

“Masasi & Newala News” No. 23 – August 2011

***“MASASI &
NEWALA
NEWS”***

Issue No. 23

August 2011

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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 was simply wonderful to meet so many old friends and others who I had only known by their Email address or telephone number, at the Hereford Conference in March and virtually everyone I spoke with said how much they enjoyed reading Masasi & Newala News.

This is reassuring as I must say my heart sometimes sinks when I realise that it is time to put together another issue of M&NN, but once I start, and begin looking at all the articles that have been sent in and the news that I have received, I begin to realise how important it is to keep everyone informed as to what is happening in both Dioceses.

The Masasi & Newala Day, held in Hereford on Saturday, 19th March was an outstanding success and very many thanks must go to everyone in the Diocese of Hereford who was involved in the complex organisation and planning for the Conference. We are particularly grateful to Walter Gould who, with judicious use of his silver bell, ensured that the detailed programme ran to time and that all the speakers had an opportunity to say their piece. And of course much of the success of the day was due to the fact that such splendid facilities were made available to us by the Diocese of Hereford and also that the Rt Revd Anthony Priddis, the Bishop of Hereford, was able to attend the Conference and welcome everyone to the event. At this stage we do not know who will be hosting the next Masasi & Newala Day – but they will have a hard act to follow!

Everyone was delighted to have an opportunity to meet with Bishop Patrick and Emmie, and, for the first time for many, to meet with Bishop Oscar and Agnes and we are grateful to Mick Levick who masterminded the organisation of the visas and travel arrangements. And we were pleased to learn after the event that as a result of a number of very generous donations – particularly from the Diocese of Hereford Council for World Partnership and Development, the Minchinhampton Group, the Stapleford-Nachingwea Link, the Friends of Masasi and the Bishop of Hereford - the entire travel costs, amounting to nearly £3000 were completely covered.

The Diocese of Hereford graciously agreed to pass all the donations received on the day to the Friends of Masasi & Newala, and we are delighted to report that, with the benefit of Gift Aid, the total amount received was in excess of £1000. This was a totally unexpected

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windfall for the Friends and the Trustees would like to assure everyone that all the money donated at the Conference will be spent on projects in the two Dioceses.

If any criticism at all could be made of the Conference it was that there was just not enough time to talk, on an individual basis, with everyone who was there. We understand that nearly 100 people attended, from every corner of the UK and many people commented that they would have liked to have had a longer opportunity to chat and catch up with old friends. We are not sure how this problem can be solved – unless the next event is a Masasi & Newala Weekend! Congratulations and thanks to Walter Gould and all his team for a wonderful day.

It is with great sadness that we report the death, on 28 June 2011, of Sister Lia – at the age of 99.

Sister Lia, who was one of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, was in charge of the Leprosy Hospital at Mwena, near Ndanda from the early 1950's.

We know that our supporters who worked in Masasi during that era will have fond memories of Sister Lia and her devoted and amazing work.

May she rest in peace.

Her funeral, which was led by Abbot Dionis, and attended by Bishop Patrick, took place at the Benediction Mission at Ndanda on 29 June.

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REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF MASASI & NEWALA

As reported at the Hereford Conference, the Friends have now changed the name of the Trust to “The Friends of Masasi & Newala”. The Charity Commission have given their agreement to this change, which became effective at the start of the Trust’s new financial year, on 11 July 2011.

Following individual meetings with both Bishops, and also with Father Stewart Kasembe and Phares Lihewe, the Trustees met in London on 16th May to discuss what support they could offer to both Dioceses during the coming year. The meeting lasted for the greater part of the day, as there were many important decisions to be made. After lengthy discussion the Trustees reluctantly agreed that there was no way in which the Trust’s income could pay for all the requests for support that had been received but came to the unanimous agreement that once again the Trust’s capital should be “dipped into” to meet the increasing demands for help.

The Trustees are perfectly happy with this decision, but it does mean that unless substantial donations are forthcoming, the Trust may eventually simply run out of money. This is not an immediate problem but after all the current grants have been paid, the capital will be less than half what it was a few years ago

The Trustees agreed to meet the majority of the two Bishops’ requests, including paying for the complete reconstruction of the Bishop’s house at Mtandi at a cost of £2000. They also agreed to settle an outstanding account for £1000 from the Building Department at Ndanda for the construction of a special Centenary commemorative area at Mkomaindo and agreed to pay a substantial amount towards the payment of gratuities to retired clergy, lay staff and clergy widows, which are long overdue.

