

***MASASI &
NEWALA
NEWS***

Issue No 32

March 2018

Contents

A note from the Editor	3
Christmas letter from + James Almasi, Bishop of Masasi	4
Christmas letter from + Oscar Mnung'a, Bishop of Newala	9
Annual letter from the CMM Sisters	12
Report from the Friends of Masasi & Newala	14
The Diocese of Newala	16
Gift Aid Form	19

“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.

Gill Hucker, 6 Erme Park, Ermington, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9LY
Telephone : 01548 830407 Email : gillhucker@btinternet.com

*Please note that the opinions expressed in
“Masasi & Newala News” are those of the
individual writers, and not necessarily those of the
Editorial Team, who nevertheless reserve the right
to edit contributions as they think fit.*

A note from the Editor

You are probably somewhat surprised to receive another issue of M&NN so soon after the previous one, but there are two reasons for this. Firstly, we did not receive Bishop James' Christmas letter until after M&NN No. 31 was circulated and as his letter contained so much information on what had happened in the previous year, as well as his plans for the coming year, we felt it was important to give everyone an opportunity to read what he has written as soon as possible and not to have to wait until the publication of the next issue of M&NN, which under normal circumstances would be some time after Easter.

Also, as we have mentioned in previous issues of M&NN we have not had any communication from Bishop Oscar Mnung'a, the Bishop of Newala, for several years. However shortly after Christmas we did receive a long letter, via email, from Father Jackan Waweru, the Vicar of St Michael and All Angels in Mtwara, asking for funds to help with the expansion of the Church in Mtwara, which is probably the largest in the Diocese of Newala. We advised Father Jackan that the Trustees would discuss this request at their next meeting in April and mentioned, while writing, that it would be good to hear from Bishop Oscar – and a few days later we received a long letter from the Bishop himself. We were delighted to hear from him after such a long time and interested to read of his plans, not only for the expansion of the Church in Newala but also for the construction of the Hope Centre to care for the many orphans in the Diocese, and again we felt it was important for our supporters to read this letter as soon as possible.

We have also taken this opportunity to include the Annual Letter from the CMM Sisters, who do such invaluable work, not only in the Dioceses of Masasi and Newala, but also further afield.

And finally, we are pleased to be able to include a report on the latest activities of the Friends as well as two reports from Jennifer Oakley on developments at the Rondo and an update on the “motorbike taxi service” being run by Felix Andrew, which the Trust has helped launch.

STOP PRESS : The elections held in Dodoma on Thursday, 15 February resulted in the current Bishop of Tanga, William Mndolwa being elected to serve as the new Archbishop of Tanzania and a young priest, Sosteneth Jackson being elected to serve as the new Bishop of Dar es Salaam.

Letter from + James Almasi, Bishop of Masasi

Friday, 23rd December 2017

My dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our greetings to you this Christmas! Veronica, our family and I greet you and your families this Christmas time as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

“Thanks be to God who has brought us out of darkness into his wonderful light”

Let us say first of our great thankfulness to Almighty God for what He has enabled us to do this past year. We have been very busy in our Diocese as you will read.

We are so thankful to God for the unity among the clergy and congregations in the Diocese. This was a key agenda in my message at my Consecration in 2014 and God has blessed us in this by His grace. There have been a number of deaths amongst the Masasi Family and we mourn the deaths of some clergies especially Revd Fr Julius Taidi of Mumbaka Parish who was the much respected Rural Dean. He was killed when travelling on his motorcycle by a drunk driver. He is a great loss to us as a much respected and committed priest. The second significant death was that of my own father, Mzee Barnaba Almasi. He died aged eighty nine after sixty five years married to Mary, my mother. They had lived most of their lives in Sindano village where he had served as Catechist for forty two years. I will tell you that as a young Christian I was his server in that parish.

