

***MASASI
& NEWALA
NEWS***

Issue No 28

March 2015

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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.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR :

It gives us great pleasure to produce M&NN No. 28 which contains a great deal of exciting news from the Diocese of Masasi, as well as (somewhat belatedly, we regret) Bishop James' Christmas Newsletter. We are also printing a report from Jonathan Rendall on Bishop James' enthronement in Masasi and a lengthy report on the work of the Friends of Masasi & Newala with detailed information on the support that the Trust is giving to the two Dioceses.

Bishop James and his wife, Veronica, will be making a visit to the UK from Friday, 10th April to Friday, 1st May. This visit is funded by the Friends of Masasi & Newala as we feel it is very important for as many people as possible to meet +James and Veronica and for them to get to know their many supporters in this country. They have a very busy schedule while they are here – this is Veronica's first trip out of Tanzania so she obviously wants to fit in some sightseeing – but we have arranged two “Masasi Days” to give everyone an opportunity to talk to +James and Veronica on an informal basis and also to hear the Bishop's vision for the future of the Diocese.

- **Tuesday, 14th April from 10.30 am to 4 pm**
All Saints' Church, Margaret Street,
London W1W 8JG
- **Saturday, 25th April from 10 am to 4 pm**
St Peter's Church, St Peter's Close,
Hereford HR1 2DL

We hope that as many people as possible will attend at least one of these days and to help with arrangements and catering, it would be very much appreciated if you could complete the appropriate forms which are printed on pages 27 and 31 and return them as indicated.

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER – 2014

My dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings of the season and warmest wishes too for happiness that lasts throughout the year ahead for you.

It was last night, when thoughts came in my mind that, why did I not have a word to tell my friends, especially during this great season of Christmas. Of course, yes, that was my answer and I woke up on my bed and started to write this short newsletter.

As all of you know, God has great plans of us in our lives and He has blessed us; where He chose me by his own will, to give me the big job of leading his CHURCH, Diocese of MASASI. Many of you prayed much, gave your time to think of us, and some brought their blessings before and after my Consecration in order to glorify our Lord and Saviour. All your hearts and prayers were with us here. Thank you very much. You will understand when I say to you; May the good Lord bless and give you courage to continue to work for God always.

This is my first Christmas Newsletter, written on Christmas Eve knowing that after a few hours the world will celebrate the heart of God, Christmas, that message that God cares about the everyday, the ordinary and the seemingly insignificant: God with us.

Since 21st September, the day of my Consecration and enthronement, I have visited eight parishes, where I was able to confirm about 453 people and dedicate two new churches. The work of evangelism and a good spirit of worship of God is spreading and I feel that it is my task to encourage this kind of Spirit so that the Diocese continues to fulfil its mission and vision.

As some of you know, in November, I was invited by the Diocese of Hereford, for the Installation of our brother Bishop Richard Frith as the 105th Bishop of Hereford. This was a great privilege to me, not only to join with other delegates during the service, but also to meet many friends whom I have met over the years and shared the life there. It was also very cold, and my hosts tried to cover me with clothes for warmth wherever I went. Thank you very much.

Bishop Patrick, my predecessor, in his final letter gave his personal appreciation to many who worked with him, especially who gave their time and blessings to enable him and the Diocese of Masasi to survive, such as the Friends of Masasi and the Diocese of Hereford for

their contributions to cover training fees and other upkeep costs for our Ordinands; the Diocese of Montreal as a partner Diocese and many, many other friends who have been supporting the Diocese. I too, would like to give my sincere gratitude to all who supported and encouraged him during his leadership for almost 17 years.

Thank you all.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I have already put my 5 Year Pastoral Care and Social Services Plan before the Diocesan Synod which met here at Mtandi on 9th December. To God, we pray that every congregation member will understand that the church is him/her and that the Diocese belongs to us and NOT others!!

I will send a copy of the 5 Year Plan to you later on, but of course in my opening address which I gave during the Synod, and which is attached, I will give you an idea of how I want to lead the Diocese and what parishioners' responsibilities will be. I thank God for the unity He is continuously giving the priests and among the parishes for our mission and purposes in the Diocese of Masasi.

Your prayers are needed

From January I have asked all Rural Deans to inform our Christians in the Diocese of the real statistics about our finances. We are asking that each member in the Diocese should contribute about 500.00 Tz/= per month for three years; each member will be needed to give 6,000.00Tz/= which is equivalent to £250 per year to clear our debts and allow us to start covering our recurrent costs.

This will help the management team plan and arrange implementation of some crucial decisions, which were approved during the Synod. I give one example: our Diocesan staff have not been paid their salaries for many months now, but they are continuously working on good will, of love of God, for the Diocese.

We would like to invest in a Hostel Programme for girls who are studying at various Day Secondary Schools, in the Diocese of Masasi, starting with the Namasakata Girls' Secondary School, where the first Diocesan Theological College was built in 1930 by the Missionaries of the UMCA.

Dears, as I begin this new era and new life of leading the Diocese, I wish you to pray for the Diocese for this vision and its development, especially the following areas :

1. Pray for the Bishop's transport as we only have one vehicle now
2. Pray for six parishes which are very remote and rural; their priests are devoted and committed, but lack transport
3. Pray for two new parishes which I have founded and the inauguration services which will be held on January 4th and 11th.
4. Pray for the need to equip women in the Diocese to be trained at the College for Theology so that they able to play their part of leading churches with confidence.
5. Pray for the 5-year Pastoral Care/Social Services Plan as we begin to explain and work out next year.
6. Pray for Veronica who is studying English in Dar, Faraja and Hugh, who are in boarding Secondary Schools and, in Standard Six.