In view of the support that it is hoped will be offered to the Diocese of Newala by the Bramhall group and also bearing in mind Mtwara’s links with Redditch and Ledbury, the Trustees decided to direct their aid for Newala towards the fields of health and education, and specifically at this time towards the renovation of the Health Centre at Lulindi.

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They have therefore pledged a total of £6000 (nearly £1500 of which is being provided by specific donations for this purpose) to enable the facilities at Lulindi to reopen and provide much needed health care to the people of this area. It is proposed that £1000 will be sent to Medeor to enable the Health Centre to purchase drugs to this value, and the balance of £5000 will be used for the purchase of specific equipment.

We asked Bishop Oscar to provide us with detailed information on the plans for Lulindi and in particular asked whether a Business Plan had been drawn up. Bishop Oscar responded very promptly and sent a 40-page document, drawn up by Kionga Enterprises in Mtwara, which outlined the cost of equipping the health facility – at a total cost of nearly £67,000. This does not seem to take into account the cost of staffing and we are therefore seeking further clarification before proceeding any further.

As far as the Rondo is concerned, the Trustees agreed to provide for the installation of photo-voltaic cells on three of the teachers’ bungalows, at a cost of £1800 and we are delighted to report that this project has been totally funded from the sales of kambaa, under the scheme initiated by Graham Cole (see page 10).

The Trustees also agreed to pay a subsistence grant of £1500 per annum, for three years, to support the six ordinands who are studying at St Cyprian’s – three of whom are from the Diocese of Masasi and three from the Diocese of Newala.

Since the Trustees met they have received further requests from the Diocese of Masasi to pay the account from COASCO (Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation), who have audited the financial statements of the Diocese for the period from 2007 to 2009. This is a hefty bill and until we have seen the completed audit, we do not feel able to contribute towards the cost.

In their meeting with Stewart Kasembe and Phares Lihewe the Trustees discussed the cost of maintaining the Rondo’s new Landrover. This vehicle covers a considerable mileage – approximately 3000 km a month - and it is obvious that the current driver does not have the appropriate training to enable him to ensure that the vehicle is maintained in good running order. We have therefore agreed to fund the cost of the driver attending a six month

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course in Mtwara which will provide him with training in vehicle mechanics, generator and solar power installation and electrical wiring. The cost, including accommodation and food is just over £800 and we feel that this will not only benefit the driver, but will also prove to be a very good investment for the Rondo community.

For some time the Friends have been seeking to appoint one or two new Trustees but despite appeals made at last year’s Masasi Day in Minchinhampton, and again this year in Hereford, for people to put their names forward, no one seemed willing to take on this task. However, we are delighted to report that we have recently appointed Stephen Arbery as a Trustee. Until his retirement in December 2009, Steve was the Deputy Headteacher at Bishop Perowne Church of England College in Worcester, which is involved in the Global Partnership link between Worcester and the Rondo Seminary. The four long-standing Trustees – Gill Hucker, Dirk Juttner, Shirley Talbot and Jill Thompson – look forward to working with Steve and are particularly pleased to have a contact in the Worcester/Hereford area, which has so many links with both Masasi and Newala.

The Trustees have been concerned that the Friends’ website, which was set up more than two years ago, has become somewhat out of date, largely because the information needed to update the website, has not been available. The reason for this is partly because none of the Trustees can spare the time needed to re-write large sections of the website, but also because there is a shortage of appropriate photographs and videos. To remedy this situation, Terry Bailey, who manages the website on behalf of the Friends, will be visiting Masasi and Newala for a period of four weeks from 2nd to 30th September. His brief will be to obtain as much information as possible, including photographs, videos, films and sound recordings, to ensure that the website gives a true picture of what is happening in both Dioceses. He will also be offering advice and training on the use of the Internet, and it is hoped that he will be able to set up Skype links at Mtandi, the Rondo and Newala, which would facilitate free international telephone communication. If anyone has any particular tasks that they would like Terry to undertake during his time in Masasi and Newala – please contact him direct on vostok4design@me.com.

For many years Brenda Stone has been working tirelessly to raise money for the Primary School at Mtandi and specifically to offer

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support to the blind children who attend this School. The Friends have been pleased to hold the funds that Brenda has raised, and recently, at Brenda’s request, have sent £1000 to Mr Kasoyaga, the Headmaster, to enable him to buy new bunk beds and other equipment for the students at the School.

