

Newsletter

July 2014

MACS IS 21

ACORNS TO OAK TREES

BY SALLY HUBAND

MACS started in a small way and is now an established and growing charity. Margaret Parr was Headmistress at St Michael's Girls' School, Malindi from 1983-1988. In 1993 she visited Malawi and became aware of the difficulties facing the education system. Fees for primary school education had been abolished, leading to an influx of children, without an increase in either teachers or classrooms. Margaret approached churches and schools and asked Bishop Donald Arden for suitable people to contact before launching an appeal for additional classrooms at St Martin's Primary School, Malindi. MACS was then registered with the Charity Commission.

The first meeting was held in August 1993 and a committee was formed. Anthea Griggs was appointed as Chairman and Margaret Treasurer/Secretary. The first newsletter was sent out in September 1993 to 60 members (now over 1,000).



MACS Representative, Grafiud Tione

Photo: Ben Johnson

MACS works in partnership with people in Malawi, responding to their requests. Education is a high priority and an early

project was the production of laminated charts for teachers with a picture, the Chichewa word and the English translation. The next major project was the rebuilding of Mpondas Health Centre at a cost of £12,000, thanks to a legacy.

Project application forms were introduced in 1997. One of the first places to apply was Nambira, an isolated area with few facilities. The Nchima trust donated £5,000 to MACS for building a new classroom block and following that, an appeal was made to the Lottery Fund. In 1998 we received a grant of £74,450 to improve the road, rebuild bridges, build two further classrooms, two teachers' houses, a community hall, a maize mill and to train development workers.

During the late 1990's Malawi was badly affected by HIV/AIDS. More trained nurses and teachers were dying each year from AIDS than could be trained. MACS worked with churches helping with educational projects, focusing on limiting the spread of infection. Sue Cole-King, a doctor and priest was instrumental in leading the way forward with the churches and directing the best way for us to use our funds. Sadly, Sue died suddenly in 2001. Funds given in her memory were used to further the work which was then directed by Dr Anne Bayley.

When famines struck Malawi in 2002 and 2006, appeals were sent out to our supporters and on each occasion over £30,000 was raised. During the first famine, MACS sent money to Health Centres to assist in buying energy-rich food to be distributed to malnourished children. In the second famine, money

was given to the Education Department of DUS to fund midday meals for primary school children.

The Sponsor a Bed scheme was set up in 2003 to support day to day running costs of St Luke's and St Martin's Hospitals and their health centres.

The first annual Gift List enabling people to donate to a specific need went out in 2006 and has become a popular way for people to help those in need.

A bursary scheme exists to support secondary school students at Malosa and St Michael's, Malindi. MACS also funds students on the six-month training course at Chilema, teaching women from rural areas a variety of skills which can be taken back to their villages. In 2010 we worked with the charity Against Malaria Foundation and bought 9,400 mosquito nets to be distributed to villages supported by volunteers from MACOBO (Malosa Community Based Organisation).

The first MACS working party visit went to Malawi in 2007. The trips are an excellent way of introducing people to this wonderful country, inspiring them to be ambassadors and fundraisers for the charity.

Our Malawian Representative, Grafiud Tione has been involved with MACS from its inception. Over the years, his role has increased in size and complexity. Without his able supervision in Malawi, MACS would not have achieved the high level of respect it engenders in both Malawi and amongst supporters in this country.

LULANGA MATERNAL WAITING HOME NOW IN ACTION!

BY EILEEN EGGINGTON, Project Officer

The sleeping room, latrines, wash rooms and kitchen are all now in use. One heavily pregnant mother expressed her joy, “I’m telling everyone, here at Lulanga, we have a new hospital.” That’s not quite true but the buildings do look very smart! During my visit to Malawi last month there was a joyful blessing ceremony conducted by Bishop Brighton Malasa of the Diocese of Upper Shire. The local Headman was there together with predominantly Muslim villagers and staff from the deeply rural Lulanga Medical Centre. Several women were resting, awaiting the birth of their babies in comfort. Others were preparing food in the purpose-built kitchen. Thanks to imaginative fundraising efforts of several supporters, the Lulanga Maternal Waiting Home has been built on time and within budget.



QUILTS FOR THE GIRLS AT NKOPE

BY EILEEN EGGINGTON, Project Officer



Photo: Ben Johnson

Balloons, colourful bunting, singing, speeches, drama and prayers marked the opening ceremony of the Nkope hostel for blind and low-sighted girls. In his speech Bishop Brighton Malasa paid special tribute to Zynab Mussa, a young disabled woman who had sewed a dozen beautiful quilts in

her shop in Monkey Bay. In addition, trustee Sally Huband presented some stunningly crafted quilts made by her friends in the Ouse Valley Quilters. Atupere (pictured) said, “The hostel is very beautiful; we are very comfortable.”