Bishop Patrick closed his bank account when he retired and I have been advised to open a new account for the Bishop's activities, the details of which are given below :

Bishop James Barnaba Almasi

A/C No: 0152439765100

Swift Code: CORUTZTZ

Bank Name: CRDB Bank PLC

**Branch Name: Masasi Branch, P.O. Box 382,
Masasi, Mtwara, Tanzania**

Finally, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas tomorrow, I wish to encourage you to explore how you might embrace more closely our friendship, in which we have lived before, and how we can improve the Diocese of Masasi, which Jesus came to save, for in doing that, we will find the road to lead many to faith and the deliverance that He came to show us.

May God bless you and the Christmas Services.

With many kind thoughts and prayers.

+James Masasi.

**CONSECRATION OF CANON JAMES BARNABA ALMASI
AS THE 9TH BISHOP OF MASASI DIOCESE, TANZANIA
Sunday, 21st September 2014**

It was a great privilege to represent the Diocese of Hereford, the Friends of Masasi & Newala and Rooted in Jesus at the consecration of Canon James Almasi as Bishop of Masasi in Tanzania - a day of great joy, thanks and celebration. The consecration was led by the Archbishop, The Most Revd Jacob Chimeledya, in the presence of two former Archbishops, sixteen other brother Bishops from the Province of Tanzania and some 2000 people - 1200+ of them outside the Cathedral under especially erected canopies and about 800 inside the Cathedral watching on screens; people of every age from across the Diocese, from Tanzania, from the USA and from the link Dioceses of Montreal, Canada and Hereford.

The consecration was a magnificent event: Anglican sacrament and ceremony in an African setting at its very best. This was a wonderful and God-blessed event in every way. Over the six hours we witnessed and shared in this very special occasion, in worship and thanksgiving, with joy and praise to God. The liturgy, ritual and procession gave dignity and value to the ceremony and the song and dance enhanced the wonder of this unique moment in the history of the Diocese, bringing hope and a joyful expectation for the future. Mtandi and the Cathedral of St Mary and St Bartholomew looked beautiful - ablaze with colour and decoration, vibrant with the chatter of an excited congregation. This glorious occasion, full of colour and vibrancy, rejoicing and thanksgiving for the many who had travelled on foot, on cycle, in cars and buses – some for days across this vast Diocese.

The roads leading to Masasi Town and to Mtandi had had banners proclaiming the occasion for some weeks. T-shirts, blouses and banners abounded proclaiming the good news of the consecration, together with an assortment of books, notebooks and pens bearing the image of James Almasi.

All Diocesan priests were given a specially made consecration chasuble and stole - a celebration gift much appreciated. The excitement was palpable! Former Archbishop, Rt Revd Donald Mtetemela preached a wonderful sermon full of Godly advice and wisdom from “a former Archbishop to a new Bishop. Matthew 28.18-21”, he said, “was the appointment letter to a new Bishop”.

Following the consecration the assembled company celebrated the Eucharist and +James and his wife Veronica, now Mama Bishop, were formally welcomed by each Bishop in turn with applause and cheers ringing out across Mtandi at each embrace. In their turn, Bishop Patrick Mwachiko (the former Bishop of Masasi) and Emmie, his wife, greeted +James and Veronica to the cheers of the assembled congregation. The penultimate act in the consecration was the giving of greetings and messages to +James and the Diocese from the Hon George Mkuchika, Minister of Regional Authority and Local Government, (representing the President, Rais Jakaya Kikwete, who had originally intended to be present), the two MPs for the area, numerous Masasi councillors, three tribal Chiefs, the senior Mullah of the Mosques, senior leaders and representatives of the other denominations in the Diocese.

Invited guests or representatives from overseas were given an opportunity to bring greetings and messages. I was greatly privileged to bring greetings from the three organisations and a gift of a very beautiful cope from Hereford Diocese which I duly placed on +James' shoulders and he received a resounding cheer with clapping from those present. Bishop James later wore the cope at the ceremony in the Cathedral for the Oath of Allegiance – a service for the Diocesan priests only.

Two speeches remained - the first from the Minister representing the President of Tanzania offering his congratulations and good wishes to the new Bishop and the people of the Diocese of Masasi. Then our new Bishop James presented a most moving, exciting and challenging Manifesto for his episcopate - a proclamation of his agenda, of his call under God to see the Kingdom of God established in even greater measure across the Diocese. Here was a man with a vision, a strong vision, as he called the Church to partner with him in seeing fulfilled. Strong words from a strong man determined to see the Church take a lead in the life of the Diocese and the nation.

Bishop Valentino Mokiwa, the former Archbishop and current Bishop of Dar es Salaam (one of our link Dioceses) said, “we have had a powerful instrument added to the provincial staff because of this speech”. The Archbishop declared that in the election of James, as Bishop, the constitution of both the Diocese and the Province had been adhered to in full. He had no hesitation in declaring the election honest and true.

One other comment of significance was by the Provincial Registrar in saying, “The (Anglican) Church will not see another consecration like this one”, referring to the planning and organisation that had been so well done.