When the Trustees met with Bishop Oscar in Hereford one of points that Bishop Oscar raised was the need to set up an effective and appropriate financial accounting system in the new Diocese and it was suggested that Peter Ramrayka might be able to suggest a way forward. We are delighted to report that the Bramhall group have taken this on board and we print below an outline of the scheme that has been drawn up by Keith Fenwick and Peter Ramrayka. The Friends are very impressed with this whole project and are pleased to be able to make a substantial contribution towards the travelling costs involved in the initial visit.

PROJECT TO SUPPORT DIOCESAN FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN NEWALA

1. When Bishop Oscar visited us at St Michael’s, Bramhall, he laid great stress on the need to strengthen financial administration in the new Diocese and said that he would welcome any assistance we were able to give, especially in the form of experienced personnel on short term attachment. Administration tends to be ‘stretched’ at best in most established voluntary organisations in Tanzania, even more so in a new organisation created with minimal resources of finance and personnel. We agreed to see how we might best help.
2. Through Gill Hucker we were put in touch with Peter Ramrayka who had been commissioned earlier to plan a similar exercise with the previous Diocese of Masasi (which unfortunately did not bear fruit). Peter endorsed our view that any secondment of personnel for a substantial period to establish adequate systems needed to be preceded by a careful preliminary analysis of needs.
3. Peter’s specification (as drawn up for Masasi) for this initial stage has been shared with Bishop Oscar who has endorsed it and welcomed our offer of help. We now envisage the following:
 - a. Identification of a suitable person to undertake a preliminary visit to Newala, with professional support as necessary from UK, as below;

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- b. A short (10 to 14 days) visit to Newala in September/October 2011 to establish a baseline of information about financial systems, to get to know significant Diocesan financial personnel and their potential (a workshop of at least two days), and to begin the process of drawing up task and person specifications for a future longer term attachment. This visit would also focus on specific current Diocesan enterprises and developments such as Lulindi Health Centre, Mtwara Hostel, and Mothers’ Union mini-projects as well as on central Diocesan administration;
 - c. Identification of a suitably financially qualified and experienced person available to undertake a longer term attachment to Newala Diocese, say, six months to a year at most;
 - d. An attachment of six months to a year during 2012
 - i. to set up financial systems as necessary for adequately recording, reporting, and forecasting income and expenditure,
 - ii. to establish budgeting and business planning procedures, and
 - iii. to identify and train personnel in consistent use of (i) and (ii) for the future.
4. Peter Ramrayka has offered to identify through his professional contacts suitable persons to undertake both the preliminary and longer term assignments and to offer professional support from UK.

If we are unable to identify a suitable person to undertake the preliminary assignment, Peter will undertake it himself. We are also in contact with “Christians Abroad” about helping to identify and support a longer-term suitable person for the longer term attachment, and we may be able to source such a person from our own congregation (that remains to be seen).

5. This project needs financing. We estimate the cost of the preliminary visit to total about £1000 including airfares (UK/Dar/Mtwara return) plus a token *per diem* payment and other incidental expenses. Bishop Oscar has undertaken to cover cost of local transport and board and lodging (although we are looking in St Michael’s Bramhall at ways of minimising this burden on the Diocese). We have yet to cost the longer-term attachment (again the Bishop has undertaken to cover local costs but...) and I will be exploring this with Peter and others soon.

Keith Fenwick
Peter Ramrayka

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INTRODUCING KAMBAA - PLAITED ROPE FROM TANZANIA *(reproduced from “Living Woods, November/December 2010)*

People in Africa could teach us plenty about using natural materials, from rushes and grasses, to trees, great and small. The natural material which I want to introduce here is a rope made from palm leaves. It's made by plaiting leaf fronds together and the resulting rope is amazingly consistent in size. The leaves come from the tall doum palm which gracefully lines the banks of rivers in dry parts of Africa or from a dwarf palm which has its leaves conveniently close to the ground for harvesting. The rope, which I prefer to call by its Swahili name “kambaa” has many uses, including making chair seats and resilient bed bases. Some people also use palm leaves for thatching houses and for weaving mats, hats, baskets, fans and food covers.

Subsistence farmers can make kambaa during the long dry season when there is little work to do on the land. The dwarf palms in Masasi District are evidently sustainable in their natural habitat and do not have to be planted in place of food crops. I was there, therefore, to expand the trade in kambaa to this country and I began importing it with the help of an Anglican monk whom I had met in Masasi and who arranged for someone to send me parcels by sea mail.

