

“Masasi News” No. 19 – December 2009

***“MASASI
NEWS”***

Issue No. 19

December 2009

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“Masasi 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 News”, please send their name and address to Gill Hucker at the address below. There is no charge for the magazine, but contributions towards the cost of postage are always appreciated.

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

***Please note that the opinions expressed in “Masasi 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 EDITORS :

There have been some important events and changes in Masasi over the past few months and although some of our readers are in direct contact with the Diocese and aware of all that has happened, many will not have received any information and we have therefore attempted to list below, not in any particular order, all that has taken place in the Diocese since Masasi News No 18 was published in May – together with other information which we hope will be of interest.

- The new Diocese of Newala was inaugurated on 6 September 2009 and the Rt Reverend Oscar Mnung’ a was consecrated as Bishop of Newala. We are delighted to print a letter from Bishop Oscar and there is also a full report from Walter Gould, who represented the Diocese of Hereford at this important occasion. At the moment we do not have an email address for Bishop Oscar and all communication with him is via Bishop Patrick.
- There is an acute shortage of both water and food in certain areas of the Diocese of Masasi. We understand that the Government has set up a scheme to provide maize, which they are selling at a low price to charitable organisations, to enable these organisations to make this maize available to those most in need. We have not received any information on this scheme from the Diocese and to date the Friends of Masasi has not received any request for funds to buy maize, but if anyone wishes to make a donation to the Friends of Masasi towards the purchase of food supplies, the money will be forwarded to the Diocese without delay.
- We have been advised that there is a problem with Email at Mtandi and several people who have endeavoured to contact the Diocesan office and/or the Bishop have told us that the telephone rings, but there is no reply. We believe that this may be because electricity is only available for approximately two hours a day at Mtandi, which of course adds to their problems. We understand that the best time to contact the Diocesan office and/or the Bishop is between 6 am and 8 am UK time. There is apparently no problem in contacting the Rondo via Email, presumably because they use an Internet provider in Lindi.

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- Father James Almasi, who had been Rector at the Rondo since May 2007 has been replaced by Father Michael MacGregor from the Diocese of Saskatchewan in Canada. We understand that Father MacGregor was ordained Deacon at Masasi by Bishop Patrick in July 2009. He is also Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan but because of other commitments in Canada, he has only been able to spend a short time at the Rondo and as far as we know, he is not there at the present time.
- During Father MacGregor’s absence the Acting Rector, Father George Nwanje is responsible for the day to day running of the Theological College and oversight of the Secondary School. Father George completed his Bachelor of Divinity Degree in May 2008 at the University of Limuru in Kenya. He can be contacted by Email on nwanje@yahoo.com
- Father George is in regular contact with the Friends of Masasi and we understand from him that both the Secondary School and the Theological College are facing serious financial difficulties. One of the problems is that the salaries paid to teachers at the School are considerably lower than the rate paid by the Government and as a result of this some of the staff have already left and others are actively looking for other posts. He has told us that if the College were appropriately staffed it would cost in the region of £25,000 per annum. In December 2005 the Friends entered into an agreement to pay £1500 per annum to augment the Head’s salary and through specific donations the Trust sends a further £1500 per annum to help pay the salary of a Science teacher at the College. We are also aware that a parish in Worcestershire sends its harvest collection each year to help pay another teacher’s salary at the Rondo, so they are receiving considerable help from outside, but obviously this is not sufficient. We believe the problem has been exacerbated by the fact that this year only 70% of the fees have been received; possibly this is due to the food and water shortage which is threatening the livelihood of many parts of the Diocese.
- On 14 October, Terence, the driver at the Rondo, died after a very short illness – apparently as a result of complications from

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chicken pox. To describe Terence as “the driver at the Rondo” does not do justice to the vital role he played in the life of the whole community at the Rondo. Everyone was shocked by his death and there are some who wonder how the Rondo will continue without him. His funeral took place on 15 October in the Church at Mkuti, where his family lived, and a memorial service, led by Father James Almasi, was held on Monday, 19 October.

- Father James Almasi is now Parish Priest in Mkuti, an urban parish on the border of Masasi Town. He is very happy in this pastoral role and he and his family are living in the family home. He can be contacted via Email on jamesalmasi@yahoo.com
- Bishop Patrick has been invited to visit Canada next October and we understand that he will be travelling via the UK and has accepted an invitation to visit Minchinhampton. Minchinhampton will be celebrating the 750th anniversary of the foundation of their Church during 2010 and it is hoped that Bishop Patrick will be able to be take part in these celebrations.
- Martin Carr is currently visiting the Diocese on behalf of USPG and we look forward to receiving a report from him on his return.
- Brother James Anthony has just returned from a private visit to the Diocese, his first since he left the Rondo two years ago. He is now living in Leeds and can be contacted via Email on jassf2000@yahoo.co.uk
- A very successful Masasi Day was held in Minchinhampton on Saturday, 10 July. This was a wonderful opportunity to exchange information and views and we are very grateful to the Minchinhampton Masasi Group, for making all the arrangements for the day and for the excellent hospitality they provided. It is hoped that this will become an annual event and as Bishop Patrick hopes to be visiting Minchinhampton in October it is possible that the date of the next Minchinhampton Masasi Day will be arranged to coincide with his visit. We will confirm the date for 2010 as soon as it has been agreed.
- The Minchinhampton Group are planning to visit Masasi during 2010 to continue their work with HIV/AIDS education. They have recently established a new link with the International

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Mothers’ Union and we look forward to receiving further information on their plans shortly.

- The Minchinhampton Group have also launched an Appeal to restore St Cyprian’s Chapel at the Rondo and full details of this are given on page 31.
- Jonathan Rendall led a group of teachers from Hereford/Worcester Diocese to the Diocese of Masasi in August and hosted a return group of teachers and Headteachers in September/October. Reports will be available for the next Masasi News on the Global School Partnership: teacher exchanges, visits and curriculum developments between schools in Masasi /Newala and Hereford/Worcester Dioceses.
- We were very saddened to receive an Email from Jaap Hardeman telling us that Charles Boissevain, another of the Dutch doctors and a founder member of the Dutch “Vrienden van Masasi” had been involved in a car accident in Argentina and had suffered serious injuries, including brain damage. He was sailing, as ship’s surgeon, with a replica of The Beagle, retracing the route of Darwin and was on a trip to a local town. His wife, Binske, and both their sons, Alexander and Jan Maarten, are with him and we understand that he is shortly to be flown back to Holland. Please pray for his complete and speedy recovery.
- The Friends of Masasi website - www.friendsofmasasi.co.uk goes from strength to strength and we urge all supporters to look at the website on a regular basis as it is being constantly updated. The latest additions include a Powerpoint presentation from Angie Ayling entitled “In the footsteps of John Cornwall” covering the Cornwall family’s 50 year link with the Diocese, and photographs of the inauguration of the new Diocese and the consecration of Bishop Mnung’a.

A NEW LAND ROVER FOR THE RONDO

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In Masasi News No. 18 the Friends of Masasi announced that they were hoping to buy a new Land Rover for the Rondo and we are very grateful to the many people who responded to our appeal for funds.

Initially we were quoted a price of approximately £23,500 for a new Land Rover (that did not include shipping costs or spares and at one time we briefly considered buying a secondhand vehicle, but after consideration decided that this was not a wise move.

However, it was suggested that there might be ex MoD vehicles available, and by “googling” MoD Land Rovers on the Internet we discovered a company called Witham (Specialist Vehicles) Ltd in Grantham, Lincolnshire who deal with second-hand and reconditioned Land Rovers and also, with cancelled export orders.

Through this company, and with invaluable assistance from Jon Dearden and Graham Hodson in their Sales Department, we were able to purchase exactly the vehicle we needed – a brand new, long wheel base Land Rover 110 Station Wagon, Puma 2.4 TD with all the



specifications needed for the African terrain, bench seats fitted in the rear and a comprehensive pack of recommended spare parts, for a total price, including shipping in a container to Dar of £20,156.