SIMON SWIMS

In June Simon Grier bravely took to the chilly water at Herne Bay, Kent and swam around the Old Pier Head which is 1.5km off shore. He raised £2200 for the 2014 trip fund. Simon was born in Zambia but lived in Malawi until he was eight years old. He went on the 2014



working party trip and thoroughly enjoyed reacquainting himself with the Warm Heart of Africa.

CHORAL CONCERTS

Music for Lent in Wingham Church, Kent was performed by Caritas Chamber Choir and directed by Benedict Preece. The concert raised £440.

‘Holy is the True Light’ held in Canterbury Cathedral raised £740. The Becket Consort, directed by Peter Futchter, gave the Canterbury premiere of Ola Gjeilo’s Sunrise Mass for choir and strings. The concert also featured the Simon Langton Girls’ School Chamber Choir.

Funds from these two concerts went towards the 2014 working party trip.

FAMILY BARNDANCE



Annie Barton Hodges organised a Family Barndance in Shepherdswell, Kent. £600 was raised for the 2014 working party trip. The event was attended by Archdeacon Hannock Ng’oma from Northern Malawi, Fr Samuel Dewa and Fr Clement Nazili from Lake Malawi. They were on a course at Canterbury Cathedral and were pleased to be able to join in. Annie was able to present musical instruments to the Blind Unit at Nkope Primary School in July.

2014 WORKING PARTY FUNDRAISING AND PROJECTS

BY RICHARD BARTON, CHAIRMAN

Members of the group raised bucket-loads of cash – more than £9000 – and this turned out to be excellent training for shifting a prodigious number of bucket-loads of sand!

The main project was to try and combat the soil erosion that threatens some of the buildings at Nkope Health Centre. Together with 20 residents our group of 13 formed the Nkope Mulera Nthaka Club to dig protective swales, repair some huge gullies and set up a nursery of vetiver grass to plant out later. We also paid for further training in Permaculture Design after our departure.

The Primary School received netballs and football bibs and a grant for classroom refurbishment. We took out quantities of educational resources,



Photo: Ben Johnson

sports equipment and musical instruments for the increasing numbers in the unit for blind and low vision learners. We supported the Sunday School and branches of the Mothers' Union that we met on our travels – Nkope, Lulanga and Likwenu. The Orphan care Centre at Chankhungu will be receiving a grant for educational resources.

If you are interested in a place on the 2015 Working Party please email: chairman@malawimacs.org as soon as possible!

DONALD ARDEN

Donald Arden, patron of MACS since its birth, died peacefully at home on 18 July. He was Bishop of Malawi and then Archbishop of Central Africa from 1961-1981. He maintained a lively interest in Malawi until the end of his life. MACS has established The Donald Arden Memorial Fund in thanksgiving for his life and work. (MACS already administers a Bursary Fund in his name)

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 2.30p.m. on Saturday, 20 September in Romsey Abbey, Hampshire.



MACS FUNDED BICYCLES

The Reverend Deacon Anthony Chitete of the Church of the Ascension, Likwenu, was one of eight July graduates of the Leonard Kamungu Training College to receive a MACS bicycle. He finds it very useful for pastoral visits in the Parish and outlying stations and appreciated the training in cycle maintenance provided by Africycle.



<http://www.facebook.com/malawimacscharity>

SPREADING THE WORD

Trustees offer talks to church congregations, schools, Rotary clubs, branches of Mothers' Union and any other groups who would like to hear about our work in Malawi. Contact: chairman@malawimacs.org

NEW PROJECTS

The following projects have been approved since the last Newsletter:

- Replacement roof at St Matthew's & St Luke's, Kholombodzi
 - Kitchen for boarding Girls at Mpondas
 - Completion of semi-detached house at Malosa Mothers' Union
 - Completion of St Mary's, Namalomba
 - Roof at St Peter's, Chambandwe
 - Construction of Boys' Hostel, Nkope
 - 3rd Orthopaedic Programme in Mangochi
 - Refurbishment of teacher's house at Linga Primary School
 - Development training for two members of DLM Diocesan Staff
 - Nursery block construction, Balaka Mothers' Union
 - Construction of pit latrines, kitchen and showers for St Martin's Malindi Maternal Waiting Home
 - Repairs to Girls' Hostel, Malosa
 - Water Project, Nkope
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WHO'S WHO

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Trustees: Jane Arden, Tony Cox,
Richard Davies, Anthea Griggs, Sally
Huband, Susannah Woodd

**TRUSTEES WARMLY INVITE YOU
TO THE AGM AND
'MACS IS 21 CELEBRATION'**

**Saturday 27 September
at
St Saviour's Hall,
St George's Square, Pimlico,
SW1V 3QW**

**10:30 AGM
11:30 Eucharist
12:15 Celebration Drinks
1:00 Lunch (bring your own; drinks provided)
2:00 Anniversary Project Launch and other presentations
3:30 Tea**

M.A.C.S.
Malawi Association
for Christian Support