

***MASASI &  
NEWALA NEWS***

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**SPECIAL SILVER  
JUBILEE EDITION**

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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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*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.*

As you will see from the cover of this newsletter, this is our Silver Jubilee! It is 25 years since the Friends of Masasi Charitable Trust was founded and for those readers who may not be aware of how the Trust came into being, we print below a short history of its formation and what it has achieved over the past 25 years.

## **THE HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF MASASI & NEWALA**

Father Ronnie Cox was sent by the UMCA to work as a Missionary Priest in the Diocese of Masasi in 1944. Apparently he was told to find his own way there and managed to get a berth on a troop ship which was en route to Singapore. At Cape Town he left the ship, planning to make his way overland to Masasi but part way through his safari he was struck down with appendicitis; after an emergency operation in a local hospital and a short rest, he resumed his journey by various means of transport until, several months later, he finally reached the Cathedral at Mtandi. He spent 28 years in the Diocese of Masasi and his time there is best summarised in the following obituary which appeared in *Tanzanian Affairs*, shortly after Ronnie's death in 1991.

*Father Cox, as he was most widely known, was born in 1912 and died on 23 January 1991. He will be remembered well both in the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania and also in the Parish of Ermington in Devon. After serving his curacy in Gorton, Manchester, he offered himself to the missionary society founded by David Livingstone, the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, and was posted to the Diocese of Masasi in 1944 where he remained until 1972. The full story of those 28 years can never be told but he has left a tremendous legacy in buildings, and, such was his personality, that no doubt he is even now a legend among Tanzanians. 'Bwana Kilele' (Mr Noise) had a powerful voice which went with his physique as well as his generous and enthusiastic Christian service to those around him, regardless of the cost to himself. Amongst other places, he served at Newala (1944), Chidya, Nachingwea (1952-56) and Mtwara (1956-62) before becoming Procurator of Masasi Cathedral in 1963 while Trevor Huddleston was Bishop of Masasi. Bishop Huddleston has said about those years at Masasi **"I can't imagine I would have achieved anything without him. He was a 'Jack of all trades' and a master of each one"**.*

In 1972, at the age of 60 Ronnie Cox left his beloved Masasi and became Vicar of the parish of Ermington in Devon – a small village with only a few hundred inhabitants. This was a world away from Tanzania but he

soon made his mark and more than 45 years later he is still remembered by many people in Ermington. He never tired of talking about Masasi and his parishioners became very aware of his close ties to Masasi when many of the people who effectively had been his family for so many years, came to stay at the Vicarage – often for several months at a time.

Ronnie was a popular priest and the congregation willingly supported most of his projects and through his contacts with Bishop Trevor Huddleston, other people he had met in Masasi and friends in England, he unashamedly “pulled strings” to achieve what he wanted, or more importantly, to provide the Diocese with what he felt they needed. However, he was always scrupulous in ensuring that every penny donated for Masasi was carefully recorded and for many years the Treasurer of the PCC ran a “Masasi account”, but when he received a gift of more than £60,000 he decided that the accounting should be formalised and he opened a special bank account entitled “The Friends of Masasi”.

A few years earlier Ronnie had been diagnosed with an aggressive melanoma on his leg (the direct result of his many years under the African sun) and after a number of operations, he took steps to set up a charitable Trust called The Friends of Masasi. Shortly afterwards he retired and moved to Shaldon but sadly, after two years of retirement, Ronnie’s health deteriorated and he died shortly before his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bishop Trevor Huddleston conducted his funeral Mass, his ashes were interred alongside the doorway of Ermington Church and he left everything he had to his friends in Masasi – and there is still a carved black crucifix hanging over the pulpit in Ermington Church and an ebony Madonna and child in the Lady Chapel - a reminder of this small parish’s links with a Diocese far away in Africa.

**The Friends of Masasi Charitable Trust was registered with the Charity Commission in 1992 and over the past 25 years has given more than £550,000 worth of support to the Dioceses of Masasi and Newala.** *(In 2009 the original Diocese of Masasi was split into two separate Dioceses and in 2011, with the agreement of the Charity Commission, the Trust formally changed its name.)* **It is now managed by a Board of seven Trustees, all of whom give freely of their time and expertise and the only expenses incurred are postage and the cost of producing Masasi & Newala News. The Trust has never engaged in any outside fund raising but has been generously supported by very many people who worked in Masasi and more recent supporters who have been impressed by the achievements of the Trust and especially the enthusiasm and commitment of the current Bishop, the Rt Reverend James Almasi.**

## **A note from the Editor**

It is with great sadness that we report the death, on Tuesday, 19th September, of Barnaba Almasi, Bishop James' father, and we know that all our readers will join with us in sending our deepest condolences to Bishop James and to his family on their loss. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Barnaba Almasi passed away after a long illness at the age 89; he and his wife, Mary, who had been married for 65 years, had lived for most of their lives in the village of Sindano, in the Diocese of Newala. James, who was their only child, has always been very close to both his mother and his father, so this is a time of great sadness for the whole family – not only for Bishop James, Veronica and their three children, but also for Mary, who has cared devotedly for her husband for many years. She is now staying with family members in Dar es Salaam where she is receiving medical care.

The funeral of Barnaba Almasi, which took place on Friday, 22nd September was attended by very many priests from all over Tanzania and thousands of local people, and as Dirk Juttner, the Chairman of the Friends, was visiting Masasi at that time, he was able to represent the Trustees at the funeral and pass on the Trustees' condolences in person.

Barnaba was a very well known and much loved man in the village and in the area. He served as catechist in the Anglican Church in Sindano for 42 years and Stephen, a wider family member is now catechist at Sindano. Bishop James owes his faith and Christian nurture in those early years to the faithful witness, example and ministry of his parents - his father would involve him as much as possible in the worship and life of the church, while his mother would read to him from the Bible.

Shortly before his death Barnaba Almasi had been very distressed by the loss of a young mother in the village of Sindano who had died in childbirth for want of basic medical treatment (sadly over the years such deaths have occurred regularly in Sindano and the neighbouring villages), and he expressed a wish to see a fully staffed medical clinic set up to try and solve the ongoing problem. As a result of this, an approach was made to the appropriate Government officials to look at ways in which a clinic could be built and staffed and it was agreed that many lives would be saved and much suffering alleviated if a clinic could be provided to serve the six villages in the area. Many people come to Sindano to seek advice or treatment from a nurse, some from as far away as Mozambique, and the nearest hospital is in Masasi some 67 km away.

As is customary at funerals in Tanzania, donations are given to the bereaved family and the Almasi family were overwhelmed to receive donations totalling 500,000 Tanzanian shillings in memory of +James' father. They decided therefore to use this money to establish a clinic in Sindano in memory of +James' father and at their recent meeting the Trustees pledged £2000 to provide equipment, medication and other consumables for the Clinic, once it has been built.