We are very grateful to OTM Services Limited (www.otmservices.co.uk) who produced the vinyl stickers on each door - based on the new Friends of Masasi logo - and we are now anxiously waiting to hear that the vehicle has finally been cleared through Customs and has arrived at the Rondo, where it is so urgently needed.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA

DIOCESE OF NEWALA

Brief report on inauguration of Newala Diocese and immediate challenges facing the Diocese

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The official inauguration of the Diocese of Newala and consecration of the Rt Revd Oscar Mnung’ a was carried out on 6 September 2009 with a special Mass led by the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Tanzania, Dr Valentino Mokiwa. During the Mass, the Archbishop was assisted by fifteen Bishops from the Dioceses of Masasi, Dar-es-Salaam, Ruaha, Zanzibar, Kagera, Kiteto, Mara, Morogoro, Ruvuma, Southern Highlands, South West Tanganyika, Tabora, Tanga, and Western Tanganyika. There were a total of 62 Anglican Priests, three Priests from the Catholic Church and the Revd Canon Walter Gould, the representative of Hereford Diocese in the UK. There were also Government Officials, political leaders and other representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), making an approximate total of 2,500 people who attended that memorable event.

The Hon Philemon Luhanjo, the Chief Permanent Secretary Presidents’ Office who was the Guest of Honour on behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, made an urging and congratulating speech! He urged the Diocese to continue cooperating and working with the Government in various developmental aspects including education and health services as the Diocese of Masasi was doing. He also congratulated Bishop Oscar for being consecrated and enthroned as the first Bishop of Newala Diocese and urged him to become innovative, cooperative and more responsive to the Diocesan community without segregation.

On the side of the Government, Hon. Luhanjo pointed out that the Government appreciates the good services provided by the religious institutions, particularly in education, health, agriculture, and community development in general. This is evidenced by various people who believe that the services provided or facilitated by religious institutions are given with good faith and no corruption.

The Government, therefore, hopes that the services which the Diocese of Newala will be delivering to the community will also be better compared to the Government institutions.

On challenges, the Hon Luhanjo said that the Government has also so many challenges, but as long as there is cooperation and good relationship with the religious institutions, it is believed that the provision of community services will continue. Finally he wished Bishop Oscar and his family good health to effectively and efficiently perform his responsibility and solve accountability challenges for the success and benefit of his new Diocese.

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DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES

- **Evangelism**

The Diocese of Newala covers an area of 16,707 sq kms with a total population of 885,807 people in sixteen Parishes. Out of them only 39,870 are Anglican members. Apart from other denominations and Christian members, Moslems are more than 70% of the population. In this situation, evangelism is one of the Diocesan priorities, which faces a lot of challenges. Long distances from the Diocesan Headquarters are among the challenges, whereby, most of the Parishes are located at distances ranging from 8 kms to 140 kms.

The harsh environment with sandy and appalling roads is also another challenge. This will contribute in hindering smooth movements for evangelism services to the Parishes due to lack of reliable transport as the vehicle – Land Rover 110, which the Diocese of Masasi gave to the Bishop of Newala, is 15 years old. This vehicle is too old to effectively and efficiently cater for the day to day Bishop’s pastoral work. Running a vehicle which is almost dilapidated and frequently breaks down is economically unviable. In that sense, there is a need to get a new vehicle, and a Land Cruiser/Land Rover 110 Station Wagon, the current cost of which is up to Tshs 70 million is more preferable to match with the stated harsh environment.

- **Renovation of Health Centres**

There are two Health Centres located at Luatala and Lulindi villages. Most of the buildings were built using mud bricks by the Diocese of Masasi in 1930s and 1950s respectively, and currently all the buildings have alarming cracks, jeopardizing the lives of health staff.

They are really dangerous buildings needing major rehabilitation that can cost Tshs 50 million so as to have the safe health centres.

- **Establishment of Rest House**

It is important to note that Newala town is placed at a locality of mushrooming activities such as meetings, workshops, seminars, study tours and travelling groups, which always go to Mozambique via Newala and cross the Ruvuma River. Because there are no decent hostels and conference facilities in Newala town, many travelling groups are forced to end up in squatter places where they sometimes face health hazards, night insecurity, disturbances and so forth.

Taking into consideration that Newala is now the Headquarters of the new Diocese of Newala, obviously various internal and external partners and other travelling groups would like to visit and or stay at the Diocesan headquarters for security purposes. Unfortunately, the Diocese does not have such provisions, which could adequately cater for such partners or visiting groups. From that background, the Diocese thinks to renovate (if not to construct a new building) one of its old buildings built by CSP Sisters in order to have a reliable hostel that will be providing reliable security (accommodation) to partners and other

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travelling groups as well as their properties. The renovation cost is estimated at Tshs 10 million.

- **Inadequate financial capacity for appointing qualified/skilled staff**

As a new Diocese, Newala will obviously suffer substantially from getting qualified/skilled staff because does not have sufficient financial support to cover fringe benefits/incentives for such personnel. The current competition of recruiting professional staff will affect the Diocese, as most of them require good remuneration and incentives, a situation which a Church cannot afford. It is an actual fact that most skilled people nowadays are attracted by better working conditions (salary levels, incentive schemes, training opportunities, etc).

As recruitment of new staff for church-based institutions against competitive salaries is increasingly difficult, especially, given the current financial difficulties that the Diocese will be experiencing for the first two to three years, we would like to ask partners to support the Diocese to cover salaries for three important positions (Executive Secretary, Financial Officer and Development Worker). The salaries will be at least for a period of three years while the Diocese is thinking of developing a comprehensive strategic plan that will focus more on enhancing and building the capacity of the Diocese in :

1. generating and managing incomes in a sustainable manner at all Parish and Diocesan levels;
2. formulating sound and affordable recruitment policies that will apply contractual approaches for all workers;
3. improving staff performance by building skills on planning and budgeting;
4. empowering staff by tapping available training opportunities and promoting remuneration and incentives;
5. developing guidelines for staff performance (clergy and laity) to ensure good accountability.

- **Fencing the Diocesan Headquarters:**

As the Diocesan Headquarters is not fenced, its security is questionable. There are currently many families/people who have established their settlements within the Church premises. It has been revealed that it is very difficult to remove these people as it requires compensation of millions of Tshs, which the Church cannot afford. In order to maintain security and protect the remaining Church plots it is planned to fence the area at an estimated cost of Tshs 8 million.

- **Conclusion:**

There is no denying the fact that the success of the above-mentioned challenges require a better coverage of reliable working facilities including transport,

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financial and material support, as well as committed human resources to efficiently execute daily responsibilities and effectively implement the planned pastoral and physical developments of the Diocese and community in general.

This is very important as, in this world of competitive environment, the question of effective and efficient institution becomes more serious and urgent to guide institutional and community-based development. This can only be achieved by reinforcing unity through sharing and acquiring expertise, information, technology, material and financial support from partners worldwide.

+ Oscar Mnung’ a

Bishop of Newala Diocese

REPORT ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW DIOCESE OF NEWALA AND THE CONSECRATION OF OSCAR MNUNG’A AS THE FIRST BISHOP OF THE NEW DIOCESE

Walter Gould, Tanzania Link Coordinator in the Diocese of Hereford, was asked to represent the Bishop of Hereford and the Hereford Diocese at the Service on 6th September to inaugurate the new Diocese of Newala and to consecrate Oscar Mnung’ a from Dar es Salaam as the first Bishop of the new Diocese. A short description of the Service is appended below, together with a report of a day he spent going round villages near Masasi with Basil Mkata, the Diocesan Secretary.

Newala – Sunday 6th September

Service for the Inauguration of the new Diocese of Newala and Consecration of the first Bishop of the Diocese

Two 30-seater buses left the Conference Centre near Masasi Cathedral at 7.30 am with Bishops from all over Tanzania, their wives and some clergy for the two-hour drive to Newala.