The consecration closed with the official photographs accompanied by singing and dancing by choirs from across the Diocese and from Rondo Junior Seminary. The new Bishop then led the priests into the Cathedral for the taking of the Oath of Allegiance. This was the most glorious occasion for the Diocese and indeed for the whole Anglican church in Tanzania. It was a moving and memorable moment in the history of the Diocese of Masasi as Revd Canon James Barnaba Almasi was consecrated the ninth Bishop.

My sincere thanks to +James and the people of Masasi whose welcome and hospitality was very generous, of the utmost warmth and deeply appreciated. May God richly bless +James and the people of the Diocese of Masasi.

Jonathan Rendall

The Friends of Masasi & Newala, which was established in 1992, is a Registered Charity (No 1009963) and over the past 20+ years it has provided more than £350,000 worth of support to the two Dioceses. It was formerly known as the Friends of Masasi, but the name was changed in 2012 to reflect the division of the original Diocese into the two separate Dioceses of Masasi and Newala. There are seven Trustees : Steve Arbery, Linda Jarvis, Revd Stephen Jarvis, Dirk Juttner (Chairman), Gill Hucker (Secretary and Treasurer), Shirley Talbot and Jennifer Oakley all of whom are volunteers and only claim expenses for essential items such as postage and the cost of printing M&NN. The audited accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission annually and full details of expenditure and income can be accessed via the Charity Commission website. Further information on the Trust can be obtained from our website www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk. The aims of the Trust are to support the advancement of health and education and the relief of poverty in the two Dioceses. The Trust also produces this Newsletter – Masasi & Newala News, which is circulated free of charge, although contributions to the cost of postage are always appreciated.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF MASASI & NEWALA

The Trustees have had three meetings since the last issue of M&NN. In November the Trustees met together following the announcement of the appointment of James Almasi as the new Bishop of Masasi; on Monday, 1st December some of the Trustees met with +James in London, following his participation in the consecration of the 105th Bishop of Hereford, and more recently, on Saturday, 31st January some of the Trustees met together to plan +James' and Veronica's, visit to the UK which will take place in April 2015.

MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2014

At this meeting the Trustees were delighted to welcome Jonathan Rendall as a new Trustee; Jonathan had recently returned from attending the enthronement of Bishop James and it was excellent to receive a firsthand account from him on this exciting and momentous event in the history of the Diocese of Masasi and to see his photographs of the event. A report from Jonathan appears on page 8 of this issue of M&NN and photographs are available on our website www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk

No decisions were made at this meeting regarding payments to either of the Dioceses, as the Trustees felt it was important to meet with Bishop James and learn what his priorities were before making any decisions on support for Masasi, and as they had not received any further requests from St Michael's Health Centre at Lulindi, no grants were made to Newala.

MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2014

The December meeting with Bishop James in London was regrettably very short, as he was travelling to Canterbury that evening to spend some time with the Rt Reverend Robert Willis, the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, who is a long-standing friend, before flying back to Dar the following day.

We had written to +James prior to the meeting to ask him to advise us of his priorities, and knowing that the Diocese had been experiencing some financial problems during the interregnum, and also that the Diocese's ageing Landrover needed replacing, the Trustees were anxious to learn what he considered to be the most important needs of

the Diocese. We were therefore very pleasantly surprised when +James told us that although there are some financial issues to be faced, he was confident that within a few years the Diocese would be self-supporting; and as far as a new vehicle was concerned, he reported that for the time being he is able to cope on a day to day basis, since Geoffrey Patrick is usually able to help by making the vehicle provided by the PWRDF available for use by the Bishop, when he needs to travel around the Diocese. We felt that this positive approach was to be commended and the Trustees assured +James of their support for what he considered to be his priorities.

Bishop James reported that he had three priorities, for which he sought support from the Friends.

➤ The first was the need to come to an **agreement with the Tanzanian Government regarding the purchase of the land at the Rondo**. The Trustees were very surprised to learn that when Bishop Trevor Huddleston bought the site at the Rondo, on which he established St Cyprian's Theological College and the Junior Seminary, he apparently only purchased the buildings, which had been constructed by the South African logging company. In the mid 1960's, there were very few people living on the Rondo plateau, but over the past 50 years, new communities have sprung up, the population has increased dramatically and there is now a real risk that neighbouring settlements will encroach on to the Rondo site.

Negotiations between the Diocese of Masasi and the Tanzanian Government have been ongoing and +James reported that the Diocese has now been advised that they need to pay a total of 13 million Tz shillings to the Government for the area to be surveyed and mapped and the boundaries established and marked. The Diocese has already raised 6 million Tz shillings toward this and there is therefore a balance of 7 million Tz shillings (approximately £2,500) outstanding.

St Cyprian's Chapel was dedicated on 26 September 1965 and 2015 is therefore the 50th anniversary of its dedication. Bishop James, who coincidentally was one of the first students to join the Junior Seminary when it was set up in 1986, has confirmed that he would like to celebrate this anniversary and also commemorate the work of Bishop Trevor by purchasing the land and ensuring the future of the Rondo.

After a brief discussion the Trustees unanimously agreed to allocate £3000 for the purchase of the land, with the proviso that an appropriately qualified lawyer is employed to oversee the transaction and to ensure that once this payment has been made, there will be no further issues over the ownership of the land and no risk of the site being encroached on in the future.