Bishop James has worked incredibly hard since becoming Bishop in 2014 and the Diocese has flourished and made immense steps forward under his leadership. The past twelve months have been exceptionally taxing for him with the establishment of the Bible College, the Birthday Walk and then the death of his father, and the Trustees felt that after such a difficult few months he needed a period of rest and relaxation – not only to grieve and to mourn the death of his beloved father, but to give him an opportunity to reflect on what he has achieved and to consolidate his plans for the future. They therefore suggested that he should take a short sabbatical, to which he agreed, and consequently he has been spending some time at a Rest House for the clergy, on the shores of the Indian Ocean. He has taken the opportunity to use the time as a period of study leave and has been working on an instruction book for singers and choirs in the Diocese, which will be sent to the Diocesan Standing Committee for their approval. We feel confident that Bishop James will return to the Diocese refreshed and with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the endless challenges that lie ahead and the Trustees are pleased to have been able to facilitate this quiet time for the Bishop. It is for this reason that this issue does not include a letter from Bishop James, but we feel sure that our readers will understand the reason for this.

## **The Birthday Walk**

As you will have read in M&NN No. 30 Bishop James announced that on Thursday, 14th June he would embark on a “Birthday Walk” from Sindano, the place of his birth, close to the Mozambique border in the Diocese of Newala, to the Cathedral at Mtandi – a distance of 60 kms - to raise awareness of his dream to build a secondary school for girls at Namasakata. At the current time there is little opportunity for girls to obtain a secondary education in Southern Masasi. The Rondo Junior Seminary is exclusively for young men (as its original purpose was to train young men for the priesthood) and on the whole educational provision for girls is virtually non-existent.

When the Trustees met with Bishop James in February of 2016 he told them of his dream to build a Girls’ Secondary School at Namasakata on a site which originally housed a girls’ school, established by the UMCA in the 1950’s, and he had already put together outline plans for the new buildings. Bishop James’ target for his walk was to raise £50,000 (a figure that the Trustees felt was almost unrealistic) and a few weeks before the walk was to take place we heard to our dismay that, since he had broken both his legs in the past few years (as the result of motorcycle accidents prior to becoming Bishop), concern had been raised that it might be dangerous to undertake such an arduous walk. However, after a full medical examination the doctors unanimously agreed that he could undertake the walk and so the plans went ahead.

We understand there was so much enthusiasm for the Bishop’s idea of a school for girls – Namasakata will be the first and only Anglican school for girls in the whole of Tanzania - that very many people wanted to join the walk. There were

so many that the organisers were concerned as to how they would provide sufficient water and food for the walkers, and in the end the number was limited to 100, although we understand that on the day many more joined the Bishop along the route.

Bishop James emailed us the evening before the walk :

*This is the final email I am sending to you informing that everything is okay and that we will be leaving here at 3 pm to travel to Sindano with about one hundred people. We plan to spend the whole night worshipping and at 5 am tomorrow, the walk will begin. I am so encouraged with the response from many here, not only that they will walk with me, but hundreds will also meet with us when we enter Masasi town, where we will join together and walk all the way to Masasi Cathedral. There the Regional Commissioner will be waiting to greet the walkers and a short celebration will follow. I personally will give a special offering before the people, as my thanks for my Birthday. People have been asked to join me in that offering, and whatever is given will be included with the money that has been raised for Namasakata Girls' Secondary School. Your prayer is continued needed.*

We received a message during the afternoon of the walk to let us know that they had all reached Masasi Town, with photographs of hundreds of people walking along the dusty road, waving banners, led by the Bishop in his smart white tracksuit and then a few days later an email from +James himself

*Let me begin with this saying, "Yesu ni Bwana", which means Jesus is Lord!!! It is five days ago, since more than 123 people and myself managed to walk from Sindano where many villagers welcomed and prayed for us all. We left Sindano at 4.30 am and reached Mtandi about 2.15 pm, where the Guest of Honour and other Government officials were waiting to receive us. It was a marvellous walk, singing all the way, and it is true that God himself gave us extra energy to enable the walk to be completed. According to the Bank statement of June 13th, a day before the walk, people deposited Tsh. 78,000,000 which I think is over 30,000 US\$. Yesu ni Bwana. I am extremely tired but of course I am so thankful to God for this and many people who joined me in this dream I had.*

We could not believe that the walk had raised such a large amount – the equivalent of more than £26,000! The Friends had already received some generous donations so we were delighted to be able to boost this figure – but it was sadly still short of the £50,000 that Bishop James had hoped to raise. And then another incredible thing happened. Completely unexpectedly we received two exceptional offers to make up the missing amount and within a few days we had received sufficient funds to meet Bishop James' target. When we told +James that he had reached his goal of £50,000 his reaction was one of absolute delight and wonder and he replied :

*All I can say is God is God of the impossible. There is nothing I or anyone in this land can say except to exalt and glorify Him, the God who deserves to be honoured.*

## **We are also pleased to print the following report from Jonathan Rendall which gives some more information on Bishop James' Birthday Walk**

The Diocesan Planning Committee had been drawing up plans and preparing for Bishop James' Birthday Walk for months and had declared two key targets - to publicise the proposal to build a Girls' Secondary School at Namasakata and to raise funds by giving the people of the Diocese an opportunity to contribute to the cost of the establishing the school, and we are delighted to report that the Chairman of the Planning Committee, the Vicar General Douglas Msigala, declared the walk to be a resounding success in both respects.

The route took the walkers from Sindano village in the Diocese of Newala to the Cathedral at Mtandi in the Diocese of Masasi. Although Bishop James was born in Lindi, he had been brought up in Sindano and because Sindano is the Bishop's family home, many people came to support him on the walk. A large group of 124 people walked the full distance, through the heat of the day along the dusty dry-season roads - and all the way they were met by cheering crowds who came out to support the Bishop on his walk.

It all started the evening before the walk with a Eucharist held in front of the house of the Almasi family home, which was attended by many people. After the Eucharist many people gave contributions for the new school – not only the Christians, but also many from the majority Muslim community in the village, together with the walkers who had come in from other parts of the Diocese. The support for +James was amazing.

Many people spent the night in worship and prayer in the church, and before dawn, the walking party rose and set off on their way to Mtandi. Bishop James wore a special birthday walk outfit - red and white trainers, grey tracksuit with black stripes, a red scarf and a flat cap - all gifts for this special walk from the youth groups in the Diocese.

The walkers passed through numerous communities, stopping at the six main villages in Masasi Diocese for refreshments, and this gave +James an opportunity to talk about the exciting plans for St Catherine's and to tell everyone about the project to provide top quality education for girls. He told the people "when we educate girls, we educate mothers and so we can expect development in the nation" and at every stop the news was greeted with loud applause and many people gave generously to the project. All the refreshment stops and the roadside applause gave great encouragement to the walkers and many people joined the walkers for short distances either on foot or bikes. Banners, drums and singing added to the general excitement of the day and the children relished the opportunity to join in the fun! There is no doubt that the chatter, the banter and the singing energised the crowds and helped the walkers on their way.

