insurmountable journey if we were left to our own means, which would be the back of a motorbike, but thankfully, the Rondo Junior Seminary Land Rover comes down to the main road at Nyengedi to collect us. We have been able to share in many events in the Diocese over the years and it is always lovely to go to Masasi and to be able to show our pupils that they are part of the Anglican Church that stretches across the world.

Technology is such a powerful tool and as so many teachers get to grips with it we are exploring the possibilities of how to help Rondo Junior Seminary in particular to benefit from this.

An organisation called World Possible has collected together a set of freely available educational resources such as science videos, English stories, history and geography textbooks. These can be used without internet connections as they are all stored on a memory card or a flash drive.

However, printed books are still vital and we were very happy when our school library was redesigned and we were able to reuse many books in simple English for Rondo's Preform 1 to read.

Our school holds our partnership in great affection and we are able to learn so many things from our Tanzanian friends. My class sing in Kiswahili every day to say goodbye to each other and we consider it a great honour to have been welcomed into Mnara village and to see life in an African village which would be impossible without our partnership. We are planning another visit in May 2017 and hope to strengthen our bond as we work together on a project about “Waste”, of which we will have much to learn about how we tackle this in each country.

Jennifer Oakley

Hostels for young girls attending Secondary Schools in Masasi Town

For many years girls and young women who attend Secondary schools in Masasi Town and whose homes are too far away for them to travel to and from school on a daily basis, have had problems in finding appropriate accommodation in Masasi Town. As a result of this many have been subjected to sexual harassment and some have become pregnant. When Bishop James was the Parish Priest at Mkuti he became deeply concerned about these girls and in an attempt to find a solution, he suggested building a hostel at Mkuti. Since becoming Bishop he has worked hard to fund this hostel and we are delighted to report that these plans have matured well; the site is bought, foundations have been laid, and electricity and water are both nearby. The hostel will be run under the auspices of the Diocese but open to all young women, of any faith and with no proselytising. It is hoped that the hostel will become a secure base as well as a study centre with a library and computers and will provide a safe haven for a large number of girls and young women who attend Secondary School and Forms 5-6 and need to board out in Masasi Town.

In addition to this, the CMM Sisters' Support Group has been responsible for the construction of a hostel for teenage girls, adjacent to the CMM Convent at Kilimani. This hostel is now up and running, with 20 young girls living there, and is proving to be a great success. The only problem is that the parents of some of these girls cannot afford to pay for their daughters to have breakfast before they set out to walk to Masasi Town - about an hour away, so the Sisters are now hoping to start growing vegetables and keeping chickens to provide money to fund the girls' breakfasts.

Although the Friends have not been directly involved in either of these projects, we thought our readers would be interested to hear about these hostels, particularly since they are another example of Bishop James' deep concern for the welfare of girls and women in the Diocese and the work that he doing to address this issue.

The Diocese of Newala

It saddens us that the Friends receive no news whatsoever from Bishop Oscar and the Diocese of Newala. We understand that various groups in the Diocese of Hereford as well as the Bramhall Group in Stockport are still in contact with the Diocese and that Newala also receives considerable support from the United States.

Because we are unaware of what is happening in the Diocese – apart from brief reports brought back by visitors to Newala – the Friends made the decision some time ago to concentrate their efforts on supporting St Michael's Health Centre at Lulindi, which is managed by Dr Lawi Issa. This was once a thriving hospital with special Leprosy and TB wards but it fell into disrepair and it has been a monumental task to restore the buildings, to build new facilities and to renovate the whole site. Thanks to the dedicated commitment of Lawi Issa, St Michael's is now a thriving Health Centre and with help from African Palms, the Diocese of Hereford and the Bramhall Group they have built a new operating theatre, installed solar panels to provide electricity and most recently acquired a vehicle for use as an ambulance.

The Friends help by sending substantial payments to Action Medeor in Germany to enable St Michael's to purchase drugs and other consumables for the Health Centre. Although Action Medeor is based in Germany, it has offices and a warehouse in Dar and when we transfer funds to them, we advise Lawi and he is then able to place an order for what is needed. We find that this arrangement works very well, it suits St Michael's as they can "buy" whatever is needed at that particular time and Lawi is always very grateful for our support.

Dirk Juttner visits the Health Centre whenever he is in Newala and he tells us how hard Lawi is working, although still often under difficult circumstances.

STOP PRESS

A short while after this issue had gone to the printers we received the following report from Andrew Mchawa, the Academic Master at Rondo Junior Seminary. Although it was received too late to be included in the printed version, it is included here, in the online version

I am so pleased to write to you so that I can share the fruitful things that keep happening in our school.

The school academically is improving day by day. We have done very well with Form 4 exams where there are 10 Division 1, 20 Division 2, 27 Division 3 and 6 Division 4. There isn't any division 0. (*"O" Levels are called Form 4 exams in Tanzania. Students are graded with subjects taken as we do in the UK with letters A-E. The grades are then added together to give the student a level within a band. Division 1 is the best level, followed by 2, 3 and 4. Division 0 is as you would imagine the lowest band.*)

Today we had a meeting with those parents whose children scored under 50 to advise them of the strategies we have to help their children. Our great plan is to let students who will sit for exams not to go to home. Our teachers are ready to help them during all the time of the June holiday.

Rev Phares, our Rector, is good at organising as he has planned a lot of issues on how we can move forward to take the School from where it is to another better stage than before.

I hope that Fr Phares will let you know also about our plans as we are about to start finishing Form 5 and 6 buildings. We have two streams for Form three classrooms, Form 3A and 3B. We have a lot of science teachers to teach in all classes. Students are so happy as they receive education in a better way.

I hope I will keep be able to sharing so many issues relating to academic affairs.

Many blessings!!!!

Andrew Mchawa,
Academic Master, Rondo Junior Seminary



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