In recent weeks the Trustees have received copies of the plans which have been drawn up by the Government and they understand that Father Linus Buriani, Project and Development Officer at the Rondo, is working closely with the Tanzanian Government to resolve this issue. We have also been assured that legal advice is being sought and the final plans and contracts will be approved shortly.

➤ The second priority was **the establishment of a Girls' Secondary School at Namasakata**. The Trustees were advised that there was a school at Namasakata many years ago but because of its isolated location, Bishop Trevor made the decision to move it to the Rondo and set up the present Seminary. There are now plans to re-open Namasakata as a Secondary Girls' School and to get the project underway, 300 bags of cement have already been transported from the Rondo to begin constructing new buildings. The Trustees were advised that there is a great need for this school and +James feels it will be very well supported; once established it is hoped that it will produce an income for the Diocese and most importantly, it will maintain the history of the UMCA at Namasakata. The initial plan is to build two classrooms and two houses – one for the students and the other for the staff - and it is hoped that the school could start in November 2015 with a pre-orientation course; from that group of girls, 45-50 would be selected to create Form 1 and the school would then open in January 2016.

The Trustees agreed to support in principle +James' plans to establish a Girls' Secondary School at Namasakata but asked to see a copy of the Business Plan that was submitted to the Synod before making any final decision.

➤ The third priority was the **construction of a Hostel for Girls at Mkuti**. The Trustees were reminded that this was one of +James' dreams when he was the priest at Mkuti and he confirmed that he

would now like to revive the idea. He reported that there are seven Secondary Day Schools in Masasi and it is imperative that appropriate and supervised accommodation is provided for the girls attending these Schools.

The Trustees agreed to support in principle the idea of a hostel for girls at Mkuti but asked to see a full Business Plan before making any final decision.

Other issues discussed at the December meeting were the restoration of St Cyprian's Chapel at the Rondo, the proposed visit by Bishop James and his wife, Veronica, to England and the possible provision of a new vehicle for the Bishop, but no final decisions were made.

MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2015

Unfortunately not all the Trustees were available on 31st January but the meeting went ahead as planned as we needed to finalise arrangements for Bishop James' and Veronica's visit to England.

- At this meeting we drew up an outline plan for the visit to include two separate "Masasi Days" – one in London and another in Hereford - and started the lengthy process of contacting and liaising with all the people who would be involved. This has inevitably taken longer than expected, and it was not possible to finalise any of these plans until we knew that +James had received his Diplomatic Passport and Veronica had received her passport and visa (fortunately +James' visa from his November 2014 visit is still valid). But we are delighted to report that after weeks of anticipation, the passports and visa have been issued and the flights have now been booked.

Bishop James and Veronica arrive in the UK on Friday, 10 April. They will spend a week in London, where they have an incredibly hectic schedule of appointments and meetings and will then spend a few days relaxing in Devon before travelling to Hereford. After the Hereford Masasi Day they will be based in Gloucestershire, where again they have a busy programme of activities and they will then fly back to Dar on Friday, 1 May.

The Trustees are especially grateful to Jennifer Oakley who, despite having a full time job and four school-age children – and taking time off to visit Masasi in February - has been responsible for all the travel arrangements including Veronica's passport, visas and the flight

reservations! The other Trustees would like publicly to acknowledge their gratitude and thanks to her for all that she has done to ensure that this trip goes ahead. Jennifer – you are a star!

- Another issue discussed at the January meeting was the provision of a new vehicle for the Bishop. Although +James assured us that “he could cope”, the Trustees felt that, given the size of the Diocese and the necessity for the Bishop to visit isolated parishes and communities on a regular basis, and in view of the parlous state of the current Landrover, it was absolutely essential for him to have a reliable vehicle. We sought advice from Geoffrey Patrick as to what might be most appropriate and he suggested a Toyota Landcruiser Hardtop Station LWB Wagon 4.2 litre, Diesel, 6-cylinder, 3 doors, 5 speed, manual transmission with air conditioning and power steering, with a total seating capacity of 12. We understand that Bishop James would also favour this vehicle. The Friends could purchase this vehicle via a charitable organisation called WEM, which is based in Germany, and the total price, shipped direct from Japan to Dar would be 3,397,000.00 Japanese Yen, which is the equivalent, at current exchange rates, of £18,652. In addition it would be necessary to pay clearance charges on arrival in Dar (which from past experience would be in the region of £2,500) but this is still an extremely good price for a brand new vehicle.

After a lengthy discussion the Trustees agreed to pledge £10,000 from their current funds, towards the cost of this vehicle with the hope that it will eventually be possible to raise the full amount and buy this vehicle.

- The final issue discussed at the January meeting was the long-standing problem of the continued deterioration of St Cyprian’s Chapel at the Rondo. Some years ago Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton launched an appeal to restore the Chapel and the Friends gave their support to this appeal by pledging £5000 to the final cost.. The Minchinhampton Appeal succeeded in raising nearly £4000 and the Friends received some generous donations specifically for the Chapel, but sadly not enough money was raised to carry out all the work that was needed and as a result, no action was taken. However, as you will read on the following pages, events overtook us and we are absolutely delighted to report that the Chapel has at last been restored to its former glory. Praise the Lord!