As the walkers neared Masasi Town the crowds began to swell significantly and the group of 124 people was swallowed up by the crowds as the long procession

made its way through the town. Fortunately the police managed to keep the crowds in order and the walkers finally reached the Cathedral at Mtandi where the Regional Commissioner and numerous other national and local government officials from across Southern Tanzania were waiting to greet and to welcome Bishop James and his faithful band of walkers. Once the group arrived at the Cathedral the Committee Chairman, the Secretary of Managua Parish, Peter John Maukah, gave a formal speech of welcome and congratulations and thanked all the helpers, the Bishop and his entourage of walkers. Hundreds were there for the culmination of this magnificent event and as the final act of the day, the very tired yet elated Bishop served a slice of Birthday Cake to everyone, for which many gave a donation of 1,000/= . Needless to say the cake, as well as the donations, was very much appreciated!

The Birthday Walk was a great success and the courageous and determined walkers were duly rewarded and honoured with cheers, with applause and with congratulations from everyone in Mtandi. For the walkers themselves the sense of achievement was profound but the physical cost was very real - Bishop James reported that his knees and feet were still swollen and hurting three days later!

**Bishop James said, “I am so grateful to God for the many people who have encouraged me in this walk. It was not an easy walk. I thank everyone for their generosity. We shall see what God has prepared for us. I know many people in Masasi and outside have prayed for us so we have a lot of money given for this great work in Namasakata. Our crops have not been good this year but God has touched the hearts of many people in their generosity for us in Masasi. Many people in the UK have encouraged us too in their gifts to help us set up this magnificent school which we will build for the education of girls in our nation”.**

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We have been advised that all the money donated by the people – 78 million shillings - has been deposited in a special bank account in Masasi and as soon as the legal and formal arrangements have been completed, the construction work will go ahead. The, latest information is that the Diocese is currently in discussion with the Government Education Ministry and we have been told that the building work will begin in 2018. The Friends are also holding a considerable sum from donations across the UK which will be passed to the Diocese as and when needed. The Trustees are enormously impressed on how much was raised in Masasi and congratulate the people on their magnificent efforts. This is probably one of the most exciting projects ever undertaken by the Diocese as **St Catherine’s Girl’s Secondary School will be the only Anglican Girls’ Secondary School in Tanzania.** We will of course, keep our readers fully informed on how the plans are progressing over the coming months.

## **Report from the Friends of Masasi & Newala**

The Trustees have met twice this year – in March and most recently in October - and at both of these meetings they approved a number of grants to both Dioceses.

In March, thanks to a number of generous donations and most importantly, a valuable legacy from Brenda Stone, the Trustees approved a substantial grant to St Michael's Dispensary, at Lulindi. As in the past, this grant has been paid to a charitable organisation called Action Medeor who are effectively wholesalers for drugs and medical equipment. They have a warehouse in Dar where they hold immense stocks and St Michael's are now able to "purchase" whatever they need to the value of the funds provided by the Friends. Dr Lawi Issa is very happy with this arrangement and it works so well that at their most recent meeting in October the Trustees approved a further payment to AM for the same purpose.

On his recent trip to Tanzania Dirk made a visit to Newala but unfortunately no officials were available and he was not able to see Bishop Oscar. However, he met with Lawi Issa who told him that although the Dispensary is struggling financially, it is now employing a doctor to carry out some operations and to be there on a regular basis; however they are in urgent need of an operating table and additional funds for medication, and Lawi is still waiting for the Government to hand over their Dispensary. Dirk was very impressed by all that the Dispensary is achieving and they are now treating a large number of local people, which is excellent.

As anyone who has ever visited the two Dioceses will be aware, the CMM Sisters work incredibly hard to help so many different people of all faiths and one of their recent initiatives has been the hostel for girls which has been built adjacent to the CMM Convent at Kilimani. This hostel, which was built by the CMM Sisters' Support Group, offers comfortable, safe, secure accommodation and study space for up to 20 teenage girls who are attending local secondary schools. The girls are of all faiths and since they have a long walk to get to school each morning, it is important that they eat a good breakfast before they leave. Unfortunately the parents of some of these girls are unable to provide the money for breakfast and the Friends were therefore delighted to be able to help by sending funds to help with the cost of providing breakfast. The Sisters were very grateful for this gift and we are told that all the girls are now enjoying a substantial breakfast before they set off each morning.

Shortly before their most recent meeting the Trustees received a long report from Phares Lihewe, the Head of Rondo Secondary School with details of their plans for expansion but also a lengthy list of their needs, and after a brief discussion they agreed to fund repairs to the tractor and to provide money for the installation of six new water conservation tanks and also for the installation of solar panels on the few remaining buildings which are still lacking this valuable source of electricity.

Earlier in the year they had also sent funds for the purchase of text books and they were delighted to learn that the new library has now been set up, the books are catalogued and numbered and a new system of borrowing is in place.

The Bishop Trevor Scholarship Scheme was set up in 2007 following a Special Service at Lancing College to dedicate a stained glass window in memory of Bishop Trevor Huddleston. The collection taken at this service, which totalled nearly £7000, was used to set up the BTSS and since then more than 30 young people have benefitted from the Scholarship Scheme which pays the tuition fees for each young person to undertake a four year course of study at the Rondo Junior Seminary. The original funds were exhausted some years ago, but the Friends have continued to support the scheme and over the years the amount of the bursary has been increased in line with the rise in tuition fees. Every year four young people are invited to join the scheme and at their October meeting the Trustees agreed to continue the scheme for at least another year.

The Trustees also agreed to set up a BTSS Scheme for a teacher at the Rondo – a form of CPD (Continuous Professional Development) to give one teacher each year the opportunity to undertake a course of study, the exact details to be agreed with Phares Lihewe, the Headteacher.

We also discussed financing a motorbike project in Masasi whereby the Friends would provide a loan to enable a young man to buy a motorbike and set up his own “taxi business”. Jennifer Oakley has written an excellent article about this – New Venture (page 16) - and after a short discussion the Trustees agreed to finance the scheme, with certain conditions (as outlined in Jennifer’s article). The money will be sent to the Diocese, for them to pass on to Felix and the project will be monitored by Jennifer, who will report back to the Trustees as needed. This is the first time that the Trustees have embarked on a project such as this, but it was agreed that this would be of immense benefit to a number of people and would also provide an excellent business opportunity to this young man.

Jonathan Rendall drew the Trustees’ attention to the situation facing the Christian communities in the villages of Kilwa and Kilwa Kivinje in a predominantly Muslim area of the Diocese of Masasi, and explained that although the people of Kilwa are able to meet and worship under a tree, the people of Kilwa Kivinje have no place where they meet and worship. However, plans have been drawn up to build a church which would cost in the region of £20,000; they have already established ownership of the land on which the church would be built and have been given permission to build a church. A total of £17,000 has already been raised in Hereford to help towards the costs involved and the Trustees unanimously agreed to pledge the balance required; these funds will be sent to the Diocese once the plans are approved and when building starts.