We do much appreciate our visitors to Masasi Diocese and every time you come you bring the blessing of God to us. We do thank especially these visitors - representatives from African Palms in both the UK and the USA who have visited us to see the African Palms workers in the villages and to gather information about the projects they support here. Also visiting us have been the Chair and representatives of PWRDF (Primates World Relief Development Fund) in Canada. It was a great pleasure to welcome these visitors to see the projects that PWRDF are

sponsoring in and around Nachingwea where the lives of many families and communities have been transformed through the generosity of the people of Canada. We do thank the PWRDF very much for this and their continued funding of the projects in Tunduru. We have also welcomed Mr Dirk Juttner, the Chairman of the Friends of Masasi (UK) who visited a number of projects funded by the Friends in both Masasi and Newala Dioceses.

Perhaps one of the biggest events this year was my Jubilee Birthday Walk - a celebration of my 50th birthday! I was walking all the sixty four kilometres from Sindano to Mtandi to raise money for the building of St Catherine's Girls' Secondary School in Namasakata. I have a dream to build this school in the grounds of the former UMCA College. On this walk we stopped at the villages along the route to tell the people about the plans we have to build the school and of the great need to educate our girls; educated girls become educated mothers who will in turn build and develop our nation. One hundred and twenty four of us started the walk before sunrise and by the time we had reached the Cathedral in the afternoon there were many, many hundreds of people who had joined the procession as it made its way through Masasi Town. Everyone was singing and cheering their encouragements - the noise was great! Here in Masasi we have raised 78 million shillings (£27,000) and together with the many contributions from the UK and other places we have raised a very great amount of money - over £50,000. I do thank everyone most sincerely. This was a wonderful day as I walked from my home in Sindano to the Cathedral in Mtandi where I served special birthday cake to the walkers and our welcoming guests, including the District Commissioner and other members of the local government in Southern Tanzania despite my extremely tired feet and legs! All I can say is that God is God of the impossible. There is nothing I or anyone can say except to exalt and glorify Him who deserves to be honoured. We can now proceed with our dream to build the school at Namasakata!

One of the other great days was to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our ordination. Together with some five fellow students from Masasi Diocese we have been blessed in twenty five years in

ministry. At a special Eucharist in the Cathedral the offering amounted to more than three million shillings (3.3 million T/= : £1,140). This money is being used already to build thirty benches for the Bible School at Kwitonji.

Masasi Bible School: the buildings near the Cathedral which belonged to the Franciscan Brothers are being renovated and the site expanded to provide classrooms and dormitories. In 2018 we shall open the Masasi Bible School which will provide education, training and teaching for the hundreds of Catechists serving in our parishes. This will greatly improve the ministry in the out-stations of each parish of these faithful men and women who serve the church with little training. We must increase their knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures, develop their ministry and deepen their lives as disciples so equipping them for their ministry of love and teaching in the parishes. It is our dream and this will be a significant development in the Diocese.

We are now in Year 3 of the 5 Year Strategic Plan with our two key areas of Pastoral Care and Social Services:

Pastoral care: I have visited twenty two parishes this year to give the Christians there a week of Bible teaching, to hold open air meetings and to support the evangelistic campaigns. Together with the team of people - clergies and evangelists using the Jesus Film, we have encouraged the parish members, seen changed mindsets and attitudes of those in the villages. We have welcomed many converts including Muslims who have come to faith in Jesus. A further six new parishes have been created this year and four new Rural Deans have been installed. God is so very faithful and we see the Diocese growing in so many ways; we do give our thanks and praise to Almighty God.

Social Services: as we seek to transform the lives of the people in the villages we have been much helped in this by many different people: PWRDF working and supporting transformation in Nachingwea, Tunduru and their surrounding villages; African Palms (UK and USA) who amongst other projects are sponsoring two university students in Dodoma; TDT (Tanzania Development Trust); St Francis Potomac, Maryland (USA); the Parish of

Bridgnorth (Hereford, UK) and the Friends of Masasi and Newala who over many years have been very supportive and encouraging in their numerous and varied partnerships with us - recent initiatives include the Special Unit in Mtandi, the Barnaba Almasi Clinic in Sindano, in Rondo, the Trevor Huddleston Scholarship, teacher training provision, additional resources for the Library and support for the CMM Sisters.