ST CYPRIAN'S CHAPEL AT THE RONDO

Shortly after the December meeting, the Trustees received an Email from Father Linus Buriani reporting that the Rondo plateau had been hit by very strong winds and extremely heavy rain and as a result of this, the roof of the Chapel, which was already in need of attention, was leaking badly and there was a real risk that the Chapel could be damaged beyond repair. This was a crisis which needed immediate attention and the Trustees agreed to send £2000 for emergency repairs to the roof; subsequently they launched an appeal to completely restore the Chapel and our Appeal letter is printed below.

APPEAL TO RESTORE ST CYPRIAN'S CHAPEL AT THE RONDO

The Friends of Masasi Charitable Trust was set up in 1991 with a relatively modest donation. This money was invested wisely when interest rates were at an all time high, and over the years the Trust has benefitted from two very generous legacies. The Trust is also very fortunate to have a loyal band of supporters and their regular donations have enabled us to provide the Diocese of Masasi (and more recently the newly created Diocese of Newala) with approximately £350,000 worth of support. The main focus for our financial assistance has been education and health, although funds have also been made available to totally refurbish the Cathedral at Mtandi, to supply two new Land Rovers – for the Bishop and the Rondo, to completely renovate the Bishop's house, to provide a Guest House for visitors to Mtandi (which produces a regular income for the Diocese) and to provide grain in times of food shortages.

During all this time the Trust has never directly asked for money – but we are now faced with a major problem, for which we are seeking the widest possible support.

We have been aware for some time that extensive work needed to be carried out on the beautiful and iconic St Cyprian's Chapel at the Rondo. When Trevor Huddleston became Bishop of Masasi, the Archbishop of York, Michael Ramsey, urged him to do something about theological training in the Diocese; Bishop Trevor's response was to purchase an extensive range of buildings at the Rondo – a former logging site – and to establish St Cyprian's Theological College. He appointed a Nairobi architect, Richard Hughes, to build a Chapel for the College and the magnificent stained glass windows, which tell the story of the creation, were designed by Jonathan Kingdon.

The Revd Canon Eric James wrote that *“the view from within the Chapel must rival any other Theological Chapel in the world”* and anyone who has ever visited the Chapel, which stands on the edge of the escarpment, with breath-taking views over the huge forests below, would surely agree.

Sadly the condition of the Chapel at Rondo has deteriorated after recent heavy rains and winds. Some of the glass in the windows has been broken (mercifully not the stained glass ones), and the roof has been leaking badly, causing considerable interior damage. As soon as the Trustees were made aware of this, they sent £2,000 for immediate repairs, which were carried out by the builders from the Benedictine Fathers at Ndanda and a further £2,000 was subsequently sent to make the building watertight.

Recent photographs indicate that the builders have done a magnificent job in replacing window frames and repairing the broken glass. However, this still leaves the major task of repairing the roof and redecorating the inside of the building. It has also been suggested that while work is being carried out on the Chapel roof it may be possible to install solar panels (which would provide much needed light for early morning services, and would also allow the students to use the building for extended study in the evening).

The estimate from the Ndanda Builders to carry out the first part of these repairs is £15,000 and we anticipate that the lighting will cost up to an additional £10,000. Since writing the above, the Trustees have received the bill for all the work that has been carried out on the Chapel so far.

The Trustees of the Friends feel very strongly that this magnificent building – where the Eucharist is celebrated every day - cannot be allowed to fall into disrepair. This year will be the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel, on St Cyprian’s Day in September 1965 and we are therefore launching an appeal to raise a further £20,000 which will be sufficient to restore the Chapel to its former glory and also provide solar panels on the roof.

If you feel able to contribute to this appeal, it would be appreciated if cheques, made payable to the Friends of Masasi & Newala, could be sent to Mrs Gill Hucker, 6 Erme Park, Ermington, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9LY. Alternatively donations can be made via our new fund-raising account: Sort Code 40 36 22, Account No. 52840596 – The Friends of Masasi & Newala. We hope very much that you will feel able to support this appeal.

The Trustees of the Friends of Masasi & Newala

This Appeal has already been circulated to some of our most loyal supporters and we have received some very generous donations.

Since writing the above, we have been advised that the work has now been finished which is excellent news and will, we feel sure, delight the many people who hold St Cyprian's Chapel in such high regard.

- The window frames have been rebuilt/replaced where necessary to ensure that the stained glass is held absolutely securely and the broken (plain) glass has been replaced. Fortunately none of the stained glass windows suffered any damage in the recent storms, although we understand that two or three of the individual stained glass sheets were damaged some time ago; it is a very specialised job to replace this glass and we have asked the Ndanda builders if they know of anyone who is able to carry out this work.
- The builders have cannibalised some of the bungalow roofs and used the tiles from the bungalows to repair the chapel roof; aesthetically this is obviously much better than using metal sheets, which had been suggested, but it has involved some additional work as the builders now have to repair the bungalow roofs. However, we felt it was worth the extra effort and cost.
- Solar panels have been installed on the roof and these will produce enough power to provide light in the early morning for the 6.30 am Eucharist as well as in the latter part of the day, which means that the students are now able to use the Chapel in the evenings for study.
- The whole project has been carried out by the Building Department at Ndanda and we are extremely grateful to Brother Benedict OSB who has overseen the work and ensured that everything was done to the highest possible standard. Readers will recall that the builders from Ndanda were responsible for the complete restoration of the Cathedral at Mtandi and we have full confidence that the work on St Cyprian's Chapel will have been done to the same excellent level of workmanship.
- Jennifer Oakley, one of our Trustees, who has just returned from the Rondo, has reported that the Chapel looks "absolutely stunning". We understand that the roof tiles have been painted (which apparently is customary in Tanzania), so that all the old tiles are the same colour and the "new" tiles do not stand out, the wooden window frames are sturdy and strong, the metal window frames have been repainted, the whole of the inside of the Chapel, including the vestry, has been repainted, and a new silver cross adorns the top of the Chapel