Dirk Juttner drew attention to the plight of the children (73 boys and 36 girls) with learning difficulties at the Special School at Lulindi; this is a Government School with an excellent and very enthusiastic Headteacher, but the children are desperately in need of certain items, especially clothes – shorts, sandals and t-shirts. The Trustees therefore agreed to send funds, via the CMM Sisters, to enable the Headteacher to buy the school clothing that is needed.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be held in April 2018 when again we will endeavour to assist both Dioceses to the best of our ability; we have come to a unanimous agreement that, given current interest rates, there is little point in keeping money in the bank and on the whole we are therefore spending the majority of the funds that we receive. However, we would like to assure all our supporters that we only make grants when all the Trustees are in unanimous agreement and at no time are any payments made to individuals, but always through the Diocesan account or another recognised and established and reputable organisation such as the Junior Seminary, the CMM Sisters and St Michael's Health Centre

## **Masasi and the Rondo**

*The Rondo is in fact a geographical area, a high plateau, surrounded by huge and magnificent forests of tropical teak and mahogany trees, which can only be accessed from the main road by a tortuous 19 km track up the side of the escarpment. It seems a strange place to build a secondary school, and the following is a brief explanation of how this school came to be built on such an inaccessible but beautiful site. In the 1950's a South African logging company acquired a large part of the Rondo plateau and established a logging camp, with excellent facilities – including an airfield, cinema, water tower and several bungalows built to the highest standards with tiled bathrooms, fully fitted kitchens and magnificent wooden parquet flooring throughout. But within ten years the company had taken all the timber they could from the surrounding forests and the land and all the buildings were put up for sale. Bishop Trevor Huddleston subsequently negotiated to buy the whole site and shortly thereafter established St Cyprian's Theological College to train priests from and for the Diocese and shortly afterwards Rondo Junior Seminary was built to provide education for the young men who were applying to train as priests at the Theological College. It is now one of the top Secondary Schools in Southern Tanzania.*

## **Rondo Junior Seminary**

Rondo is always at the heart of Masasi Diocese and it continues to educate boys from Preform 1 to Form 4: O level. Boys mainly come from the surrounding villages and towns but some are from as far away as Dar es Salaam. The day begins early at 6 am with Morning Mass in the chapel, followed by assembly and flag raising. Lessons follow and eventually a much needed breakfast. Lessons continue after lunch with afternoon prayer. After dinner and school chores such as keeping the school site clean, fetching water and cutting firewood, pupils return to their classrooms for Prep until 10 pm. Rondo boys are always up for a competitive football match, a show of comedy and

impressions and the sound of 200 boys who can sing in harmony without a singing lesson between them is a sound worth travelling to hear.

Most boys who have been able to begin on a journey of academic life will be aiming for universities and further education and many Rondo students go on to become doctors and teachers, such are the values of service that have been imparted during their education. Before university pupils need to study at “A” level and Rondo is now developing the capacity for this to be possible. The classroom building is now mostly finished and roofed and a large water tank has been dug to harvest rainwater from the iron sheet room.

Many Rondo students who have gone on to gain degrees return to Rondo as teachers and there is now a well qualified staff body who realise how much Rondo has contributed to their own education and now want to give the school their services for the next generation. Undoubtedly government school positions can be more lucrative, but teachers are happy to serve in the beautiful environment of Rondo knowing that they are supporting the Diocese.

Technology is beginning to be introduced to Rondo and a projector and a laptop are being used to provide a different method of delivering education and allowing pupils to be much more familiar with visual images and videos to enrich and enliven lessons. It can sometimes be dispiriting to realise that primary school children in Tanzania can sometimes not even recognise their own native animals like lions and elephants in photographs, such is the lack of books and images in other forms. Many Rondo pupils are now growing up with technology and it is hoped that by supporting projects such as installing more powerful solar power and providing laptops, students and teachers will have access to up to date information and technology and a way to engage and stimulate education for Rondo.

## **School Links in Masasi**

This June I was lucky enough to be able to visit our long standing partner school in Mnara which is within the Diocese of Masasi. Our link has been a part of our school curriculum since 2008 and many teachers, bishops and priests have visited us and many teachers have been to Mnara. After years of partnership we have many deeply valued friendships between our two primary schools.

Although our partner school is almost exclusively within a Muslim population, it is only a mile or so away from Rondo Junior Seminary, and this is where teachers stay, so in effect we have two partners for the price of one! Without the help of Rondo, it would be very difficult to get up the 19km rough road!

This year we focussed on a project to explore the topic of Zero Waste - although coming from a country where we waste tons, and going to a country where virtually nothing is wasted, it was a challenge to not sound like a hypocrite. Both schools were amazed to see how creative people can be with items that might otherwise be thrown away; bottle tops made into flower sculptures by artists were admired, but equally lovely was the number counting line made from 100 bottle tops at Mnara School and draughts played with bottle tops!

At St Barnabas children used waste materials to make a huge variety of stock to sell at a school market – plastic bottle gift boxes, milk bottle elephants to mention but a few. Along with not producing waste, Mnara pupils were knowledgeable about the importance of trees within their environment, which as they are within a Forest Reserve area was a great thing to hear.

Our partnership is supported by funds from the British Council for which we apply. The pressures of school life meant that there were no other schools visiting Tanzania this year at the same time as us and so instead of teachers going to a centrally organised event in Dar es Salaam (6 hours on the bus!), as a condition of our visit the British Council kindly agreed to come to see Mnara Primary school. They organised training for all 6 primary schools within the Ward area and also secondary schools, including Rondo. There was also a big community event with village leaders, Forest Managers, teachers from the Ward and the whole school community of pupils and parents. We began by officially opening a new water harvesting tank for the school which had been a project supported from our Thursday Fairtrade café at St Barnabas. Water is such a precious resource and never wasted in Mnara.

This visit I was lucky enough (courtesy of the Rondo Land Rover) to go to the water point where a small river runs through the plateau at one of the lowest points. This water used to be pumped up to Mnara village and other villages by a big diesel powered pump. Unfortunately for more than a year now this pump has not been operating, so there is no village pump in the middle of the village, which has a big impact on daily life. To see a perfectly circular well dug out by hand 15ft deep and 15ft diameter, smoothly cemented with shiny iron sheet gutters and lid and know that this is a technology proof (if not lack of rainfall proof) way to help ensure a water supply, is a heart-warming experience. Tanzanians are expert at water management and able to eke out supplies in a fair and measured way.

As well as working with Mnara teachers there is always time to renew relationships in Masasi town and to visit the cathedral at Mtandi and churches around the Diocese. The Diocese are always so supportive and welcoming to visitors and willing to spend time showing guests the projects and people who are working tirelessly to develop Masasi. To attend the wedding of Assistant Director of Development of Masasi Diocese, Fr Linus Buriani and Thabita at Mtandi, with Bishop Patrick and many priests was another wonderful event and reminded me that this was possible as a result of my school links when I first met Linus, a Rondo Boy, who was teaching at Rondo before going to University.