The way forward in 2018 is encouraging to us as by God's grace we hope to see many things happen and I write to you of three highlights:

Education: it is one of my priority aims again to see the transformation of the mindsets of my people; their spiritual and emotional attitudes and thinking must be changed so they can use their own resources to transform their family lives, to see their faith develop and grow and so impact the service and witness of the church. My heart is to help and encourage my people.

Namasakata: we have made eighteen thousand bricks for the new school and with the Government permission we plan to start building the new school in 2018. In my mind is the idea to hold an annual Birthday Walk each year to raise funds from the local community and to keep the vision alive in their thinking; we must aim to be self-supporting and self-sustaining in the development of our nation and Diocese.

Kilwa Kivinje : the church in Kivinje is celebrating that they will soon have a church building for their own through the generosity of friends in UK. For many years they have been meeting under a tree and now they see the nine thousand bricks that one hundred and sixty seven youth made in the first week of December. These young people travelled from across the Diocese to spend a week in Kilwa Kivinje making bricks. We are so thankful to God for their hard work; they had a great time together and it was a wonderful witness amongst the local people. Kivinje Christians are a very few amongst many, many Muslims and it is a difficult and challenging environment for believers. We hope to consecrate the new building in 2018.

Challenges in 2018: as we develop new parishes in response to the growth God is giving us in the church and to encourage new ministry we have a shortage of clergy. We must maintain the legacy of the missionaries and train new priests. Next year we start the most important and much needed training of our catechists. Over a four year period we shall train more than four hundred catechists who do a great work in partnership with the priests, but more priests are needed. It will be our challenge to prepare for and welcome ordinands back to Rondo and renew the clergy training which includes both theological and practical farming training. Already I have many letters of application for this training of clergy.

I do thank you and all those who have supported and encouraged me: as Bishop in this Diocese, as the father and daddy of my family in our children's studies; also for Veronica who has successfully completed her studies - her English is much improved and she is now the proud holder of a Certificate! You, as individuals, churches and organisations have blessed us so greatly through your prayers and gifts, your partnerships and friendships. God is faithful and we see his faithfulness expressed in so many ways through you, our friends in UK, in Canada and in USA and other places too. I would also express my gratitude to Bishops Mary (Montreal) and Richard (Hereford) for their prayers and fellowship this year; also my former Principal, Bishop Michael Westall (now living in Hereford).

Together with Mama Askofu Veronica and our children Faraja (at University), Hugh and Happy (both at secondary school), I send you our very best wishes and our prayers for your Christmas celebrations and for God's richest blessing in 2018. Let me remind you and encourage you that you are welcome to visit us; there is always a special and warm welcome for you here!

Mungu ni mwema: yes, God is good and this is our testimony of His love in 2017. May God bless you this Christmas.

My prayers as we enter into 2018 together.

Your friend and brother, +James Masasi
Rt Revd Dr +James Barnaba Almasi, Bishop of Masasi

Christmas letter from + Oscar Mnung'a, the Bishop of Newala

Greetings to you from Newala, Tanzania, East Africa! Hope all is well in UK. We here in the Diocese of Newala we do thank Almighty God for his guidance. Fr Jackan Waweru telephoned me and told me that you wanted me to write to you so that you may know the progress of the Diocese and the needs.

First I want to thank the Trustees of the Masasi Newala and especially on the side of healthy as you have been helping the Health Centre in Lulindi - thank you so much.

The Centre is doing very well and on 25th October 2017 it was officially opened by the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Tanzania, the Rt Rev Dr Jacob Erasto Chimeledya and the event was very good.

My prayers and thanksgiving comes to you for the wonderful support which you have extended to the Diocese of Newala, yes, it has been a hard year for us as a ministry but yet stands to be the most rewarding year in my ministry here in Newala, Tanzania. As you can recall the ministry here has been so successful in many ways, the Lord has done to us more and more than what we would have expected.