The Service began at 10.00 am and lasted four and a half hours. The preacher was the former Archbishop, Donald Mtetemela,. A further one and half hours was spent in the Cathedral for greetings to be given to Bishop Oscar Mnung’ ga, including greetings from Bishop Anthony, the Bishop of Hereford, a photo call and then 20-minute speeches by Archbishop Valentino Mokiwa, Bishop Oscar and the Government Chief Secretary. The former President of Tanzania, Mr Benjamin Mkapa, was also in the congregation. There were eight choirs drawn from different parishes, some of which had travelled for four hours or more to be there. There were no other representatives from churches outside Tanzania. After the Service at about 5.00 pm local time, refreshments were served at the nearby Secondary School in Newala.

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Visits to villages around Masasi to see Diocesan projects for alleviating poverty and improving food security

This part of the country has suffered from drought for three years and large areas are tinder dry with no sign of any crops, only stunted, dead maize stalks in many places. Smaller cashew nut trees planted within the last three years and normally drought resistant, have also died. Emmy, the Bishop's wife, spoke with real concern about the food shortage, and I subsequently read in a Tanzanian paper that this is true of many parts of Tanzania due to the failure of rains.

In two villages I saw oxen, some bought with money from the Hereford Diocesan Advent Appeal. These are used for ploughing and can plough an acre of land in a few hours which would otherwise take a week if dug by hand. They feed on grass and maize husks and their dung is used for compost. Village committees with a project volunteer hire them out for ploughing and for work with bullock carts which are used for carrying many things such as seed, compost, harvested maize, bricks, water (especially for poor people), etc. There is good accountability in the form of twice-monthly reports to the Diocese by the project volunteer on behalf of the project committees.

Masasi Diocese has 200 acres of land near Mkwapa for a seed farm. The plan is to plant up to 50 acres in the first year, depending on whether the forecast of good 'Nino' rains in October prove to be correct. The Diocese buys better quality seed from an agricultural centre at Morogoro, and then when it is harvested, some is taken back there for testing and if there is a good report, it is then sold to farmers. Seed is tested every year to ensure good quality. This has already been done on a small scale in the Diocese, but with the money from Hereford it can now be done on a larger scale and more farmers will benefit.

Close to the road between two villages a good supply of water had been located at a depth of 70 metres and a water pump had been installed just one week previously. This was now serving the two villages.

At Chakama there were solar ovens which had been made at the Diocesan Centre. This is one of the Mothers' Union projects in the Diocese. With bright sun, rice and maize can be cooked in 1 hour, otherwise 4 – 5 hours. Solar ovens are smoke free and don't require fuelwood.

At Kamundi, a village 20 miles from Masasi and five miles off the main road, it was good to see some progress on the building of a new Church where Bishop Anthony had laid the foundation stone in 2006, but progress had been slow due to the 3-year drought. Water has to be carried nearly five miles from the nearest water source. Members of the congregation are making all the bricks themselves and have raised Tsh 2.9 million, about £1,500. On the cashew nut farm where many trees had been planted three or four years ago, almost all had died, and only a few dead maize stalks could be seen.

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For the sake of £200 - £300 it was agreed to ask Brother Francis, who is able to locate water by using ‘water divining’ techniques, to visit both Kamundi and the Cathedral compound to try to locate water sources.

Photographs of the Inauguration and Consecration – and other pictures taken in the villages, as well as a professionally made video of the event, are available on the Friends of Masasi website (www.friendsofmasasi.co.uk).



SUPPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF MASASI CHARITABLE TRUST

The inauguration of the Diocese of Newala and the Consecration of Bishop Oscar Mnung’a was an important event and a milestone in the history of the development of the Anglican Church in Tanzania.

But, as we are sure our readers will appreciate, the organisation involved in the celebration of such events costs a great deal of money.

Bishop Patrick approached the Trustees of the Friends of Masasi shortly before the inauguration for help with these expenses and initially the Trust sent funds to cover the amount which the Diocese of Masasi was asked to contribute to the new Diocese, and additional funds for hospitality costs. In the event, these sums proved totally inadequate and after the event Bishop Patrick sent us the following account, which itemises the total costs incurred in the inauguration of Newala Diocese :

Transportation and preparations for the Inauguration (fuel/costs for transporting facilities e.g. chairs, shading materials (tents), cooking utensils and the like)	1,882,500.00
Purchase of food and supportive stuffs (firewood, cooking oil, mineral water, kerosene, meat, rice, spices, etc.)	2,133,800.00
Bishopric materials (Crosiers, Bishop’s Ring/Cross, chalice, etc)	820,000.00
Rental of mini buses for ferrying Bishops and Priests to Newala	800,000.00
Accommodation costs for Bishops, Priests and other invitees (Government Officials)	1,157,000.00
Money deposited in Newala Diocese’s Account and cash given to the Bishop for the support of the new Diocese	2,000,000.00
Total Cost	8,793,300.00

Under the circumstances this seemed acceptable and the Trustees therefore forwarded a further sum of money to Bishop Patrick to ensure that all these costs were covered and that the Diocese of Masasi was not “out of pocket” as a result of the inauguration of the new Diocese. This obviously has made a serious dent in our capital but the Trustees felt that the Diocese of Masasi could not be expected to fund these expenses from their own budget.

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The Trust has also sent funds for the refurbishment of the Bishop’s house; Patrick, Emmy and their family are currently living in very cramped accommodation at Mtandi and we felt it important to carry out the necessary repairs and refurbishment of the Bishop’s house as a matter of urgency.

The Trust has also had to pay somewhat unexpected clearance charges on the Land Rover for the Rondo, which arrived in Dar towards the end of September. We had understood that the Diocese would pay these clearance charges (the original proposal had been that the charges would be funded from the sale of the old Land Rover). However, this did not happen and several weeks after the Land Rover arrived in Dar we learnt that it was still on the dockside as the Diocese was not able to pay the costs of clearance, together with the payments due for registration, issue of number plates, etc. We therefore sent sufficient funds to the Diocese to enable them to pay these clearance charges.

Unfortunately there was a delay in forwarding these funds to CCTWAMA in Dar and to date we still have not received confirmation that all the formalities have been completed for the release of the Land Rover. However, we hope that this will take place very shortly and that someone from the Rondo will be able to travel to Dar and drive the vehicle back to the Rondo, where it is so urgently needed. (In this connection we feel so sad that Terence, who was so looking forward to the delivery of this new vehicle, is no longer with us.)

In addition the Trust has forwarded to the Rondo the grant which is paid each year to support the ordinands at St Cyprian’s. There were originally seven ordinands but we understand from Father George Nawanje that, for various reasons, two of the ordinands have left during the past few months and consequently there are only five remaining. However, there is a possibility that these two will be returning to continue their studies and the Trust therefore sent the full grant.

This means that in the past few months the Trust has sent a total in excess of £9,000 to the Diocese. This is far in excess of the payments we normally make and as a result, our current account is virtually empty. The Trust obviously has additional funds on deposit, but access to these funds requires 60-days notice, and the Trust therefore has no further money available until early next year.

We have written to both Bishop Patrick and Father George Nawanje to advise them of the situation and hope that we do not receive any urgent requests for funds during the next few weeks.

**A STATEMENT FROM THE
TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF
MASASI CHARITABLE TRUST**



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With the division of the original Diocese of Masasi into two separate Dioceses, the Friends of Masasi are committed to supporting both Dioceses to the best of their ability. The Trustees feel that they have an obligation to offer this support as the Trust was set up to support the geographical area covered by the original Diocese of Masasi - which is now divided into two separate Dioceses.

However, this means that the Trust’s resources will be spread more widely and as donations to the Trust have diminished considerably over the past 18 months, the funds that we will have available to support both Dioceses will be very limited.