The school curriculum in the UK requires us to teach children using the Prevent agenda, which at its heart is trying to engender cohesion within our country; I cannot think of a better example to show our pupils than that of Tanzania where generally people live and work peacefully in a pluralist society, showing respect for each other, despite having challenges that most UK citizens will not have to face.

*Jennifer Oakley*

## **Kwitonji Bible College**

The newly renovated buildings which stand in the shadow of Mt Migongo and the cathedral at Mtandi will very soon become the new Masasi Bible College which is being set up by Bishop James. Short courses for discipleship and training courses to develop the skills of lay parishioners and clergy are planned for this College and it is hoped that the first group of students will begin their course of studies in January 2018..

These buildings were originally built by the Franciscan Brothers and it is fitting that they can now be used to continue the work of blessing and equipping Masasi Christians. There will be dormitory facilities and a beautifully restored classroom building and the Friends of Masasi have supported the purchase of beds and have also made a substantial grant to facilitate the construction of a new classroom.

## **New Venture**

The Friends are delighted to announce a new project within Masasi Town and the surrounding area. We have begun the process of purchasing a motorbike with a view to setting up a small business. There is much need for transport within Masasi, especially from surrounding villages where people may need to travel at any time of the day or night for shops or visits to the main hospital.

The adage of “give a man a fish and he eats for the day, teach a man to fish and he can eat all the time” has much truth in it and whereas there is definitely no need to teach Tanzanians how to ride a motorbike (many can do this even when their legs are too short to touch the ground!) this project is intended to make a sustainable business that can be expanded.

Motorbikes are easy to buy and maintain and although the roads are rough in places, safety equipment and training will also be a priority.

Felix Andrew will become the first rider for this new venture. Felix is a Rondo educated boy and although he went on to “A” Levels, he has not been fortunate enough to be given a University place, although he is a fluent English speaker. He would love one day to be able to continue his education and maybe take a Diploma or go into teaching.

Felix, who is 27, is the eldest of five and lives in Chikunja village, just outside Masasi town and has returned to life in a farming family at his parents’ home. Three of his siblings are studying at secondary school and one is married with a young daughter. Life can be a struggle as farming activities are subject to such fluctuations. The harvest of mbaazi (a type of pea) this September, was a reasonable one, but the Government who buy the surplus have set the price so low this year that many people will be suffering with lack of funds. His family manage with a small teacher’s salary as his father teaches at the local primary school, but he will retire in March.

Supporting a family can be hard work and when problems arise, there is no benefit system or rainy day savings to fall back on. Often things happen all at once: school contributions are due (although secondary education is free, the pupils have to board, as the schools are often far from their homes), then parasites attack your chicken flock so remedial powders are necessary, then your bicycle wheel falls to bits, and your bicycle is needed to fetch water. Life is on a knife edge. Which one of these necessities do you prioritise?

The income from taking passengers to and fro will provide benefit in four ways. It will provide a reliable service to villagers, the loan repayments for the vehicle will go on to support Diocesan projects and Felix, who is a faithful member of his community will be able to sustain his family with his own efforts. Local support networks such as petrol sellers, maintenance and servicing businesses will also have a new customer!

*Jennifer Oakley*

## **The Unit for blind and partially sighted children at Mtandi Primary School**

Fund raising to support children in the unit has now raised £5263.89. A very enjoyable and well attended quiz night in March rose over £1100 and helped us exceed our £5000 target figure.

We shall now begin discussions with the Tanzanian Development Trust (TDT) to determine how to spend the money in the way that best helps the children in the unit. This is going to be difficult as we could spend the money many times over. Hard choices will have to be made.

As the quiz night was so enjoyable, another will be held in March 2018. We hope it will be as profitable. Every penny raised will be used to help the children in the unit.

*Steve Arbery*

## **What is a success in Africa ?**

Success in Africa is not rare although that is the impression that the media always gives, with its emphasis on bad news. We want instant success these days but in Africa things take time. As they say “You have clocks, we have time”. The reasons for this are manifold. Often it is because the people, who are so often dependent on agriculture, have to rely on the weather for survival, and the customary weather pattern is becoming more and more unpredictable.

There are also many other reasons and sometimes it is because as Europeans we think we have the answer for getting quick results, but we do not consult local people. This year however I experienced two great successes when visiting the CMM Sisters in Masasi, Tanzania, where I lived for a few years some time ago.

About a year ago the Sisters drilled for water and, at a depth of 48 metres, hit a very large reservoir of good quality water for domestic and general use. After installing a pump earlier this year they not only planted over a hundred fruit trees - mango, bananas, cashew nuts, oranges, avocado, passion fruit and pawpaw, but also enlarged their vegetable garden considerably. I also had the benefit of running water. What a blessing a well can be! This project is already a success as the Sisters now have plenty of vegetables and sell what is surplus to their needs, making them more self-sufficient.

Another project now fully operational is the Girls' Hostel. The sixteen girls there are orphans or come from broken homes and therefore this place is fulfilling a great need for those teenagers (12 -17 years). It provides a secure home where they can study in peace while attending a local secondary school. Coming from this background they cannot contribute to their living expenses, but the Sisters provide all their essentials with help from some donors. The Matron, one of the Sisters, creates a loving atmosphere as their mother and friend which is so clearly shown in many ways. She also teaches them practical domestic skills.

The chickens and vegetable garden provide some of the basic food and once the cow 'Malala' has had her first calf, there will also be milk available. Malala, sounding Swahili, was suggested by a member of Mary's Collegiate Parish Church after the young Pakistani activist for female education. She is the youngest Nobel Prize laureate and a parish collection paid for this cow. The surplus milk can then be sold to help with the cost of the fees for the girls. The same is already happening with the vegetables, eggs and chickens.

When I arrived in Masasi I was surprised to get such a hearty welcome, not only from the Sisters but also from quite a few girls from the Hostel standing to greet me, singing and holding bunches of flowers. It was school holidays so I thought the girls would have gone back to their homes, but I was told that they feel this is their home and want to stay there even in their holidays. One day they invited me for dinner and we talked together. I told them that we want them to work hard to produce good results at school which will give them a chance to go on to further education. They say in Africa "Educate a woman and you educate a family." A few days later I received sixteen letters thanking me for my friendship.

Another success story is that of a young woman to whom I gave some money last year to feed her family. She bought a pig, as the price of meat is very high, and this year when I saw her she showed me pictures of the sow she bought last year as well as four half grown pigs - a reminder of the parable of the talents (Matthew 25.14). It demonstrates what people can do with just a little support.

When I visited the school for children with learning disabilities at Lulindi I took the dolls which they had asked for last year. These were very kindly knitted by some ladies in the parish and the dolls were being used as teaching aids. The

Headmaster was most grateful and the children were full of joy and happiness as they always are.