A number of chair makers have been enthusiastic customers and several leading teacher of greenwood crafts have encouraged pupils to use kambaa in place of hemp or rush. One advantage is the greater width of kambaa which allows for coverage with far fewer turns and so the time taken to weave a seat is reduced. As kambaa is very strong, an open weave is quite practical.

Kambaa is sold very cheaply in Tanzania but I don't sell it cheaply here. I take into consideration the many hours of labour needed to harvest the palm leaves and the patient and skilful plaiting needed for each long hank. Thus enhancing the value for our market makes good sense and I return all profits to the producers and their kin through the Anglican-organised Friends of Masasi charitable trust.

Hopefully this trade in kambaa will help the producers and give some of you a wonderful “new” materials to work with.

Kambaa trade boost

Kambaa from Masasi has become more popular with chair makers in Britain in the last 12 months. The prime user is Mike Abbott who teaches people to make chairs of greenwood using pole lathes and hand tools. He is inspired by its looks and ease of use. I've had two articles about kambaa

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published in magazines (see above) but I think the best publicity is in Mike Abbott's new book, "Going with the Grain" in which he shows how to weave chair seats. In May I sold kambaa to a woman who had failed in her search for plaited straw, so she was very pleased to find this look-alike from Masasi. She was a new kind of customer and I hope she will spread the word to other weavers.

Sending parcels by air mail is expensive so I've arranged for Joyce Liundi (Masasi Mothers' Union) to send kambaa by surface mail, but in past years that sometimes took seven months. I hope that people who travel by plane from Tanzania to Masasi will bring with them five or six hanks. In a suitcase or hold-all this weighs only about 11 kg or, wrapped in a carton, about 8 Kg. I could arrange collection in Britain or pay for sending a parcel to me by Post. Cheap transport will give a bigger profit for the Mothers' Union in Masasi via the Friends of Masasi & Newala. Joyce Liundi will have kambaa ready for carrying from Mtandi. African Palms Ltd have been very helpful, offering transport in their annual container shipment, but it's a long time till the next one.

I have given £1800 for the installation of new solar lighting at Rondo Seminary, all from the profits of kambaa trade. Given a steady supply I'm hoping to make donations of at least £1000 per year in future. For internet users there is more information about kambaa in my Masasi blog at <http://grahamcole.wordpress.com/>

Graham Cole jdyngrhm@yahoo.co.uk

We are also indebted to Graham Cole for the following advice to people visiting Masasi and Newala.

“Travellers cheques are very difficult to change in Tanzania so don't take them. GB Pounds are easy to change in banks and there are plenty of ATM facilities which accept VISA cards.

In Mtwara and Masasi I was able to withdraw cash, in shillings, from my UK account with my VISA Debit card. The exchange rate was good but because of the fixed charge I advise not making many small withdrawals.

Flying from Dar es Salaam to Mtwara is very expensive and I can recommend travelling by bus. We went by Sumr'y, starting from Temeke Sudan on the south side of the city. We stopped off at Lindi and enjoyed a night in the lovely Lindi Oceanic hotel.”

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH THE MOTHERS’ UNION, NEWALA

When we were in Newala last September, representing St Michael’s, Bramhall, Stockport, one of the most impressive people we met was Mama Elizabeth Milanzi, then newly appointed Secretary of the Diocesan Mothers’ Union. She clearly brought a cool head and lots of experience to the challenge of creating a Diocesan organisation out of nowhere.

One story she told us of her experience with St Michael’s, Mtwara MU was of their local practice of collecting funds three times a year – Christmas, Easter and St Michael’s Day to help with the welfare of the poorest families in their area – all families not just Christian families. The poorest parishioners might only be able to contribute an egg to the fund raising but once that egg was auctioned amongst better off parishioners it could become the most expensive egg ever! In this way everyone could contribute and something like £200 was collected three times a year to help the poorest out of poverty.

This seemed like a good model to us, one which would appeal to our own Mothers’ Union members and others, so on our return we issued the challenge to our congregation to raise a similar amount – just £600 in total – across the year from small events like cake sales and a quiz evening. We hoped the small but real funds raised in this way might be used to start income generating projects for the Diocese that would benefit everyone. The congregation’s response was very positive - and we’ve eaten lots of excellent cakes- so that we have just been able to send out £400 to Elizabeth and expect to send another £200 before Christmas.