Of course all this has come at some considerable cost. The Trustees asked for quotations for each specific job as the work progressed and the Benedictine Fathers sent us detailed estimates of what materials would be needed but as with all restoration work, until they actually started work, they did not really know what they would uncover. However, we are delighted to report that the final bill of **£24,750** was within the estimates provided by the Benedictine Fathers and this account has now been paid. A proportion of this was funded by the Appeal launched by Minchinhampton Church, but the balance was paid by the Friends.

Apart from the construction of St Anne's Guest House at Mtandi, this is the largest financial commitment the Trust has ever made, and it has, of course, made a large dent in our capital.

The Trust is also financing the entire cost of Bishop James' and Veronica's visit, and if we are going to assist with the purchase of a new vehicle for the Bishop, as well as support the Girls' School at Namasakata and the Hostel at Mkuti, we will deplete our funds even further. However, the Trustees have always adopted the attitude that the donations we receive from our supporters should not be kept in the bank, but used for the benefit of both Dioceses and we hope, therefore, that our supporters approve of our actions with regard to the restoration of St Cyprian's Chapel.

The Revd Tim Brooke, who worked in Masasi in the 1960s has given us some interesting background information on the building of the Chapel, which we quote below :

"Bishop Trevor's arrival in 1960, followed the next year by Independence, marked a watershed in the life of the Diocese and the Mission. He was clear that the Church must identify with the new Africa and move forward. He wrote in the Church Times in 1962: 'Missionaries are often the last to realise the true direction of change ... To be identified with the past is to fail ... Our buildings as a whole if they are inadequate must make it appear that the Christian faith is inadequate too'.

He raised the money for this unique Chapel, and had it built, as a symbol that the Church was moving into the new era. St Cyprian's, he said, was the most important institution in the Diocese because its task was to produce a 'properly trained priesthood' for the

THE VISIT OF BISHOP JAMES AND VERONICA

Bishop James and Veronica will be in the UK from Friday, 10th April until Friday, 1st May and they have a very busy schedule for the whole three weeks.

On Tuesday, 14th April there will be a Masasi Day at All Saints Church, Margaret Street, London – full details are printed on page 26 - and on **Saturday, 25th April there will be a Masasi Day in Hereford** – full details are printed on page 30. We hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend at least one of these days and we ask that you complete the appropriate booking form and return it, as indicated, so that we have some idea of the numbers attending.

When they leave the UK on 1st May Bishop James and Veronica are flying via Amsterdam, to Dar, but rather than returning to Masasi, Bishop James will be attending a Bishops' Retreat in Tanga from 6th – 12th May.

He has also been invited by the Primate of Burundi to visit Bujumbura between 13th and 17th May, and therefore at the end of the Retreat he will fly from Tanga to Burundi.

And after his visit to Burundi, on 18th May, Bishop James will fly, via London, to Washington DC as Virginia Theological Seminary (where he studied in 2006/2007) has awarded him an Honorary Doctorate for his services to the Church, and he has been asked to be on campus in Alexandria on 20th May.

This is a taxing schedule, to say the least. We have done our utmost to ensure that both +James and Veronica have the opportunity to meet with as many of their supporters as possible during their time in the UK.

In London they will be attending services in Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral as well as visiting places that they have suggested, but we are also making sure that they both have ample time to rest and relax and enjoy the English countryside.

We hope that the programme that we have put together will prove to be both enjoyable and worthwhile for everyone concerned.

SUPPORT FOR THE DIOCESE AND + JAMES

During +James' and Veronica's visit to the UK we feel sure that many people will wish to offer financial support to the Diocese and sometimes to Bishop James and Veronica personally.

Any support will, of course, be very much appreciated, but can we please ask that donations are made to the Friends of Masasi & Newala and, if appropriate a Gift Aid declaration is also completed.

In the past we know that many people have given personal cheques to the Bishop or sent cheques direct to the Diocesan Office, but the handling charges made by the Tanzanian banks on these cheques are astronomical and the resultant reduction in the amount received, compared to the sum donated, is quite alarming.

Gift envelopes, together with Gift Aid forms, will be available at both Masasi Days and there will also be a sheet enclosed which gives donors the opportunity to request how their donation should be used.

The Friends will process all these payments promptly and the total amount of the donations, together with the Gift Aid that will eventually be claimed, will be allocated to the project indicated.

THE DIOCESE OF NEWALA

Unfortunately the Trustees of the Friends do not receive any communications at all from the Bishop of Newala and consequently we are not really aware of what is happening in the Diocese nor what their needs might be. We do occasionally receive an Email from Father Jacken Waweru, the Information Officer for the Diocese of Newala, and we respond to his requests for support wherever possible.