When making a donation to the Friends of Masasi Charitable Trust, it would therefore be appreciated if donors could indicate whether they wish the money to be directed specifically to the Diocese of Masasi or to the Diocese of Newala. Otherwise all funds will go into a central fund and the Trustees will endeavour to support both Dioceses, according to their needs.

At the moment there are no plans to change the name of the Charity although we may consider changing the name of this Newsletter to “Masasi and Newala News”. We would be interested to have readers’ views on this.

The following report on activities in the Diocese between August 2008 and July 2009 has been received from Geoffrey Patrick Monjesa and is the most up to date information we have on the situation in the Diocese.

However, we have heard from a number of people who have visited Masasi during the past few months that certain areas of the Diocese are now suffering from a shortage of water and food, although we do not have any

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precise information on the seriousness of the situation and the extent of the area that is affected.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA - DIOCESE OF MASASI

BRIEF REPORT ON DIOCESAN ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT FROM AUGUST 2008 – JULY 2009



1. INTRODUCTION

For a period of one year (August 2008 – July 2009) after the Masasi/UK partnership meeting in London, the Diocese of Masasi has been working very hard to achieve its **HOLISTIC MISSION** of ***“empowering people from all walks of life to reach their full potentials holistically and witness the love of God”***.

In order to effectively achieve this mission it needed to have a clear process as a guideline for all those having responsibility in the Diocese. In that sense, the first thing that the Diocese thought about was a process of preparing a **VISION**, which can help in achieving the **MISSION**.

A major driving force behind this process was the dissatisfaction of the Bishop, the Diocesan administration/management as well as internal and external individual friends and partners concerning the way things were going, especially with regard to the challenges that the Diocese has been facing for so long in relation to the issues of self-support, responsibility and accountability, the level of commitment among the clergy, staff members, local church leaders, and the level of faith and understanding among the Church community in general.

The process of preparing a vision as stated above helped us to come up with a vision that says ***“People in the Diocese of Masasi know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, are aware of their duties and responsibilities, accountability, and enjoy improved life spiritually, mentally and materially”***.

This **VISION** encouraged us to start addressing and analyzing critically the community and institutional challenges and developing priorities and plans for the year 2008/2009.

The Diocese has, therefore, been participating actively in organizing various developmental forums and consultations so as to learn and gather appropriate information and working with church and community leaders in addressing and analyzing the problems.

In so doing, the Diocese has been able to develop priorities geared to tackling the institutional challenges and increasing its capacity and becoming more

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responsive to the problems of the local church and its community members as well.

To sum up: the activities carried out between August 2008 – July 2009 involved eight priority areas as described below:

2. PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 The first priority was the development of a “**Diocesan Strategic Plan**” and that was the outcome of a process of reviewing the Diocesan mandate and its outreach programmes (Christian teachings, evangelism and development).

This process involved a “**needs assessment**” which had two activities :

- carrying out baseline surveys in all parishes to collect the necessary information and baseline data on organizational development
- a workshop to develop a Strategic Plan.

The exercise involved group work and plenary sessions and the departmental/institutions groups actually helped very much in this exercise.

The participants in this workshop consisted of 42 clergy, 42 lay representatives from all parishes and 30 staff from the Diocesan headquarters, Rondo, and the three dispensaries.

All the participants thought that it was a learning exercise which could and would be used back home in their churches/working places.

The first draft of a strategic plan has already been developed and is in place, and, basically it focuses on four major areas as follows:

- **Institutional Development** - to enhance Diocesan capacity in understanding clearly and carrying out its mission, vision, policies, as well as targets
- **Capacity Building** – to empower the targeted groups including clergy, staff members, church leaders and Christians at parish and congregational level in terms of knowledge and skills
- **Resource Mobilization** – to increase resources and ownership of the Diocese in mobilizing and soliciting contributions from Parishes and its local investments, and allocating resources according to its vision, mission, and a strategic plan as well.
- **Sustainability of the Diocese** – to strengthen the ability and accountability of the church in the delivery of its pastoral and development programmes and services through proper coordination, monitoring and evaluation processes.

2.2 The second priority was the “**empowerment of Diocesan staff**” through the training of three accounts staff, ten parish cashiers, and twenty priests on assets management, financial management, monitoring of church activities, and

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church self-review and evaluation of church-related programmes for improved accountability and sustainability of the Diocese.

This has been successfully done.

2.3 The third priority was “**improving food security**”. Like other places in the country, Mtwara is a peasant agriculture dependent region with 80% of its population depending on subsistence rain-fed agriculture.

The quality of health care and education is still very poor, resulting in a high rate of infant and maternal mortality, with 58% of population living under the “**one dollar a day**” poverty line (Poverty estimates, 1992 – 2001).

From 1996, the region has over the years, been experiencing a series of poor harvests leading to loss of productive assets for many households and chronic and transitory food insecurity caused fundamentally by environmental shocks, plant diseases such as cassava mosaic, which deeply affect crops production and the low level of overall households assets, significantly hampering the ability of households to meet their food needs.

To address this issue, we had two major types of activities.

The first activity related to training; conducting two training sessions of seven days each to educate 60 people (diocesan staff, village volunteers, and priests) on counselling, public involvement, nutrition, food preservation, gender equality and fuel-saving technology such as solar cooking; and conducting three training sessions of seven days each to educate 90 farmers in the villages and parishes on sustainable farming practices, draught animal technology (oxenization), and good environmental practices.

The second activity involved supplying practical help: this included provision of 2,500 kg of improved maize seeds for food and seed multiplication in the villages and parishes; providing 24 oxen, eight ox-carts and twelve ox-ploughs to improve farming practices in the villages/parishes; providing 480 solar ovens for applying good environmental practices

2.4 The fourth priority was “**maternal and child health & HIV/AIDS**”.

This had two types of activities: conducting one training seminar of seven days for 60 people (our dispensary staff members, Village Health Workers, Traditional Birth Attendants, Peer Educators, and Home Based Care Providers) on counselling, maternal and child health, community health, hygiene, and HIV and AIDS to provide correct information on HIV transmission to the people so as to reduce the spread of HIV in the parishes/villages.

2.5 The fifth priority was “**health service and support**” This meant building and completing the VCT/Health Centre at Mtandi in order to give the correct advice and information to people on health education and HIV infections and preventive measures. The centre is completed and registered, and the inaugural ceremony will be held on 31 July 2009.

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2.6 The sixth priority was “**water and sanitation**”. This involved three types of activities:

- The first one was conducting two training workshops of seven days each for 60 people of equal number of men and women from Mkwapa village in Nanyindwa Parish and Masuguru village in Nanyumbu Parish (water attendants, village water committee members, and VHWs) on water and sanitation, hygiene, solar water purification, and the importance of using ventilated improved pit latrines so that they can educate other people in their respective villages to improve their health.
- The second activity was conducting an environmental assessment to ensure the drilling of the planned boreholes did not compromise the environment or the people of the area;
- The third activity to construct two boreholes and this construction work is currently going on.

2.7 The seventh priority was “**the construction of a multipurpose facility for health education**”. This involved two types of activities:

- Carrying out preliminary environmental impact assessment to determine the impacts of the construction work and measures to repair damages and finding out the concerns of the Local Government Authority and surrounding local community in order that the construction work could proceed smoothly.
- Building a multi-purpose learning centre to have a proper place for conducting health education for the Diocese. The assessment has already been carried out by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and the construction of a foundation for the building is in progress.

2.8 The eighth priority was “**support for orphans and most vulnerable children (MVC)**” with two types of activities:

- Providing school requirements (uniforms, shoes, socks, exercise books, pens, pencils, school bags, and health service cards) to 3,000 children who are attending primary schools
- Providing of 1,200 dairy goats and 3,000 chickens to 600 families, which take care of these orphans and MVC in Masasi, Nanyumbu and Mtwara Rural villages.

All these activities have successfully been completed.

2.9 The ninth priority was the “**acquisition of working facilities**”

Buying equipment needed to implement the planned activities to the fullest extent according to the priorities and plans.