The Lord continues to give us villages; we have just come back from one week crusade where we officially launched Mchauru Church some 45 kms away from Newala. The leaders' training kicked off very well in September, as I write the Pastors are in class for their second Semester. I have been able to do two Mission trips, to America and Swaziland this year, in these I saw the Lord save, heal and encourage the body.

With your help, we are believing God to build an orphanage, **Hope Centre**. This will give hope to the hopeless children who have no one to take care of them, as the centre will give shelter, clothing, food, medication and above all spiritual guidance. We are believing God to start off the project by January 2018, believe with me for funds. The home will accommodate 100 kids. We

are trusting God for the finishing of the training Centre. Please continue to believe with me.

I do have two most precious projects which I hope the Trustees will help me and these projects are:

- a. Extension of St Michael and All Angels Mtwara parish.
- b. Orphanage.

The Extension of St Michael and All Angels, Mtwara parish :
As you know when the Diocese of Masasi was split and the new Diocese of Newala was established I was given some parishes with the retired Bishop Patrick Mwachiko but he gave me some parishes which are very, very weak in terms of finances and I have got only two parishes out of 42 which are functioning well and that is at St Mary's Cathedral in Newala and St Michael and All Angels parish in Mtwara; Mtwara is the heart of the Diocese as the number of Christians has recently increased and thus the parish now is in the process of expansion. The Church was built on 15th March 1958 by the late Provincial Commissioner of Mtwara D. S. Troup and I hope you can trace his family in UK so that they may also help us.

In the expansion process we shall need some financial support from friends and well wishers as we cannot carry this huge project alone so we shall need some volunteers who will stand with us. The parish of Mtwara has arranged for fund raising in order to get Tsh. 450,000,000 (*four hundred and fifty million Tanzania shillings = approximately £149,000*) and the chief guest of Honour will be the Minister in the office of the President, the Honourable George Huruma Mkuchika and the Master of Ceremonies will be the Rt Rev Dr James Barnaba Almasi, the Bishop of Masasi.

Until now the parish of Mtwara has collected Tsh. 23,594,753.00 (*approximately £7,800*) so you can see how the things are going.

The Orphanage : Orphans have been in our hearts for many years; these kids have no one to show them love and as we enter to this year's Christmas, I wanted you to think about these orphans more. These precious children lack basic education, shelter, food

and clothing, medical attention and most important of all, spiritual guidance.

The Lord has put it in my heart to build Hope Centre, a place to give hope to these hopeless kids. As I write to you we have picked only 55 orphans to begin with. When the centre is built and completed, we will bring them in, and this will be a blessing to these kids. The construction work will commence in January 2018 and the same time we are starting the school for these kids and the rest. In January, we shall offer three classes namely, Baby Class, Nursery and Pre-Unit.

Any gift coming to us this time will go to these two great projects. Please also believe with me for funds to touch these lives, and in these we need, the buildings, chairs, desks, books, school uniforms for kids and also pens and toys.

Please pray with me and continue to support this work as the Lord enables you.

Thank you for your unfailing love to my family and me, and the body of Christ here in Newala. Surely, time goes quickly. Very soon we will be celebrating ten years since the Lord brought Agnes and I to this village.

As I finish, I want to wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year 2018.

Yours in His Vineyard,

+ Bishop Oscar Mnung'a

Newala Diocesan Bishop

Dean of the Anglican Church of Tanzania

Annual Letter from the CMM Sisters

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

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Compassion and the God of all Comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

We thank the God of all Comfort who has comforted us – our house in Sayuni after the disaster of fire last year; God has given a good harvest this year and they are able to help those in need. Also we thank the African Support group and the CSP Sisters for their great support to our Girls' Hostel. Through their help we were able to help sixteen Secondary School girls whose lives were in a difficult situation. They've found the Girls' Hostel as their home; even during school holidays some of them have asked to remain at the hostel. Also they have formed a Choir of their own, they sing every Sunday and the Muslim girls have also joined the Choir of their own accord - no one forced them. Some other girls are serving at the Altar during the Eucharist.