However, the Trust gives considerable financial support to St Michael's Health Centre at Lulindi and we have established very good relations with Dr Lawi Issa, who is in overall charge of the Centre. He is very good at keeping us in touch with what is needed at Lulindi and since Dr Issa took over the Health Centre the Friends have contributed £9000 towards refurbishment of various wards, a theatre, medical store and laboratory and the purchase of drugs and other consumables through Action Medeor. We understand that their urgent need now is for some form of transport for the patients but no decision has yet been taken on this.

We are delighted to report that Dr Lawi Issa, and his wife, Molle, will be visiting the UK during July 2015. This visit is being organised by Richard Price although we understand that the final itinerary is still to be finalised. It is hoped that at least one of the Trustees will have an opportunity to meet with Dr Issa while he is here and obtain an up to date report on developments at the Health Centre, and also what they need in way of improvements to the buildings, additional equipment, and patient transport.

Fortunately all the payments from patients are retained by the Health Centre and it is hoped that eventually it may be at least partially self-supporting. However, there is a great deal of work still to be done as far as the buildings are concerned, but Dr Issa works extremely hard under difficult conditions and is to be congratulated on all that he has achieved.

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AT MTANDI

For several years Brenda Stone has been raising funds to support the School for the Blind, adjacent to the Cathedral at Masasi and the Friends of Masasi & Newala have held the money on her behalf and sent it out to Masasi as and when she requested. Over the years she has sent various sums of money to the Headmaster, and these have been gratefully received but until now we have never received reports on how the money has actually been used.

In January of this year we sent the final payment from the funds that Brenda has collected and we were therefore delighted to receive the report printed below from the new Headmaster of the School, Mwanaidi Mtaka, giving a detailed report of how this donation, of £1500, has been used.

He also attached numerous photographs, which unfortunately we are not able to print in this Newsletter, but they can be accessed via the Friends' website www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk These funds were sent via Sister Bertha, the Bishop's Secretary at the Diocesan Office and it is quite amazing and heart-warming to see how this relatively small amount of money has benefitted so many children.

Brenda Stone is now anxious to raise more money for these children; she would particularly like to provide sun hats for the albino children.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR PUPILS WITH EYE PROBLEMS IN MASASI PRIMARY SCHOOL, MARCH 2015

With great thanks from Masasi Primary Schools society, I on behalf of the Society, I dare present their great thanks and appreciation for your moral and material support to our lovely disabled children.

I am writing not only to appreciate your efforts but also to give you the order of how we spent the money, for an intended task and I will at least attach the photos ensuring the trend of treatment in various eye clinics we attended

We received £1500 which is nearly Tanzanian shillings 4,050,000/= from our church leaders (Anglican Diocese of Masasi) Sister Bertha CMM. The money was provided for the aim of sending children with eye problem for treatment in Ndanda and then those who were

referred for further treatment (i.e. operation) were sent to CCBRT (Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania) Dar es Salaam

16 pupils were sent to Ndanda Referral Hospital for eye clinic and assessment, 10 pupils were treated at the level of getting assistive devices (refractive glasses) which are to be used all the time during their studies and in their mobility.

Their names are:

1. DALIA BAKARI
2. NEEMA SAIDI
3. ASINA SALUMU
4. GADAFFI SELEMANI
5. HAJI JUMA
6. NEEMA KELVIN
7. AHMADI RAMADHANI
8. ANNUARI RAJABU
9. NASRA SHAIBU
10. FARAJI ISMAIL
11. HANIFA ISMAIL
12. FATUMA BAKARI
13. MUSSA JUMA
14. AISHA RAMADHANI
15. ASHRAFU BAKARI
16. FREDNAND JOHNSON

Names of teachers who went at Ndanda Referral Hospital to accompany the blind pupils are

1. JEROME IDRISA
2. ELISHA MWAYA
3. SAADA SHOMARI
4. HASSANI MALINDI
5. ABUNUASI NAMPOTO
6. RAJABU M BAKARI

Names of teachers who went to CCBRT-Dar es Salaam are:

1. MWANAIDI MTAKA
2. FADHILI MIMU
3. ABUNUASI NAMPOTO

Six pupils were sent to Dar es Salaam for further intervention. During the course of treatment Doctors found that one among these pupils (Ahmad Ramadhani) has to attend an eye operation (eye removal) to the regional hospital which is Ndanda Referral Hospital.

One boy Haji Juma attended for an eye operation and he was provided with an artificial lens. It was a successful operation and here after he is doing fine.

The boy Arab Mohamed who is deaf-blind attended the Hearing Clinic and he is to be provided with hearing aids, and as soon as they get the hearing aid, they are going to bring them to our school. Also he was provided with ear medicine to use for a period of time when he is waiting for hearing aids.

A lady, Asina Salum, was examined at CCBRT and the doctor postponed the operation and she was provided with refractive glasses.

Two pupils, Dalia Bakari and Neema Saidi were put into an operation time table which is to be held on 15th April 2015 at CCBRT-Dar es Salaam. We therefore prepare child's parents to join with teachers on 12th of April 2015 ready for the journey to Dar es Salaam.

Cost analysis:

- a) Cost of transport, meals, accommodations of 6 teachers together with 16 pupils and treatment cost of 10 pupils at Ndanda Referral Hospital was Tsh 600,000/= approximately to £222.2
- b) Cost of transport, meals, accommodation of 3 accompanied teachers and treatment of 6 pupils at CCBRT-Dar es Salaam was Tsh 3,067,400/= approximately to £1136.1
- c) Remained is 382,600/= which is equal to £141.7

Taking this as a token of our gratitude to your moral and financial support to our society. Your support has marked an endless memory to us. We believe, you are part and parcel of our society and we also belong to you too.