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The equipment included one laptop computer, three desktop computers, one photocopier, one printer, one scanner, two digital cameras and one video camera that would be used for information gathering, data processing, and communication.

Added to this were 31 bicycles that would be used by village/parish volunteers for community visiting and day to day home-based care services and visits.

Three motorcycles that would be used by Diocesan programme staff for monitoring and supervision of day to day programme activities.

Other planned purchases included a Land Cruiser to ensure cost-effective and smooth monitoring and supervision of the priority planned activities during the implementation stage;

A truck (4 ton Mitsubishi FUSO) that would be used for transporting construction materials for the multipurpose learning centre and water supply schemes, distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers as well as operating the mobile VCT/outreach health services and HIV/AIDS educational sessions in the villages.

One generator, one amplifier, two speakers and one microphone that would be used for operating the public address system during the HIV/AIDS educational sessions in the villages.

And finally, one big generator for operating the office and internet café to help overcome the power problem.

Most of these have been obtained and they are used effectively as planned except for the Land cruiser and motorcycles, which are still undergoing the clearing processes at WAMA, DSM. It is also nice to point out that we expect to receive another working facility (Land Rover) that will be used at Rondo Theological College.

2.10 The tenth and last priority was to “ensure financial accountability of the Diocese and develop a strong sense of partnership among the programme beneficiaries and partners/donors”

This required two types of activities:

- Carrying out auditing of the programme and Diocesan accounts to ensure the financial accountability; and carrying out bi-annual, midterm and full-term evaluations to measure the impacts of the projects over time and share with beneficiaries and partners to enable them to understand how the Diocese and programmes are going.
- The Diocese has organized the auditing exercise for all the accounts and evaluation of the programmes according to the partners’ regulations and the auditors/evaluators are in the process of preparing their terms of reference (TOR) ready for the auditing and evaluation exercise.

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NB It is very, very, important for us to thank God and joyously point out that the success of all these activities and those, which are in the pipeline (like the provision of a new Land Rover for Rondo Theological College) have been highly facilitated morally, materially, and financially by the following internal and external individual friends and partners/donors;

- Diocesan leaders (Bishop, staff and clergy)
- Village/Parish beneficiaries
- Diocese of Hereford - UK
- The Friends of Masasi – UK
- The Friends of Masasi – Dutch Doctors, Netherlands
- PACT Tanzania/USA
- PWRDF/CIDA – Canada
- Tanzania Government (in proving technical support, registering VCT/Health centre, and encouraging the Diocese to become active participant in education, health and community development programmes, especially in offering the VAT exemption for our working facilities, besides the recent government’s decision of abolishing the relief and exemptions to religious organizations (2009/10 Government Budget proposals).

Geoffrey Patrick Monjesa, Diocesan Development Officer

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As reported in Masasi News No. 16, the Diocese of Hereford has strong links with a number of Dioceses in Tanzania, not least with the Diocese of Masasi and in July last year Jonathan Rendall, Schools Improvement Officer in the Diocese, led a group of 15 people, including 12 teachers and a recently retired Headteacher, on a visit to Masasi.

Kate Gilford, a teacher at Ludlow St Laurence Primary School, was one of those 15 people and with her permission we print below the report on her visit. We found this very moving as it echoes the feelings that so many people must have experienced on their first visit to the Diocese.

Kate has recently returned from her second visit to the Diocese and we look forward to printing her next report in Masasi News No. 20.

LUDLOW ST LAURENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL MEETS KARUME SCHOOL, TANZANIA

Three years ago, when the subject of a partnership with my UK school and a school in Tanzania were first broached, I remember thinking, “Surely it would be better to send the cost of the air fares directly to the people you are trying to help, rather than buying the tickets and turning up in person! Why should we impose our western ideas and values on these people (who all looked very happy in the photos); what has it to do with me?” Nothing came of the idea then, but perhaps a seed was sown at that meeting and was waiting dormant, ready for the right conditions to germinate,

Fast forward 3 years.....Mike (husband) arrives home having been to a similar meeting, at which my Headteacher was present and he has not only said that he would like to go to Tanzania and make links for his school but he has also said that I too may be interested in representing my school. Mmmmm..... perhaps... perhaps I did need to see for myself - ever the Doubting Thomas - perhaps I did need to go and find out for myself whether there were any merits in helping others: at least I would know one way or the other. In fact, I began to feel quite excited, quite exhilarated at the prospect of the trip.

There was a certainly a great deal of excitement, when we all met at Heathrow. The experience which followed our arrival at Dar es Salaam airport, was one of the most fantastic times of my life up there with getting married and having children!

Before we were anywhere near Masasi and Karume Primary School, there were hundreds of sights, sounds and encounters in Dar that I wanted to store in my memory: the cyclists, with umpteen boxes of eggs stacked on the back of their bikes; the women carrying brightly coloured fruits in baskets on their heads; the man pushing an enormous cart laden with bottles of water; buses almost bursting

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at the seams with passengers; and the trucks with numerous workers, either hanging on to the sides or perching on the building materials being transported. This was a world where health and safety regulations hadn't gone mad. I couldn't believe that I was in the same world as I had been a few weeks before. How could two parts of the same world be so different?

The Precision Airways plane to Mtwara was delayed (I'm sure there is a joke there somewhere). The airport at Mtwara was wonderful, the plane landed about 50 metres from the main terminal (a small brick and wooden hut) and the bags were pulled by hand across the tarmac and handed over to us. Perhaps Terminal 5 could take a leaf out of their books! Staff began to take our passport numbers, and when the official paper ran out, the rest were written on a piece of paper, supplied from someone's notebook.

A short bus ride took us to our first reception; we assembled for prayers in the church of St Michael and this was followed by a wonderful feast of cashew nuts and boiled eggs, washed down with strong coffee. And then we left for Masasi. It was daylight when we set off, and we were travelling by bus on a tarmac road. By the time we got to Masasi it was dark and the roads were sand and soil and they were very bumpy. Every now and then the bus veered off to the left or right because there was a diversion over a temporary Bailey bridge, the original having been washed away in the floods.

At last we reached Masasi and after another delicious meal of rice chicken and cabbage - and of course boiled eggs and cashew nuts - we were shown to our rooms. At this point I was pleased that Mike was with me, as our rooms were open to the elements in several places and the loos were out at the back across a yard. It was similar to camping I suppose, but I wasn't too sure what types of wildlife might be lurking. But hey, part of the reason for the trip was to face new challenges! I tucked the mozzie net in very securely and I think I slept... a little bit!

The following morning, the short walk from our rooms to Masasi Cathedral gave us a chance to see the fantastic scenery around us. Great rocky outcrops towered above us and around us grew beautiful flowers and trees. We entered the vast stone building and I was quite surprised to see so few people. There was a choir at the front of the nave who sang and danced throughout the service, and a few others were dotted around. As the service proceeded families continued to arrive, the time didn't seem to matter, in fact two hours later they were still arriving, which made me think that there was obviously still enough of the service left to make it worthwhile attending. Our 'white' party, about ten of us now, prompted natural curiosity and suddenly George, the priest accompanying us, stood up and spoke to the congregation.

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He was obviously telling them about us and why we were there, and then..... he asked Mike to go and say a few words on our behalf! Of course we knew that at times we would need to make speeches but this was a real baptism of fire. Mike had, in fact, prepared several speeches in Swahili in readiness for his arrival at his school, but this was one occasion when he hadn't expected to need them. But he coped brilliantly and praised the singing and dancing which went down well. The service lasted for about three hours, and by the end the cathedral was full. I felt very honoured to have been part of their worship.

Then it was time for the last part of our journey. Mike was accompanying the four of us to Newala (a relatively large town) and then the following day he was going to Chihangu a very remote village.