Sayuni Dispensary : We thank Dr Max and the Partner Sein and the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland for their great support. The construction of the mortuary is in the final stage as only the doors and windows remain to be finished. The construction of the corridors has been completed. Also this year, the Sisters have been able to register their Laboratory and at Ibumi they've now got clean water for domestic use. In Njombe the construction of the Girls' and Boys' dormitories is still in progress. Our house in Dar-Es-Salaam has had a bumper harvest.

Education : We thank very much the Friends of Masasi in UK for their great help that two of our Sisters who were at St John's University to complete their studies. One Sister has obtained a Certificate in Live Stock and Agriculture and another Sister has obtained a Diploma in Community Development. Three Sisters have completed Secondary School education - one at Rondo Junior Seminary, Masasi Diocese and two at

Hegongo Secondary School in Tanga Diocese. Another Sister has completed a Religious Education Course in Dodoma, she is now helping at our St Mary's Pre-Primary School in Njombe.

Thanks : We thank very much the Rev Fr Neville D. Nixon and all Members of Missionaries of St Andrews Abroad for their great support to CMM Houses. Through their help we were able to help the orphans, the widows and the needy. We thank the CSP Sisters and the African Support Group for helping the CMM Sisters in Zambia in many things to mention a few: the construction of their house, drilling of borehole, education and other things. Also we thank very much Mr William in U.K for his great help that enabled us to have a borehole at Masasi Convent. Also we thank Revd Reinhard Pods of the Old Catholics in Germany for helping us to buy a solar pump for the borehole; now we have plenty of water for domestic use and for the irrigation project.

Also we thank very much Mrs Beatrice Reusser of the Swiss Old Catholics for their big contribution that we were able to build a Nursery school which is at the foundation level.

We thank very much Mama Brenda from U.K. of Tanga-In-Touch and the African Support Group of U.K. for their great contribution that helped us to renovate the Tanga House and the Chapel. It looks brand new.

We thank the Warwick Parish in U.K. for helping the Girls' Hostel to buy a milking cow named Malala.

In August this year we have been invited to Zimbabwe to attend a Religious Conference, the theme was Religious Life yesterday, today and tomorrow. It was very good. We were blessed.

Challenges : Due to lack of irrigation machines, we find it very difficult to run our irrigation project during the dry season especially at Masasi Convent as we don't have irrigation machines. Please pray for us that we get the machines for irrigation.

Future plans : We need to build the Primary School at Newala, Secondary School at Njombe St Mary's and the completion of the Nursery School at Masasi.

Conclusion : We would like to thank so much all our benefactors inside and outside the country for their great support to CMM Sisters were it were not their physical and spiritual support we could not have reached our goals. As the space is not large enough to mention all the names, God Bless you all.

The CMM Sisters

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF MASASI & NEWALA

The Trustees are very grateful for all the generous cheques they received over the Christmas period and also for the donations which were made via our website. These have all been acknowledged although some of the website donations were made anonymously. Please be assured that we are very grateful for all your support which means so much to us and to the people of Masasi.

As mentioned in the previous issue of M&NN, Joyce Cutbush asked for donations in memory of her to be made to the Friends and the Trustees agreed to set aside these funds towards the cost of establishing a library at the new Girls' School to be built at Namasakata. We are pleased to report that the donations received shortly after Joyce's death, as well as at her funeral and the subsequent memorial service (with the benefit of Gift Aid) amounted to over £1225. The Trustees have agreed to round up the figure to £1500 and these funds will be held by the Trust until the Diocese is ready to go ahead with purchasing books to establish the new library. We feel sure that Joyce's family and her friends will be pleased to know that she will be remembered in this way.

We are also delighted to report that the Friends' first venture into supporting a small one-man business in Masasi is proving a great success as will be seen from the following report from Jennifer.