You can be sure that Mama Milanzi hasn’t wasted a moment since we committed St Michael’s, Bramhall to this annual specific fundraising target. As we expected, she has worked, with others to devise ways in which this small amount of capital can be used to kick-start chicken rearing and pig rearing projects – even a plan for purchase of plastic chairs and tables which can be hired out at profit as well as being used for Church functions. All these projects are carefully costed and the likely income estimated. All of them have been implemented successfully in other Tanzanian Dioceses. No doubt there will be some problems along the way, and it will take time for all the projects to lift off, but we are sure Mama Milanzi and her colleagues are the right people to sort any problems out.

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What will be the outcomes for Newala Diocese of the first projects?

- Increased net income for the Diocese: Good.
- More employment for local farmers and the like: Good.
- Better nutrition and food markets in the local villages: Good.
- Incremental project expansion to more and more families and farmers: Good.

And what will be the satisfactions for us back here at St Michael’s, Bramhall?

- Recognition that a little can go a long way:
- Satisfaction that small scale help from this end can match small scale self-help in Newala Diocese to make a better life for Newala Christians and their local communities.
- Raised awareness – particularly for our young people - of the realities and possibilities of Christian life in Newala.

Mama Elizabeth has promised us she will keep us well-briefed about how things are going because she recognises that continuing enthusiasm at this end depends in great part on knowing that our fund-raising is paying dividends out in Newala.

Newala Mothers’ Union has plenty more plans for essential development. One that interests us (but to which we haven’t been able to make a commitment) is for a girls’ hostel at a local secondary School. Nothing could be more worthwhile but the scale of the project is currently beyond the Newala MU or ourselves, given our other prior commitments to Newala.

There is no reason why other Parishes should not copy our model of small scale funding focused on known small scale projects. It doesn’t require the wider links that St Michael’s Bramhall is working on ; £600 a year is a do-able target and even if it’s £200 a year it would be like gold to Newala MU! Or what about the girls’ hostel project? Could one or two parishes around the UK contribute to that? Again it’s do-able and would make a real difference.

Don’t hesitate to contact me - fenwickk@btinternet.com Tel: 0161 483 5197 – or Elizabeth Milanzi direct, elizamajida@yahoo.com – if you would like some more information and help in making a start on this. The more the merrier!

Keith Fenwick

Christine Lawrence

Christine Lawrence, who was a faithful supporter of the Friends of Masasi Charitable Trust, died on 7 January 2011 and we are pleased to be able to print the following obituary, which appeared in the Britain-Tanzanian Society Newsletter.

“Christine Lawrence played a pivotal role in the early days of the Britain-Tanzania Society when she did an immense amount of work on the administrative and financial side, working with Bishop Trevor Huddleston and Roger Carter. She kept closely in touch with very many BTS members and with others connected to Tanzanian Affairs. She herself wrote numerous book, film and TV documentary reviews about Tanzania on a wide variety of subjects. She was present at virtually every meeting of the Society and was an active member of the committee. She played a leading role in organising Society meetings and plying participants with refreshments.

At her funeral, Society member Keith Lye read out a tribute he had written :

“Christine Lawrence made a massive contribution to many disadvantaged and impoverished people, particularly in Africa and Britain.

After completing a two-year course to become a child welfare officer, she went to run the Mahiwa Young Farmers’ Training Centre, in Southern Tanzania, which had been set up by Bishop Trevor Huddleston, then the Bishop of Masasi. One of Christine’s most remarkable achievements, long before Women’s Lib, was to introduce courses at the Centre for girls, the College having previously been exclusively for boys.

On her return to Britain in 1970, she worked for 20 years at Friends’ House, where she made many friends among the Quaker community. They shared the same ideals, especially in supporting projects to help people in what we then called the “Third World”. She made a return visit to Tanzania in 1972 and worked at a farm school on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.

When we were working together she was a stickler for detail. Like others, I got my knuckles rapped whenever I generalised or was imprecise.

Christine was a most able and efficient person. Inspired by her deep Christian faith, she touched the lives of many people and she will be very much missed.

The funeral was held at the small and very attractive Gospel Oak Methodist Church in London. The BTS was represented by the Fennells and David Brewin.”

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THE BISHOP TREVOR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The BTSS was originally established in January 2008 as a result of the very generous collection received during the special service in the Chapel of Lancing College, led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Since that date the Scheme has enabled two young men and two CMM Sisters each year, to embark upon a four year course of secondary studies at the Junior Seminary at the Rondo.

The first group of students – Kepha Bashidi and Alban Noel and Sister Thekla and Sister Edna – will complete their course at the end of this year and all the students are very appreciative of the support that they have received.