Our transport now was in the Bishop's white Land Rover, our rucksacks were tied to the roof rack and Edmund, our driver, proved to be most capable as we sped along the rutted sandy roads. We drove for about three hours past tiny villages, where the small square thatched houses matched the red sandy colour of the roads, and the scrawny chickens were almost camouflaged by the dust. Coconut, banana, mango and cashew nut trees abounded along the roads and there was always someone or a group of people walking or cycling, laden with goods. One man carried a wooden bed, another carried an enormous bundle of sticks; women, in their beautiful kangas, carried large brightly coloured plastic buckets on their heads with something essential for their family; and farmers herded their oxen looking for water or food. There was always someone on a journey and you knew that they had been walking for some time judging by the distances between villages. There were only a few vehicles travelling along the roads but it was obvious who had the right of way! Cyclists were adept at launching themselves (and their enormous loads) off the road and into the scrub, as our horn blared at them.

Our first sight of Newala was the cashew nut factory and then a petrol station. At first I didn't realise that the petrol had to be 'pumped' by hand, assuming that there was any petrol of course. I think I stopped noticing things then as I became more aware that the real purpose of the trip was about to become a reality and that we were at last going to meet staff and children at Karume Primary School.

But first, to our accommodation. We were to be looked after by nuns at the St Mary's Convent for the next four nights. The sisters greeted the five of us, with warm smiling faces. They had hung multicoloured bunting across the front of our little house. There was a newly made, brightly coloured rag rug at the entrance of the house and inside four doors led off the small corridor, two to the right and two to the left. We had a small living room and the other three rooms were bedrooms. At the end of the corridor was the washing room, a toilet and a shower room. Yes, a real toilet! It didn't flush, but there were always plenty of buckets of water provided for that purpose. There was an old pipe in the shower

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room but there was little evidence to suggest that it had ever worked but in the evening two large buckets of hot water would appear as if by magic. Our main concerns were how to wash in such primitive conditions. We didn't stop to think about Sister Erica filling and carrying the buckets or heating water for hours over the open fire! We tried to use the water sparingly, but how much of their precious supplies had we dipped into?

All the meals which we ate (and they cooked not only for the four of us but also for the numerous guests who joined us for both breakfast and lunch) were prepared over an open fire in a dark smoky hut, and the bread and cakes were baked in the brick oven outside. Until I returned to England, I hadn't considered the organisation of the whole event. How had they collected all the ingredients together, how soon before our arrival had they had to begin planning? Chicken every evening, for four meals, for at least eleven people, that's a lot of chicken! (And there wasn't a Sainsbury's in town or a freezer in the cooking hut!)

Several of the staff from Karume Primary School came to meet us when we arrived in Newala on the Sunday afternoon, including the School Coordinator, Mr Mohammed and the Headteacher, Mr Mahundu. They were brought into our small living room and suddenly the purpose of the trip became very real. After introductions and refreshments we asked whether we could visit the school. I think our hosts were a little surprised because, being Sunday, the children were not there. However they agreed and we set off, on foot.

The school gates were opened and we had arrived: a large expanse of sandy playground dotted with coconut trees; newly painted white stones marking the paths (they had been freshly painted specially for our visit I learned later on); long single storey sandy coloured huts with bars across the open windows; and several large, weather beaten, educational murals painted on the high walls which surrounded the school. We peered into the empty classrooms and took in the full extent of the great chasm that exists between classrooms in England and classes in Tanzania. The walls and floors were covered in dust and sand and the benches/desks resembled a scene from a Victorian picture. The black board was actually just a part of the wall which had been painted black. In the staffroom, stood a few high-backed dark wooden chairs and a small wooden table, there was a timetable pinned to one of the few display boards - the white paper now aged by the dusty conditions around us - and there were one or two piles of exercise books.

The Headteacher's office was tiny but we all managed to cram in. We signed the visitors' book and studied the walls. The exam results were pointed out to us and both the head and the School Coordinator pointed out how the standards had risen and how proud they were of the rising line on the graph. Perhaps in their minds we had come to inspect them, and so several times during our visit we

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reassured them that we were there to learn from them, as well as being there to help them.

I was aware as we were walking around outside that there was a certain amount of activity taking place in one of the classrooms, but we were kept away from it and the following day all became clear... however before then we had plenty of other new experiences to encounter! Washing each other's hair (Mark did not join in!) by torch light proved to be pretty entertaining, but not as much as the communal tooth brushing event. And so we went off, with very wet hair for our dinner, but hey Mark and Mike were used to us by now.

The following next morning, after the formalities of registering with the local council officials.... and education officials..... and police officials... and anyone else who had an office in Newala....we made our way to the school.

We had a reception fit for royalty! Our Land Rover drove through the gates and as we stepped out we were engulfed by beaming faces. Immediately our bags were taken from us (we had expected this to happen, but it's still a little unnerving knowing you've just been separated from your passport and money) and we made our way through the playground. It was nice to recognise the faces of some of the staff and they ushered us in to one of the classrooms. It was of course the classroom where work had been going on the previous day. It had been completely transformed. Yards and yards of white and green satin fabric had been gathered around each table and across the walls. There were also garlands of flowers on the tables and on the walls; it was fit for a wedding reception, and they had done all this for us!

We sat with all the staff and were offered boiled eggs and nuts, coffee and mandasees. We introduced ourselves using the smattering of Swahili which we had picked up and began to relax. Mike then had to leave to make his way to Chihangu, a long drive away from Newala. We said goodbye and I had to wipe a few tears away: I was now, like all the others, on my own.

But events didn't stand still for long and soon we were asked to go outside because the children were waiting for us. They had assembled and as we approached they burst into song: and they are such good singers! The words of the song welcomed us to Karume and they hoped we had had a good journey. We were led to a row of chairs and I suddenly felt like Valerie Singleton from Blue Peter when she was on one of her special assignments to Kenya with Princess Anne all those years ago. The children continued to sing and dancers performed to drums. Again we tried to say a few words in Swahili and everyone was having a great time.

We visited each class and every group stood up as we entered and greeted us in English “Good morning Teacher, we are standing up teacher.” And regardless of what we said back, their next response was, “We are well thank you teacher.”

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We quickly picked up the format and made sure that we asked them how they were, before their second response.

We were ready for question and answer sessions, but quickly realised that their limited grasp of our culture or any culture other than their own made it difficult for them to think of questions to ask us. The children loved having their photos taken and seeing themselves on the screen as we played the images back. The girls were more camera shy than the boys.

The next few days whizzed by and we were in and out of the classrooms teaching and observing. The English lessons were great considering the lack of resources. One text book for the teacher to read and then the children would sit and wait patiently while she wrote all the questions on the board. They waited in silence until she finished (very different to Ludlow!!) and then they got on with their answers. As they finished I shared photographs of our school and our town in Shropshire.

On another occasion I ended up in the class room where there were two classes joined together (because one classroom had been hijacked as a meeting room for our benefit) and there I was suddenly, with about a hundred, 13 and 14 year olds waiting for me to perform. With help from one of the teachers I asked them to draw a map of Newala for me and to label it in English. Somehow they managed to work three to a piece of paper and produce the most wonderful maps. They were all busy working when I noticed that I had been left on my own, I found this a slightly daunting prospect but they cooperated with each other and remained focused and... it was fantastic!

We taught one class an English song/round which we thought, compared to the singing and dancing they shared with us, to be a little boring. But it was such a special moment when later in the day we found a group of children had copied the words from the board and were in the playground singing it out loud!

Another treat was watching a game of netball. Two teams during the hottest part of the day, wearing flip flops, sandals and trainers, battled it out on a sandy court where there were no lines or markings, yet they knew the rules and where they were allowed to go, and boy did they defend fiercely!

There was only one occasion during the whole trip that I felt slightly worried for my safety. I was sitting at the back of a classroom when I realised that one of the boys had a razor blade attached to a key ring. As I looked around I noticed another pupil also with one. Perhaps the smiles were hiding deep social problems....gang warfare after school... fights over food and water between families....my mind continued to think the worst, until I noticed one of the boys using it as a pencil sharpener! Nothing more sinister than that! It is our nation where youths carry blades for other reasons!