At one of the Sisters' nursery schools I was pleased to meet the teacher of the 5-6 year old children and he told me that he had been a boy there for three years some twenty years ago. It just shows what a good start in life the Sisters give the children - as they do for so many people - water and spirit, Life.

*Dirk Juttner, October 2017*

## **Ten years in Tanzania**

*Jean Castledine recalls her life and work as a UMCA missionary nurse in Masasi*

When I was ten years old, a missionary came to our Sunday School to talk about his work in China, and God spoke to me, I was going to be a missionary. This would not be in China, please God, as the language was too difficult and it had become obvious that I was not going to be a linguist. But how about Africa – Mary Slessor country, who was my heroine at that time? Then followed five years of nurse training ending in Poplar and midwifery with the Sisters of St John the Divine – now of "Call the Midwife" fame.

Every summer was spent at missionary summer schools around the country with SPG (The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) and UMCA (the Universities' Mission to Central Africa) and it was at a UMCA summer school in Malvern that Mark Way, Bishop of Masasi in Tanganyika (as it then was) asked me to go and work with him – even though I didn't play Bridge! I was now a missionary candidate and spent a year at the College of the Ascension in Selly Oak, Birmingham. We learned Swahili (an easy Bantu language), church history, doctrine, etc. but mostly how to preserve our spiritual life when away from home and isolated. The Chapel, with its daily mass and offices, the inspiring lectures and like-minded students were all ingredients for a fulfilling time and preparation for the Mission Field. I very much appreciated the 7 am visits to other colleges in the Selly Oak complex, silence after Compline, and a non-talking breakfast on Fridays!

The great day arrived, and forty friends and family came to Central Africa House in Great Peter Street to pray with me at the Departure Mass, where I made the three simple vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience (married people were not allowed to work in the mission in those days, but more of that later). Four of us sailed from George V Docks (now the City Airport) on the Rhodesia Castle calling at many ports on the way, and ending in Dar-es-Salaam. It took four weeks and we were lucky enough to know someone in Cable & Wireless, so a car was waiting at each port to take us around. I also met up with my brother who was a naval officer in Gibraltar.

The Universities' Mission to Central Africa came into being after David Livingstone made a moving appeal to students in Oxford and Cambridge in 1857. He said "I go back to prepare a pathway for Commerce and Christianity; do you carry out the work I have begun." Four or five men answered the call and made their headquarters around Lake Nyasa (now Lake Malawi), but within two years three of them had died of malaria and dysentery, so they moved to Zanzibar Island – the present high altar of the Cathedral there was the area of the slaves' whipping post. I was privileged to be in the Senate House in Cambridge in 1957 to celebrate the centenary of David Livingstone's appeal.

Masasi Diocese was formed in 1926, when the Diocese of Zanzibar was divided after the death of our most famous Bishop and Father in God, Frank Weston. It occupies an area the size of Kent and Sussex in the South of Tanzania, close to the Mozambique border (Government folk looked upon postings there as a punishment!) The area is very poor, with roads impassable for several months of the year – especially in the rainy season – but lovely, friendly people, who made European missionaries very welcome.

The Bishop met me at Lindi in his long-wheeled Land Rover – no tarmac in those days – and we travelled many miles on the unmade roads with potholes and other hazards. When we reached the hospital and station where I was to work and live, it was just as beautiful and primitive as I had imagined. The Europeans consisted of a priest, a lady doctor who had been there since 1927, and three nursing sisters. We each had our own mud and thatched house but ate communally. There was no running water or electricity and I felt like Florence Nightingale, swinging my hurricane lamp as I did the night round in the hospital.

A bucket of hot water was put in each house at 6.30 pm for ablutions in the tin hip bath. It was forbidden to wear uniform at 7 pm dinner. The loo was a separate hut outside the back door and one got used to the tickle of cockroaches as we sat over the 10 ft pit and avoided the occasional snake curled up in a corner. It took me years to stop banging my shoes before putting them on, in case a scorpion or centipede had got into them.

Personal relationships can be severely tested if someone has a persistent sniff or noisy eating habits, but on the whole we got on well. It was essential to keep up appearances, as we were waited on at table by 'house boys' – usually older men who had worked for the Mission for years and, although not admitting it, could understand English quite well. It was a sad day when the Government brought in the minimum wage and a lot of our faithful folk had to return to their homes as we could not afford to keep them on.

We all seemed to be in separate units, and although we ate, worked and prayed together in church, we did not pray and study together, although I did start a Bible/English class with the nurse, and spent many happy hours talking with the women and children in their back yards. (Only the men sat at the front).

However, work in the hospital was wonderful. I will not go into too many details, but it was rewarding when the patient got better or came back for necessary treatment – often walking many miles, and resting under the mango tree for the evening medicine before the long journey home. It was depressing when they failed to return or went to the witch doctor; frustrating because of the lack of drugs and equipment; fulfilling, because I was doing the work God had called me to do.

I had charge of the Midwifery Unit, the Children's Ward, and Out Patients. The first day, I was diagnosing and prescribing in Swahili! We were also a training hospital for male and female nurses and medical assistants. One of our first African bishops was with us as a nurse before ordination.

As already mentioned the UMCA had a policy of no married European staff, which changed many years ago. Bishop Mark and Dr Marion Robinson fell in love and had to leave, so we lost not only a much-loved Father in God, but also a very good doctor and surgeon. In the interregnum, we were privileged to have Archbishop Michael Ramsey for a three-week stay. He lived as one of us, and travelled around the Diocese and confirmed. His Swahili never 'took off': when he was greeted with 'Shikamoo' the answer should have been 'Marahaba', but he could only mumble 'Mother Hubbard'. At a garden party at Lambeth Palace his wife Joan came over to our group from Masasi to thank us for 'some of the best weeks in his life'.

Our next Bishop was to be Trevor Huddleston. His consecration was to have been in our cathedral of St Mary and St Bartholomew in Masasi, but we had a very big epidemic of meningitis and it would not have been sensible for the many people who would want to come, so he was consecrated in Dar-es-Salaam and enthroned in Masasi when the epidemic quietened down. We benefited from his many well-known connections who would fly to Masasi in a private plane to see him and often offered one of us the spare seat back to Dar for shopping and more social life. I still think the best two years of my life were when I was asked to go to Zanzibar Diocese to prepare a 60-bedded hospital for women and children for 'Africanisation' as it was called. Even the fact that my trunk was stored in a hut, awaiting the end of the rainy season, and I had to buy material to make some clothes did not spoil things!

I was the only European. A doctor came once a week from the Government Hospital five miles away or I could take patients down to her in the back of the Peugeot 403. The African staff were quite often more experienced than me, but we all got on well together. With the financial help and prayers of several parishes in the UK, I was able to plan and build a new clinic and ward, and also get some much-needed equipment.