Felix Andrew, a previous Rondo boy has barely stopped smiling since taking delivery of his motorbike! He watched it being assembled from its wooden crate, bolt by bolt, and the bike is already making a big difference to his daily life and also the lives of those in his village. A primary school girl who had a serious head injury from falling out of a tree was taken to Mkomaindo Hospital and Felix has ferried other people to town and to school to begin their studies. He is already making a small income and has deposited funds into the bank to repay the loan from the Friends. It is hoped in time, that when he is ready, the loan may be passed to a new young person in order for them to be able to make a start in business. The bike has had a cover fitted to protect the petrol tank from rust in the wet weather and Felix is now waiting to take further training, given by the police, which enables riders to obtain a full licence. He could not be more hopeful for his future and that of his family and community as he is now able to use the hours of the day in such a productive way - after attending to his farming activities.

It is very encouraging to know that this venture is proving such a success and at their next meeting the Trustees will discuss the possibility of extending this opportunity to another young person.

The latest news from The Rondo : The new academic year has started at Rondo Junior Seminary and the boys have returned to start in their new year groups. Many who finished their “O” levels in November are now waiting to get their results this month - hoping they can continue along their chosen path and the teachers are hoping that Rondo maintains its good ranking within the national tables for secondary education.

The boys usually begin by tackling the school environment and have been vigorously collecting up the enormous number of fallen windfall mangoes into a compost pit. It sounds exotic, but it's a lot like apples for us! Too many to be able to eat! The rains have begun and the new water tanks that the Friends purchased are now filling up and providing much needed everyday supplies for the school. Previously when water shortage hits, teachers and boys are asked only to draw water, say, on three days a week in order to conserve the supply. Now with more capability to harvest the rainfall, the situation is considerably eased. Teachers are continuing and striving to bring in more technology to lessons and the availability now of a large photocopier and laptops is making exam and test preparation so much easier. The recently provided solar power has made so much difference to the possibilities for teachers in terms of light, radios and laptops, especially in the evenings and there is now no teacher who sits in a tiny office marking work by the light of their mobile phone! One of the next priorities is to build a small building for administration so that parents and visitors can be received and welcomed, and meetings held much more easily. All at school are so grateful to be able to know that they are valued and encouraged as part of the Anglican community worldwide and send their greetings for a Happy New Year.

It is good to have this first hand report from the Rondo, via Jennifer and below we print a letter from Phares Lihewe, the Headteacher which shows how much our support is appreciated.

I had been silent for long despite the fact that we had to provide feedback on some issues. This came about due to some circumstances like National Exams, Annual Exams, Holiday, as well as the possibility of the lorries from Mtandi HQ to help us with the shipping of tanks. We are glad now that the sim-tanks and solar installation are all done. Thus, what we can do now is to ask for the forgiveness for a long delay.

Last week we managed to ferry the tanks from Masasi as it was easy on the issue of transportation. We thank God and the Trustees for the big support done. Solar powers also were installed but he had to finish with few things in a single house. He also came last week.

Indeed we have a lot to express our feelings on how we appreciate your support. But what we can say is these few words. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. It is so helpful. With a lot of thanks, Phares

We are pleased to report that several of the Trustees will be visiting the Dioceses this year; this is very important as it enables us all to be updated on what is happening in both Masasi and Newala but we would like to stress that the costs of all these visits are borne by the individual Trustees and none of the Trust's funds are used to assist with air fares or expenses. Stephen and Linda Jarvis together with five other people from Minchinhampton are visiting from in May and Jonathan Rendall will be visiting in June. The key focus of Jonathan's visit will be the Consecration of the new Church in Kilwa Kivinje; 9000 bricks have been made by the young people who have travelled from across the Diocese to give a week at Kivinje. Dirk Juttner will also be visiting later in the year and we understand that Dick Lane, from York, who is a loyal supporter of the Friends, hopes to make a visit during the next few months. Please feel free to contact these people direct, or via the website, if there is anything you would like them to do for you while they are in Tanzania.

THE DIOCESE OF NEWALA

As mentioned earlier, the Friends are now in touch with Bishop Oscar and apart from the two projects he has mentioned in his Christmas letter – the extension to the Church in Mtwara, and the construction of an orphanage in Newala - he is now asking for £9,000 to complete the partly built Cathedral Hostel at Newala.