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Perhaps one of the most startling anomalies of the whole experience was the mobile phone. Most of the staff seemed to have a phone and they were quite happy to leave their class and have a chat with their friends over the phone!! Some also had the facility to take photographs on their phones. They had never had or experienced landlines but had gone straight for the mobile, and the landscape as we travelled around was dotted with queues of villagers at communal wells and mobile phone masts!

One afternoon, when school had finished the School Coordinator took us on a tour of the local hospital where he worked. I felt we were really lucky to have such a chance, and it was during this visit that I understood the realities of the problems they face due to malaria. We also had a lovely walk around the town of Newala and managed to buy a few souvenirs. I loved the old Singer sewing machines which were out on the pavements whist the tailors worked. The smell of the fish market took some getting used to, but it was another experience not to miss.

It was suddenly our last evening at the convent. We were joined by several members of the school staff and governors, and representatives from the nursery which was attached to the convent. I think we all had wet hair again, (we do rely heavily on hairdryers in England!) but our Tanzanian friends probably thought this was an English custom by now. I couldn't help feeling sad that the following evening we wouldn't be here, and I wondered what normal evenings were like in the convent in Newala, and would I ever come here again.

After the meal we spent much of the rest of the evening sorting out all the gifts which we had brought with us to give to our friends. Some seemed a little incongruous now that we had seen how people lived their lives. We also had gifts for the sisters and shared these with them before the evening was finished. They were so grateful for the personal gifts but the things they liked the most were for the children at their nursery, chinks and crayons and paper and jigsaws. However we had not anticipated the shrieks of delight and giggles when we gave them a bag full of furry toy animals. They loved them!

Then it was our turn. Their gift to us was a song. The sisters stood in a row and each verse of their song was dedicated to one of us. They waved as they sang, and it was lovely.....although I had to stop myself thinking of scenes from *The Sound of Music*!

The following morning we said our farewells at the convent and we were driven to the school for the last time. Our final morning at Karume was spent giving gifts to the children and teachers. We had enough pens, pencils and sweets for all the children and they received them as though being offered the world. The children played with the sports equipment and the teachers loved their presents, but once again it was the furry toys that went down really well. We had a final

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reception with the staff and we had a serious discussion about what the staff would like for their school. Some wanted a computer, some wanted books to start a library, others wanted the children to have textbooks, the School Coordinator was particularly keen to resource the nursery first of all.

Finally, we were also given presents: lovely kangas and bags of cashew nuts! Mark made a heartfelt farewell speech and then it was my turn. In England I panic at such things, but I felt I wanted to thank everyone, especially the women who had spent so much time decorating the room and preparing so much food for lunch each day over an open fire in the school playground!!! It was another challenge that the visit had produced for me and I managed it, and was glad I had.

It had been such a privilege to share the lives of these wonderful people for the past few days and suddenly it was all over, but perhaps it was also really just the beginning..... we were determined to maintain links somehow, to bring about a curriculum project that would enable us to successfully obtain a DfID grant so that the Headteacher, Mr Mahundu could come to England. We wanted to get back to England and begin raising money so that the teachers at Karume could have everything they wanted, but at the same time we knew that the partnership had to be as equal as possible: both sides had to share ideas, lifestyles and teaching methods and that the school staff had to want to help themselves as well as us helping them.

We left Newala and headed for Chihangu, where Mike had been staying. His location was more remote than ours and his stories were very different to ours. He had lived with the Headteacher and his family. There was no electricity and the water had to be collected from the village. He too had had a wonderful time and had made good friends with his Headteacher.

Mr Mahundu, the Headteacher from Karume and Mike's Headteacher, were due to join us a few days later in Mtwara, where all the English representatives and their Tanzanian school partners were joining for a conference held by the British Council. The theme was Global Partnerships and it was a thought-provoking two days. During the conference the five of us worked on ideas for the curriculum project. We decided that we would share aspects of our English and Tanzanian lives through drawings and artwork. We hoped that they would use some of the money we had left them to paint a classroom and put up some simple pin boards. Both schools would ultimately display some of the work for children and parents to come and look at. We agreed themes: native animals, homes, transport, flowers and trees etc. Eventually we had to say good bye to Mr Mahundu and then we were all back on the plane for Dar es Salaam.

So.....was it right to use the money in order to visit the school we were planning to help? Yes it was. We have a much better understanding of how our Tanzanian

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friends run their schools, what resources they have and what they need and what they want. We know the people we are working with - we have talked and laughed with them. We realise that although it will be nice to donate money to their school at times (and we will), the people of Newala must also want to work at the partnership and share their culture with us too, so that we can learn from them. I think that many of them assume that money makes everything OK and that everyone is happy if they have all our ‘mod cons’. We tried to explain that this is not always the case. We also emphasised how happy and generous they had all been towards us.

What the children of Tanzania should have though, is an equal chance to experience the knowledge that we have, so that they can make choices for themselves. If they wish to continue living as they do they should be able to, but they also need to be aware of the opportunities that are available and have equal access to these opportunities. And, on reflection, perhaps we should do what we can to provide computer links in the near future, but I also think that they need resources for the teaching of English. They are still taught in a very Victorian style and yet there are mobile phones in most villages.

We have already sent various letters, photographs and artwork to Karume. We have laminated the art work so that it won't be spoiled by the dusty conditions. Children have drawn their homes recently and these will be sent in the next package. Mr Mahundu has written to each of us individually and we have had one set of pictures and writing back from the pupils at Karume. I have e-mailed one of the teachers a few times, and it is always very exciting to get replies.

I am thrilled that Mr Mahundu might visit England, but at the same time I am concerned that the vast chasm which exists between his world and mine might be difficult for him to deal with: landing at Heathrow; motorways and the quantity of traffic; our homes with running water, baths and showers, fridges, washing machines; shopping trolleys laden with food at the supermarket; our schools with glass in the windows, carpets, interactive white boards..... However, we will do our best to make our guests feel as welcome and as comfortable, just as they did for us.

I consider myself very honoured to have had the chance to visit Tanzania and meet the people of Newala and Karume Primary School.

Kate Gilford

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ST CYPRIAN’S CHAPEL AT THE RONDO 50TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Minchinhampton has been associated with the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania since 1959 with the arrival in Minchinhampton rectory of John and Benita Cornwall who had earlier met as missionaries in this African Diocese. Over the years the Masasi Diocese has received much financial support from the people of Minchinhampton to help with pressing needs, and in return they have been blessed with visits from some of its Bishops and people who worked in the Diocese. The support which has been given has been channelled through the church offices and has benefited not only church congregations, but ordinary people of different faiths in the Diocese.

2009 represents the 50th Anniversary of this link and an appeal has been launched for the restoration of one of the churches built by Trevor Huddleston when he was the Bishop of Masasi, and which is now in desperate need of urgent repairs.

The church at Rondo, the Church Secondary School will be well known to many of you as it has that amazing “wow factor” when you enter its doors. It is on the edge of an escarpment with stunning views down the valley slopes to the east and west. The church has its altar on the north wall as the east and west walls are made of glass, clear at the bottom to see the views and with impressive stained glass panels across the top. These stained glass panels were made by Jonathan Kingdon and are what gives the church the uplifting feeling and its unusual appearance. Sadly the frames in which the glass is held are rotting and bowing, and the glass is in imminent danger of falling out.

The Diocese does not have the resources to undertake repairs and the situation is not helped by a leaking roof.

We have started the appeal to raise funds to restore the windows and roof and in addition to provide solar powered lighting. This will allow the building to be used for more than just a place of worship, as the students can continue to study after nightfall.

To achieve all this it is estimated that we shall need £50,000. £1000 for every year of our association. This task is the biggest that has been undertaken by Minchinhampton link committee and we are asking for your support as we shall not be able to do this alone. We have formed a 200 club with the aim to find 200 people who will subscribe £250 over a period of ten months or shorter to reach our goal and to fund the repairs.