Outwardly it was wonderful. I hardly ever had a day off, went to every service in the church from 6 am to 9 pm, put in longer hours than I needed to in the hospital, and found plans and accounts fascinating when I should have been studying and praying privately. Fr Sylvester, the parish priest, did not speak

English, so my confessions did not give the sins an urgent meaning. The handover day came too soon, but it was a happy occasion, with the Bishop and Government officials taking part.

So, back to Masasi, where things had changed – no doubt for the better. There were four doctors from Holland, six nursing sisters, a telephone, and other mod. cons – all good in their way. It was always the aim of the Mission to hand over the work of priests, nurses, teachers, etc. to the well-trained African staff, so we were all ‘Africanised’ one by one. One witty Sister said, ‘Last one out buys their own present!’ I have so many happy memories, and I continue to thank God for the experiences that I had. (This all happened some fifty years ago, if my personal reminiscences differ from others’, I apologise.) We keep in touch and meet once a year and also continue to entertain African visitors on their visits to the UK.

*Jean Castledine lives in retirement at Morden College, Blackheath*

## ***Joyce Cutbush RIP***

*It is with great sadness that we report the death of Joyce Cutbush, who worked in Masasi for many years and who has always been a faithful supporter of the Friends of Masasi & Newala. We understand that she died, very peacefully, at the age of 93 and her funeral took place in East Molesey on 25th September.*

*There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Joyce’s life at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 25th November at St Paul’s Church, East Molesey. This church is just behind the Royal Cambridge Home where Joyce spent the last years of her life. The service, which is expected to last up to an hour, will be led by Revd Beverly Hunt and Revd Christopher Davies. Bev was the curate at St Paul’s for a while and used to take services at the Royal Cambridge Home and Joyce was very fond of her. Tea will be served after the service.*

*Shortly before she died Joyce asked for donations in her memory to be sent to The Friends of Masasi & Newala and we are delighted to report that we have already received well in excess of £650, with potential Gift Aid on several of the donations. Her niece has told us that donations made at the Thanksgiving Service will also be given to the Friends, and the Trustees were very touched by this and also by Joyce’s thoughtfulness in thinking of Masasi as she neared the end of her life.*

*At their recent meeting the Trustees therefore decided to give all the money received in memory of Joyce to enable the new Girls’ School to establish a library in her name and the people who knew her best feel that this is a tribute which she would very much have appreciated*

*We are delighted to print the following reminiscences of Joyce, from several of her friends. May she rest in peace.*

## Memories of Joyce Cutbush

*From Robin Hall :*

I met Joyce when I was an 18-year old volunteer sent for a year to St Joseph's, Chidya, then a UMCA secondary school of the Diocese of Masasi. It was 1961. The staff was small - five Tanzanians who lived with their families and five European mission staff with me as the volunteer. Joyce was one of the three ladies. The Europeans ate lunch and dinner together, went for walks together, went to chapel together and spent the evenings together until trotting off with our hurricane lamps to our houses. Joyce and I recently tried to recall whether we had breakfast together as well, but the task was beyond us.

It was potentially a dull life for a teenager but it didn't turn out that way. Joyce was often the life and soul of the party with a vivacious sense of humour and rather mothered me. Occasional guests livened things up. Going for supplies in Masasi with Joyce was a very entertaining excursion especially when stuck in the sand. I only learned a couple of years ago that she was in the ATS in the war and knew more about machines than I did at the time.

At the end of the year I went home to university and eventually lost touch with Chidya. Tim Brooke brought me the news of Fr Louis Sparham's murder and, some 50 years later when we were talking about Joyce, mentioned that she was within easy reach at the Royal Cambridge so we arranged to meet. I so much regret not maintaining the link. Her memory was extraordinary and brought back so many memories of Chidya which had faded. Her sense of fun and sparkling dry sense of humour had not diminished and, although she was clearly fading physically, we very much enjoyed meeting again. I regret not having been in touch during those 50 years when she continued an adventurous and varied life.

*From Francis Wilkins :*

Joyce taught at St Joseph's, Chidya, with my mother, Marian Pettman, and father, Harold Wilkins. I believe she went out in 1959, but attended their wedding in England in 1963 – along with several other UMCA missionaries – braving what was apparently a bitterly cold day.

I met Joyce a couple of times when I was very young when she came to visit my parents. We re-established contact about six years ago when I was planning a trip to Masasi, but because I live in Australia I can't say that, all told, I have spent more than a few hours with her.

Joyce was very generous with her time in sharing memories of my parents, as well as of East Africa more generally. On my past few trips home I was able to catch up with her. She also emailed me several times with fascinating stories and anecdotes of life in service of the UMCA.

My mother greeted Joyce on her arrival at Chidya in March 1959 after she had travelled down from Dar to Lindi on the SS Mombasa.

“At first I found Marian’s standards very hard to live up to before I got to know her better and discovered her wonderful sense of humour, quite bawdy at times – your father’s too,” Joyce told me. “I think I can say that Marian and I were very good friends, although she often disapproved of some of the things I did,” she added (not elaborating on that second point!). “Marian was terrified of spiders so I dealt with them – I like to think so anyway – while she fearlessly dealt with snakes of which I was even more terrified.”

Joyce had many touching things to say about the early days of my parents’ relationship. “I was there at the outset of your parents’ romance and probably the only one to know for quite a while. I sometimes wonder if the servants guessed,” she told me. “At Chidya, it was often a case of all hard work and no play. No wonder romances blossomed!”

“Harold was a wonderful mediator,” Joyce added, “as he showed once when I was trying very unsuccessfully to deal with one of the servants who had made a complaint against me. “The servant was a known trouble-maker and I should have known better than to get involved. Our dispute dissolved into a slanging match which Marian overheard and sensibly ran to fetch Harold who managed to calm things down to everyone’s satisfaction – though I steered clear of the gentleman in question in future.”

She also had plenty to say about some of East Africa’s more annoying wildlife. “The road to Masasi was very rough,” she told me. “Harold didn’t drive, so on one occasion it was up to me to take us to Mtandi Hospital – plus several hitch-hikers, who might have included a pregnant woman, in the back of the Land-Rover. I was to spend the night there before going on a course in Dar. “Just as we were about to leave, I was stung on the little toe by a hornet, but thought nothing of it until we were getting into the Land Rover, when my head began to burn like wildfire. Your parents were so absorbed in tender farewells to each other that they didn’t realise I was not fit to drive. “By the grace of God we met another vehicle into which I was carried after passing clean out and ‘fielded’, as he put it, by Harold as I fell. It must have been pretty scary for him and the moral of the story is don’t forget your anti-hystamine.”

Maintaining relationships with people from the other side of the world is not easy, and I will miss Joyce. Not only has she helped me immensely with the novel set in 1950s East Africa that I am currently writing; more importantly, in sharing her memories she established a link with my own family history for which I will always be grateful.