However, at their meeting on 16th May 2011, the Trustees reluctantly decided that it would not be possible for any new students to start in January 2012, although the students who have already started their studies will, of course, continue to be supported. One of the reasons for this is that the fees at the Rondo have increased by 50% and the contribution from the BTSS has therefore had to be raised from £200 per annum per student to £300 p.a.

The final group of students will complete their course in December 2014, by which time eight young men and six CMM Sisters will have benefited from the BTSS. (Unfortunately because of the limited accommodation available at the Sisters’ House at the Rondo, only six Sisters can be enrolled at the College at any one time, hence the discrepancy in the numbers.)

Since its inception, the BTSS has received a number of additional donations, for which the Trust is very grateful, but it is estimated that if fees remain at the present level, by December 2014 the Trust will have paid out a total of £11,800 and if the fees increase again, the amount will be even larger.

As the original collection at Lancing College was in the region of £8000 it will be appreciated that the Friends will have made a considerable contribution towards the cost of running the BTSS and although it is agreed that it has been extremely worthwhile, regrettably it is just not possible for the Scheme to continue any longer.

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*We are indebted to Dirk Juttner, who sent us this
Easter Newsletter from the Community of St Mary*

COMMUNITY OF ST MARY Kilimani Masasi, PO Box 502, Masasi-Mtwara, Tanzania

May 2011

Eastertide Greeting

PEACE BE WITH YOU John 20; 19-20

Dear friends and partners,

We, the Sisters of St Mary, are taking this opportunity to greet you all in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank God that we are able to write this Eastertide greeting. We all have a reason to rejoice as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. Hallelujah. "Christ is risen. Hallelujah. Hallelujah."

We hope that you were able to celebrate Easter joyfully. In Masasi we had a good day and were able to celebrate all the services in our Convent Chapel with the families of the people who work with us; the Chaplain, the driver, the watchman and the two boys who help to look after our cows. We had the Easter Vigil with the blessing of the Easter candle and at eight o'clock in the morning, a sung Mass.

At Sayuni and Mbumi the Sisters had the services in their Chapel as they are not working directly in the parish but our other houses shared in the parish celebrations. We are grateful that we have all been able to celebrate Easter in this way.

We are sorry that our greetings are delayed but we hope you will excuse us.

A BRIEF REPORT ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UNTIL MAY 2011

Evangelism

CMM, which has 12 houses in six Dioceses of the Anglican Church in Tanzania and one in Zambia planned to go on evangelical visits. The CSP Sisters sent some funds to help us. We visited some parishes in the Diocese of South West Tanganyika, four in the Diocese of Newala and four in Masasi Diocese.

Transport is a big problem. To visit some parishes we used our Landcruiser, to some we went by bus, while for others we hired bicycles or motorcycles. The transport difficulties hampered our activities and we were unable to visit all the parishes planned. With good transport we could do more evangelism. We have invitations from many places but we cannot accept them all because our funds for transport are low.

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CMM Nursery Schools

Pre-school (Nursery School). We planned to start an English medium school and thank God that we gained permission to begin a primary school in Njombe. We got our registration this January and we now have Standard 1. We ask your support in building more classrooms (we have five at the moment) and in getting English teachers.

Township

We are having problems over our land in Tanga and Masasi. Our new field in Tanga has been taken over and the Sisters have been moved to another area. It is a great pity as a lot of work has already been done to develop the land. The Government has promised that they will receive compensation but as yet we have heard no more about his.

The Township of Masasi is expanding and the Sisters' land will be within the town area so there is a plan to take over the land for building new houses. The Community has a long term lease on the land but when we received the lease we did not realise that it was only for agricultural and husbandry use and the residential use was not included. This is a great problem and we do not know how it will be resolved. We need the support of your prayers as we try to explain to the Government that this whole area is not solely for the profit of the Community but for the benefit of the local people also.

Orphanage Centre at Kilimani Masasi

Our plans have been drawn up and we await funding to build the Centre. As the building work will take some time, we have decided to begin to support the education of the orphans. In the three villages of Chisegu, Chanikanguo and Magumuchila there are about eighty children who we hope to help to get an education. So far we have provided uniforms for the children of Chisegu. Next week we move on to Chanikanguo and then to Magumuchila. We are grateful for the support we have received for this project and hope those who have helped us will be glad to know the progress we are making.

Problems

Our main problem is TRANSPORT. A new vehicle is needed at Sayuni as the present one has been on the road for 15 years. The Tanga car had an accident.