We would like to invite you as a society to make a visit as honoured guests to Masasi Primary School, so that you can see how we do and share with us some of our activities.

Mwanaidi Mtaka, Headmaster

**The ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA
DIOCESE OF MASASI**

**The Bishop of Masasi, The Right Reverend James Almasi,
has much pleasure in inviting you to join him at a**

MASASI DAY

Tuesday, 14th April 2015

All Saints' Parish Room,

7 Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG

10.30 am	Coffee/tea and biscuits and an opportunity to talk with +James and Veronica on an informal basis
11 am	Presentation by Bishop James on his vision for the Diocese
1.10 pm	Mass in All Saints' Church
2 pm	Light sandwich lunch (£5 per head)
2.30 pm	Presentation by Julian Marcus on the Tanzania Development Trust
4 pm	Tea and a further opportunity to talk with +James and Veronica

Directions : from Oxford Circus walk north – towards Broadcasting House.
Turn right into Margaret Street and All Saints' Church is 50 yards on the left

To give us some idea of the numbers attending this event
and to help with catering, it would be appreciated
if you could complete the form overleaf and return to
Shirley Talbot at 46 Brandon Street, London SE17 1NL
or email her at talbot-a1@sky.com

*We wish to record our thanks to Father Alan Moses and Jean Castledine
for all their help and kindness in making this day possible.*

MASASI DAY

Tuesday, 14th April 2015

All Saints' Parish Room,

7 Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG

**I hope to be attending the Masasi Day
on Tuesday, 14th April**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Please complete and return to Shirley Talbot,
46 Brandon Street, London SE17 1NL

There will be a nominal charge of £5 for the sandwich
lunch and coffee/tea – which is payable on the day.

I will require lunch _____

I will not require lunch _____

**At present I do not receive Masasi & Newala News,
but I would like my name to be put on your mailing list.**

Please note that this page is blank so that the booking form for the London Masasi Day can be removed and sent to Shirley Talbot

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 :

<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like the Trust to use my donation for the benefit of the Diocese of Masasi
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like the Trust to use my donation for the benefit of the Diocese of Newala
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like my donation to be used for the following purpose : _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like my donation to go towards St Cyprian's Chapel Appeal
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like my donation to go to Bishop James and Veronica for their personal use
<input type="checkbox"/>	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

**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA
DIOCESE OF MASASI**

**The Bishop of Masasi, The Right Reverend James Almasi,
has much pleasure in inviting you to join him at a**

MASASI DAY

Saturday, 25th April 2015

St Peter's Church, St Peter's Close, Hereford HR1 2DL

9.30 am onwards	Arrival and welcome – coffee and tea available. An opportunity to meet and talk with Bishop James and his wife, Veronica, on an informal basis and also to meet the new Bishop of Hereford, The Rt Revd Richard Frith
10 am	Welcome from our two Bishops - leading into a short act of worship
10.30 am	Masasi and the Diocesan Partnerships with Hereford Diocese : Bishop Richard
10.45 am	Presentation by Bishop James on his vision for the Diocese of Masasi
11.30 am	The Hereford / Masasi Partnership : Hazel Gould, Chair of Hereford CWPD
11.45 am	Tanzania Committee Report with focus on Masasi : The Venerable Paddy Benson, Archdeacon of Hereford
12.00 midday	Who? Why? What? Introductions and welcomes Visitors introduce themselves : the people of Masasi
12.30 pm	Lunch – during this time there will be an opportunity to see the video of Bishop James' consecration
1.45 pm	Education partnerships : Jennifer Oakley, Christopher Park and colleagues
2.15pm	St Cyprian's Chapel at the Rondo : Revd Stephen Jarvis and the Friends of Masasi
2.45 pm	Permaculture and farming in Masasi : Anne Bayley
3.15 pm	Overview of the day, informal discussions and tea
4 pm	Farewell and Depart

MASASI DAY

Saturday, 25th April 2015
St Peter's Church, St Peter's Close,
Hereford HR1 2DL

I very much hope to be able to come to the Masasi Day on Saturday, 25th April and will be requiring lunch :

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

This day is being organised and hosted by the Diocese of Hereford and there will be a charge of £10, payable on the day, to cover the costs involved. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements and we will make every effort to accommodate them.

To give us some idea of the numbers attending this event and to help with catering, it would be appreciated if you could complete this form and return to Mrs Hazel Gould, (Chair of CWPD), Highwood Croft, Marden, Hereford HR1 3EW or to Jonathan Rendall (Trustee of FoM&N) at jonathanrendall46@gmail.com

At present I do not receive Masasi & Newala News, but I would like my name to be put on your mailing list.

If anyone is seeking accommodation close to St Peter's Church, there are two hotels within walking distance. These are The Green Dragon, 44-46 Broad Street, Hereford HR4 9BG – telephone 01432 272506 (B&B per person from £60, and Castle House, Castle Street, Hereford HR1 2NW – telephone 01432 356321 (B&B per person from £110).

Please note that this page is blank so that the booking form for the Hereford Masasi Day can be removed and sent to either Mrs Hazel Gould or to Jonathan Rendall