This project has been funded to date by St Michael's Link Group in Bramhall, Stockport, but as they have recently funded a number of different projects in the Diocese, including village water harvesting projects, porridge breakfasts for primary school children and the provision of an "ambulance" for St Michael's Health Centre in Lulindi, they feel that at the moment they cannot provide any additional funding for the Hostel.

Hamida Adkins, the current Chair of the Bramhall Group has given us some background information on the proposed Cathedral Hostel, which was first discussed with Bishop Oscar and with Sr Helena when

a group visited Newala in 2013. The initial plan was to build a simple 12-place hostel, consisting of six ensuite twin rooms, arranged around a central sitting and dining space. The aim was, and remains, to provide accommodation for external visitors to the Diocese and for those attending Diocesan meetings who needed accommodation, as well as commercially rented-out accommodation. In this way it was hoped that income would be generated for the Diocese, the Sisters (as hostel operators) on behalf of the Diocese, would have further employment and it would also create employment and regeneration through the multiplier effect.

The Bramhall Group were enthusiastic about the project and wrote to show their interest in helping to finance the building. They were, however surprised by the low estimate for building costs subsequently provided by Sr Helena so added a premium to cover any underestimate and cost inflation during building and set themselves a fund raising target of £10,000. Over the next twelve months they managed to raise the £10,000 but shortly afterwards Sr Helena moved to Tanga and the project was taken over by George Miwanga (Project Manager for the Diocese) and when he looked at the drawings of the hostel and the building work required he substantially revised the costs upwards.

By 2016 considerable work had been completed and we understand that the basic structure is now complete but still awaits windows, electrics, decoration and other finishing touches, which it is estimated would cost a further £9000. The Bramhall group feel that they cannot abandon the other projects they are funding in the Diocese and therefore at the end of 2017 suggested to Bishop Oscar that he should look elsewhere for the funds required to complete the hostel - hence his approach to the Friends for a grant of £9000.

This is a substantial amount as far as the Friends are concerned, but the Trustees will discuss the three requests from Bishop Oscar when they meet at the end of April and they will then decide what they may be able to do in light of their financial situation at that time.

We felt it important that our readers were made aware of the situation in Newala and we would be delighted to receive donations for any of Bishop Oscar's projects :

- The Extension of St Michael's and All Angels, Mtwara Parish
- The construction of the Hope Centre – a children's orphanage, or
- The completion of the Cathedral Hostel at Newala.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of “Masasi & Newala News”. Please also look at our website as this provides additional information and photographs which we are not able to include in our newsletter, and if you are happy to read M&NN online, this is available as well on the website :

www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive M&NN on a regular basis, please send your details to Gill Hucker at the address overleaf. There is no charge for the newsletter but donations towards postage are always appreciated.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the Friends, there is a MyDonate button on the website, and (for UK tax payers) if you complete the relevant section we receive the Gift Aid immediately.

Last year we received more than £2000 in Gift Aid which is extremely valuable to us.

Thank you to everyone for your support – we are only able to help the people in Masasi and Newala because of you!

And finally, if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, rather than just putting it in the bin, PLEASE contact us and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

gillhucker@btinternet.com / 01548 830407

FRIENDS OF MASASI AND NEWALA CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1009963

GIFT AID DECLARATION

**I wish my donation to the Friends of Masasi & Newala
to be treated as Gift Aid**

Name : _____

Address : _____

Amount of donation : _____

Date of donation : _____

Signature : _____ Date : _____

Please tick as necessary :

	I would like the Trust to use my donation for the benefit of the Diocese of Masasi
	I would like the Trust to use my donation for the benefit of the Diocese of Newala
	I would like my donation to be used for the following purpose : _____ _____
	I am happy for the Trustees to use the money as they see fit.

*I know that I must pay an amount of Income / Capital Gains Tax at least equal
to the tax The Friends of Masasi & Newala will reclaim on my donation.*

Please send to the Secretary and Treasurer :
Mrs Gill Hucker, 6 Erme Park, Ermington, Ivybridge, PL21 9LY
Telephone : 01548 830407 Email : gillhucker@btinternet.com