The work of the community is hampered because of this lack of transport. We cannot visit people in need, help with clinic work and take those who are sick or pregnant to hospital. We also need good transport to undertake our evangelism.

Our Plans

If we get good transport :

- To continue making visits for evangelism.
- Go out to orphans in the villages.

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- To develop our other projects within the community.
- To improve our clinic service.

We would like to let you know that we have been invited to visit CSP Sisters in Shoreham-by-Sea in England to join in their Centenary celebrations. Three CMM Sisters will be there - Sister Helena CMM (Sisters Superior), Sister Tabitha CMM (Community secretary) and Sister Debora CMM. They are going in September so if any of you would like to meet them, please contact Mother Philippa CSP.

In June Reverend Mother Gloria CMM and two Sisters are going to visit the CMM Sisters at Fiwila Mission in Zambia. Please pray for them.

As we are still in Eastertide we pray that God will bless you all and that together we may proclaim ‘Peace in the world’ – the peace the Lord Jesus promised when He rose.

We thank you for all your support and your continued prayers which help us to prosper. We have no words to express our gratitude. We just say once more ‘Thank you very much’.

Yours sincerely,

The CMM SISTERS

At the Hereford Conference we were delighted to make contact with members of Redditch One World Link and are delighted to print below a large part of their Summer 2011 Newsletter.

Redditch One World Link Friends of Mtwara



Education is regarded as a vital part of the life experience of children in Tanzania. Whereas primary education is now free, attendance at secondary school is dependent on selection and payment of fees. Some families are unable to afford fees for their children. This may result in their being unable to take up or complete a secondary school course.

“Masasi & Newala News” No. 23 – August 2011

Following the first visit to Mtwara-Mikindani by a party from Redditch in 1994, Redditch One World Link agreed to establish a student sponsorship fund. This would make resources available to support selected school pupils from needy families for their school fees and certain other needs. The scheme has been operating for over 16 years and is administered by the Mtwara One World Link committee, in association with head-teachers, with funds donated by members and friends of ROWL. MOWL each year provides a list of pupils that are being sponsored and forwards pupils’ letters of news, thanks and appreciation – in English and Swahili.

A selection of messages received over the past 2 years from pupils sponsored has been edited to provide some feedback from young people who otherwise may never have enjoyed the privilege of secondary education. Comments include some news from ex-pupils who have gone through the system into higher education and employment.

Hamisi : Naliendele Agricultural College

“I am very glad to say, “thank you” to your organisation, MOWL, for what you have done and to what you’re still doing to me, that is financing my studies at Naliendele Agricultural College for two years. I have benefited a lot by attending the field study where I learnt a lot of things practically and through interaction in the society. It is my hope that that through your financial assistance to my studies, I will be able to be competent in this field of the agricultural sector. 18/12/10 thank you for sponsoring my school fees for two years at Naliendele. Through your sponsorship, I managed to complete my studies and have been awarded the certificate in the course of general agriculture. I wish that you will be able to help others who will be asking for sponsorship as the same you did to me. May God bless you.”

Ismael : University of Dar es Salaam

“Today I would like to express my thanks to you, MOWL and Redditch One World Link for just assisting me to reach this highest level of education that everybody desires to reach. Since Oct 2009, I am in University of Dar es Salaam taking the three years degree Course of Bachelor of Commerce in Account (B.Com Acc). The Higher Education Students Loan Board gave me a loan for fees and accommodation. Therefore I am happy as I want to share it with you as you made my dreams to come into reality.”

Omari : Local then Mzumbe Secondary School

“I would like to thank you for sponsoring me in my studies especially in paying my school fees since I was in form two till now in advanced level. Through your assistance I have been doing well in academics. In 2008, I got an opportunity to join Mzumbe Secondary School as advanced student. In addition, I have been helped by Bashiru Hamisi who was sponsored by MOWL in past years. I received assistance from him like books, clothes, shops, money for buying other needs. Also I get support from Miss Jennifer Sesabo towards my basic needs. I expect to do well in my form six exams and would later like to take a Journalism course.”

Christian : Mtwara Technical Secondary School

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“Thanks giving for your support in school fees and requirements. ... I believe that without your aid, I will not be at school, that’s why I say thanks to you. I wish you all the best at your work and daily activities, and God bless you. May you continue to have that spirit for the people like me.”

Husna : Mtwara Technical Secondary School

“I am now a form 6 student. I would like to take this chance to thank all the members of MOWL for paying my school fees. May God bless you in all your activities.”