*From Mary Swindell :*

Joyce was a dear friend to one of my father’s sisters and back in the 1950s he gave her a job in a prep school which he founded up in Yorkshire. I think she was only there for a couple of years but in that time she taught two of my brothers who were then about 8 and 6 and who have happy memories of her. Personally I did not get to know Joyce until the 1980s, I think, since when she became a very good friend to my mother and me, we saw her regularly and after

my mother died in 1996 I continued to see her and we had very happy times together. She was a great character, very amusing and showed huge interest in everything going on in the world and everybody in her life and that continued to the end of her life. I saw her three weeks before she died and three days before her 93rd birthday, along with my cousin and his wife. We had a lovely few hours in the garden of the home where she lived, having a picnic and chatting in the warm sunshine. She seemed very calm and content and it is a happy memory for me.

I am sure others will have much more detail of Joyce to give you, but I hope this gives you the general idea of what a lovely person she was and how much I and other members of my family will miss her.

## **All Saints, Margaret Street, London**

Since the Trustees of the Friends are scattered throughout the UK, it is often difficult to decide on a venue for our meetings. In the past we have met in Gloucestershire or Bristol, but both these venues involve a long journey for some of us and we therefore decided to try and arrange for our October meeting to be held in London.

On several occasions in the past we have used the Parish Room of All Saints in Margaret Street for “Masasi Days”, but we felt this was rather too large for a small group meeting. However, the Administrator very generously offered the use of the Vicarage Dining Room at the church which was the perfect location, only a few hundred yards from Oxford Circus and with easy access via underground or bus. The Trustees are very grateful to Father Alan Moses and the Churchwardens for agreeing to make this room available to us, particularly since we were all able to join in the Mass which is celebrated every day at noon.

All Saints is a truly magnificent church and one very worthy of a visit and it also has long-standing links with the work of the UMCA. It is difficult to describe this amazing building, but possibly the best way is to quote from the Foreword to the Church Guide, written by Sir Roy Strong, the former Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

*“.....One overwhelming impression seized my mind from the first moment that the door swung open and I was engulfed by the gloom – I was treading on holy ground. Not an easy feat within a few yards of Oxford Street. The retina of the eye adjusted to unfold a world vibrant with glorious imagery; friezes of saints in ceramic, an abundance of mosaic in alabaster and marble, patterns in brick and tile covering every surface, painted images and guttering candles and, above all,*

*the haunting cavernous chancel and sanctuary, with its flights of steps, huge altar, banks of baroque candlesticks and the silver Sacrament House hovering aloft and lit from within, shining like a solitary star in the night sky before the vast gilded reredos. The odd stray beams of light that somehow struggled in through the stained glass almost seemed an intrusion.....”*

And in his welcome to the Church, Alan Moses, the Vicar, writes :

*“A stone’s throw from the bustle of Oxford Street, the spire of All Saints stands in silent witness. Its courtyard leads into a place which is both intimate and powerful; a place of awe and wonder, of silence and prayer. Few live in its parish now but thousands come for work, education, recreation, medical care, shopping. Every day the doors of All Saints stand open to them all. As its founders intended, worship is offered daily; sometime with glorious music and splendid ceremony, at others with quiet and simple devotion. It is a place where people come to find solace, to pray, to be unburdened of the weight of sin, to give thanks for blessings. Not simply a famous building but unmistakably a house of God. It is the spiritual home of a congregation dedicated to the service of God in the heart of London. It is here to witness to that Christian faith which its architecture so gloriously expresses. It welcomes both those who come only out of curiosity and those who come in search of a deeper reality.”*

The Trustees met in the so called Dining Room of the Vicarage, which was actually below street level and after the meeting one of the Trustees made a very fitting comment :

*“It was somehow very satisfying that in a small underground room in the centre of London, so much good was done in a world seemingly preoccupied with people doing dreadful things to one another”.*

If you are in this area of London and feel in need of peace and quiet, we do urge you to visit All Saints. The Church is open throughout the day and the Eucharist is celebrated daily. There is also a delightful small, paved garden where one can sit and relax. All Saints is literally five minutes’ walk from Oxford Circus – just walk along Upper Regent Street (towards the BBC); Margaret Street is the second turning on the right. Cross over Great Portman Street and Great Titchfield Street and the Church is a few hundred yards along on the left.

Their excellent website <http://www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk/> will tell you more about the Church and hopefully inspire you to visit next time you are in the area.

## **“GIVE AS YOU LIVE”**

### **RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FRIENDS OF MASASI & NEWALA EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ONLINE**

I am sure many of us have heard of these wonderful schemes whereby you can raise funds for your favourite charity when you shop online, and like me, you have been somewhat sceptical or could not be bothered to set up the appropriate account.

Jennifer Oakley kept telling me how effective the website **“Give as you live”** could be in raising funds for us, so several months ago I registered the Friends of Masasi & Newala with **“Give as you live”** and as soon as they had confirmed that we were registered, I registered as a user – but still never quite got round to using it.

**But Jennifer started using the website straight away and when I saw that she had earned more than £20 for the Trust in just a few months, I tried it myself and found it is incredibly easy and it really does work.**

**Give as you live** works with over 4600 different stores including all the major supermarkets, travel agents, holiday companies, airlines, insurance companies and the multi-purpose sites that so many of us use so frequently.

Just think how much you could donate to the Friends by booking a holiday or flight, by insuring your house or car, or by doing your weekly grocery shop? The possibilities are endless.

And it really is so easy to get involved.

- Just type **Give as you live** into your browser and register with your email address and a password
- Download the **“Give as you live”** icon into your browser . This is not essential, but it helps remind you to access a store’s website via this route.
- Choose the charity you wish to support – and we hope that that will be The Friends of Masasi & Newala
- Then search for the store where you want to shop using the search facility.
- Once you've found the store where you want to shop click on the "Shop & raise" button. You will then be redirected to the store’s website where you can shop as normal.

- Once you've made a purchase the store will confirm your transaction with Give as you Live. They will send you an email confirming how much you have raised for Friends of Masasi and Newala . It's that simple!
- You can pay for the goods in whatever way you wish; it is no different from normally shopping online, but because you have accessed the store's website via **Give as you live**, once your purchase is verified by the store, they will donate a percentage of the cost of your purchase to The Friends.

**It really is that easy and it is anonymous as far as the Friends is concerned, i.e. we won't know if you have booked an exotic holiday in the Caribbean or are ordering magnums of champagne on a weekly basis. We will not even know the names of who is supporting us, but every month we will receive the funds that our supporters have raised.**

We do urge any of our supporters to at least give it a try. It costs you nothing but could make a world of difference to the Friends of Masasi & Newala.

*Gill Hucker*

And we promise that in the next issue of M&NN we will let you know how much we have raised via this route.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of "Masasi & Newala News". Please look at our website [www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk](http://www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk) for more information and photographs, which unfortunately we are not able to include in our newsletter. 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 if you are a UK tax payer and fill in the relevant section, we receive the Gift Aid immediately. Last year we received more than £2000 in Gift Aid which obviously is extremely valuable to us.

# 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](mailto:gillhucker@btinternet.com)