Hidaya : Rahaleo Secondary School

“I do give thanks to the board ‘Redditch One World Link’ (ROWL) for paying my school fees. Congratulations for it and thanks for caring for us the children who are living in poor conditions of life. In our country, Tanzania, so many of us children are lacking education due to the parents failing to manage the expenses of education. So thank you for enabling us to acquire further education. Also I remind you to continue to help us ...”

Amina : Songea then Mtwara Technical Secondary

“I was not attending my lessons as required due to ill health, caused by changes of weather omen. The Principal arranged to transfer me from Songea to Mtwara Technical. I am glad to inform you my donor that I am back and studying at Mtwara. Thanking you in advance.”

Athumani : Liwale Secondary School

“I’m writing to give thanks to the sponsors providing school fees for me since form one up to form five. I’ve no more words to say than: “Thanks a lot for your aid”. This year (2009), I am going to start form six, may I beg you to sponsor me again in school fees.”

Can you help as a Sponsor?

ROWL each year is committed to raising about £1300 for sponsored school fees in Mtwara area. We are most grateful to those who make individual gifts, which provide most of the support. The ROWL

committee would like to expand the scheme. If you are not already contributing, would you be willing please to share in this scheme of student sponsorship? One-off gifts or a charity fund-raising event are much appreciated. Better still is a regular donation by annual standing order to ROWL, so that the longer-term educational needs can be met. Additionally, this will help to raise awareness of the needs of people in developing countries like Tanzania. The ROWL committee would be happy to provide further information about the sponsorship scheme. Do please get in touch if you would like to help or receive further details.

Mtwara Visit 2011

In our next newsletter, we plan to report on the August visit to Tanzania. A party of 8 will be visiting Mtwara, Kilwa, Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam, where we look forward to strengthening the friendship twinning links between the two towns of Redditch and Mtwara.

Further information on ROWL, can be obtained from Jackie Morgan
morgan5ld@btinternet.com

THE MINCHINHAMPTON GROUP

RONDO CHAPEL APPEAL

In previous issues of Masasi News we have drawn attention to the Appeal which has been launched by the Minchinhampton Group to restore the magnificent Chapel at the Rondo – to which the Friends of Masasi & Newala have pledged £5000.

The Group has now produced packs of notelets to raise funds for the Rondo Chapel Appeal and colour pictures of these products can be seen on the Friends’ website. The notelets (with envelopes) cost £6 for a pack of 6, including postage.

MASASI 2012 HIV/AIDS CONFERENCE

Following the success of their HIV/AIDS Education Programmes in Masasi in previous years, the Minchinhampton Group has been asked by Bishop Patrick to organise an HIV/AIDS Education Training Conference in Masasi in 2012. The estimated costs for this are in the region of £3,500. To raise funds for this project the Group has produced tea towels, illustrated by Masasi children and including a picture of Bishop Patrick. The tea towels cost £5, including postage, and are also illustrated on the Friends’ website.

If you would like to place an order for notelets and/or tea towels, please complete the slip on the reverse of this page and return to Revd Stephen Jarvis, 8 Ollney Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud, GL6 9BX.

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Please make cheques payable to
Minchinhampton PCC – Masasi

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**ORDER FORM FOR MASASI – TANZANIA
TEA TOWELS & NOTELETS**

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

Email

I would like to order :

Number required	Item	Cost	Total enclosed
	Tea towel	£5	
	Pack of 6 notelets + envelopes	£6	

I enclose a cheque (made payable to Minchinhampton PCC – Masasi) for £ _____

If you would like to order more than one tea towel or one pack of notelets, please Email June Sidwell jesidwell@tiscali.co.uk or Stephen Jarvis stephenjarvis88@talktalk.net for prices.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT :

I wish my donation to Minchinhampton PCC to be treated as Gift Aid :

Name : _____

Address : _____

Amount of donation : _____

Date of donation : _____

Signature : _____

Date : _____

I know that I must pay an amount of Income / Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that Minchinhampton PCC will reclaim on my donation.

**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 : _____

	If possible I would like the Trust to use the funds I have donated for the benefit of the Diocese of Masasi
	If possible I would like the Trust to use the funds I have donated for the benefit of the Diocese of Newala
	I would like the funds I have donated 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.

Secretary : Mrs Gill Hucker, 6 Erme Park
Ermington, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9LY
Telephone : 01548 830407
Email : gill@hucker01.fsnet.co.uk