Can you help? Will you join the friends of Rondo and contribute to this project?

For further details, and an application form please contact
the Revd Stephen J Jarvis Tel. 01453 884545

E-mail: stephenjarvis88@talktalk.net Address: 8 Ollney Road,
Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. GL6 9BX

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Dirk Juttner reports on a visit, with fellow trustee the Revd Andrew de Smet, to projects in Tanzania aided by the African Sisters of St Mary (CMM) Support Group.



Where do all these women come from?

Where do all these women with their bundles on their backs come from?

No house or hut is to be seen for miles and miles.

They appear from nowhere, waiting patiently with their babies for post-natal care at the CMM Sisters’ dispensary in the Southwest Highlands of Tanzania. Numbers have increased since the newly trained CMM Sister, now qualified as Nurse and Midwife, began work here. She finished her training financed by our African Sisters of St Mary (CMM) Support Group, with your help.

This really shows what can be achieved. It is so encouraging. These women know that the love and care their babies receive here will far exceed the treatment they would get in most public-run hospitals.

Those public hospitals now have more staff than before due to the salary increases for medical staff implemented recently, but their service has not improved. Nurses and other hospital staff have left NGOs in droves to get more money and these cannot fill the gap.

The Diocesan Medical Centre – which we visited – cannot afford to pay salaries on the Government scale. Thus they are left with a few dedicated staff and have an increased load of work. They had to close their maternity unit because of staff and drug shortages.

The lack of trained medical staff in the country (and in fact in all Africa) is partly due to the fact that the NHS here in Britain has poached many of them. The figures for medical cover in Africa, compared with this country, are staggeringly low. (The total annual health expenditure for 900 million people in Africa is £9.8 billion – less than a tenth of the cost of the NHS, catering for 60 million people.)

So those who suffer most are the ordinary people, especially women and children. The mortality rate for children under five years of age from malaria alone is approximately 26,000 per year in Tanzania!

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Fortunately there is no shortage of drugs at the CMM Dispensary in Sayuni, thanks to the Old Catholic Church in Germany having made arrangements to hold an account with ‘Action Medeor’. This large German charity, which supplies medication to Third World countries, has a big store in Dar es Salaam and is able to fulfil from stock 95% of all medical requirements.

However, to get the CMM Sisters’ dispensary to be fully operational at least one more Nurse and a Clinical Officer have to be engaged to fulfil Government requirements. This is one of the most urgent needs.

We hope that another CMM Sister can be trained as a Nurse and Midwife. This now takes three years, the training period having been brought down by one year to fill the gap more quickly. But what about the quality of training?

Solar panels have recently been installed to operate a microscope that was donated last year. Other new equipment has also been installed. We are now planning to help the Sisters to extend the dispensary with a sick bay for women and children.

One of the big problems in East Africa this year is the drought, which has affected the CMM Sisters’ houses, especially in the northern coastal region where the Community has three houses – their main income being from agriculture. The CMM House in Kwa Mkono has had no harvest at all and the Houses in Tanga and Korogwe had very poor crops. These problems also affect other Houses like the one in Dar es Salaam, as they have fields in those places.

In order to identify with the people around them, the Sisters live as they do on rations, i.e. just one or two meals a day. Though they are used to eating sparingly, it must be hard to carry on their daily work with empty stomachs.

On our trip this year Andrew de Smet and I visited some country parishes for their Sunday service. This is always a great event for these congregations. After ‘chai’ (tea – a big and generous meal provided by those people who have almost nothing) we are shown around the village.

It is seldom that they see a white person. Sometimes you find that small children hide behind their mothers or start crying, as they are afraid, never having seen a white person before.

As always we felt privileged to be able to glimpse the faithfulness of the CMM Sisters and the people in Tanzania who have so little but still are so happy and cheerful – so different from what we often experience in church communities here.

Dirk Juttner
September 2009

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We are delighted to welcome another new contributor to Masasi News – the Revd Andrew De Smet, who is the Priest in Charge of Kirkdale, Harome, Nunnington and Pockley in North Yorkshire and York Diocesan Adviser in Pastoral Care. He is a Trustee of the CMM African Sisters’ Support Group and visited Tanzania in August/September, with Dirk Juttner.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF TANZANIA

During the first two weeks of September I was fortunate to visit Tanzania to meet with Dirk Juttner. We are both Trustees of the CMM African Sisters of St Mary Support group, a small charity which assists the ministry of the CMM sisters. The Sisters have twelve houses in Tanzania and one in Zambia. During this trip we visited three houses to see the work they are engaged in.

This was my first trip to Africa, my first impression was seeing the vast numbers of coconut palms as the airliner descended into Dar es Salaam, then amusement at the Swine Flu questionnaire which we had to hand in for scrutiny to a man with a face mask. However this was the only person in the airport with a face mask, everyone else carried on as usual; at least the various bureaucratic hurdles were cleared faster than at Gatwick!

Dirk met me at the airport and we stayed a few days with the German Benedictine Fathers at Kurasini in Dar. They were very hospitable, although perhaps in reaction to local custom, everything started three minutes early. For a newcomer the traffic seemed chaotic - unmade up side roads, and cars using the pavements of the main boulevards, the centre a permanent traffic jam. Increased prosperity sucks in motor cars. Packed minibuses in varying states of repair - string is part of the motor maintenance armoury – ferry the locals round. Small shops abound, along with street stalls and vendors wandering up and down the traffic queues selling everything from chunks of sugar cane to chew to motor car spares.

The CMM Sisters’ Convent at Ilala is a mile or two out from the centre. This is behind a large Anglican church which was formerly the Cathedral. Unlike English convents this was a noisy place, the sound of the Church music group practising with their electric instruments and amps – good singing, the call to prayer at nearby mosques, and the sound of traffic and conversations that carried no cloister hush. Sr Martha, the sister in charge, a bright forceful person, welcomed us - Dirk the old friend, me the new arrival. The convent is squeezed in a relatively small site, a clutch of small buildings, vegetable plots, a cow shed, lines of washing and paw paw trees. The sisters manufacture communion wafers using equipment given by the Old Catholics, a useful source of income. Two other obvious differences

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from the UK: several young sisters, and these sisters have no bequests behind them, the community functions on what they grow, earn or sell. A particular financial challenge here as this is where sick sisters from more remote places come to access medical treatment in the Capital, but with that come large medical bills.

A 6 am bus from Ubungo bus station, an hour for the bus to negotiate its way out of the chaos that is the bus station and a 12 hour journey (became 15 hours with road works) southwards to Njombe. On the way some spectacular scenery; we drove through a game reserve, zebras, water buffalo, giraffes, eland, impala, baboons and a distant elephant, all sheltering from the midday heat under the acacia trees. Then mountains and an amazing valley populated by huge baobab trees. The first toilet stop was in the bush after 5 hours, men to the left, women to the right. We arrived at Njombe after dark and after the heat and humidity of Dar, it felt cold. Njombe is 2000 metres up on a rolling plateau, so the nights and mornings are cool, indeed some of the sisters are reluctant to be posted there because of the rather English temperatures (like North Yorkshire in late summer, until the sun burns through, then it is definitely Africa.) The houses are single storey, constructed of concrete blocks or mud bricks and with corrugated iron roofs and there are great numbers of small shops selling the essentials of life. The local coffin maker also makes furniture, all sold outside by the road.

Tanzania was formerly a German colony, then a British one after the Great War, so along the main street in Njombe there are Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Anglican cathedrals and more recent arrivals Seventh Day Adventist, Assembly of God and other Pentecostal churches in other parts of town and, of course, mosques. Thankfully in Tanzania there is an effort to communicate between the religions and avoid the Christian Muslim tensions there are in Nigeria.

The convent in Njombe has about a dozen Sisters who cultivate maize and vegetables and keep cows and pigs. The charity has provided water storage tanks and a well. There is a mains water supply here but it is not reliable. Another innovation is buried in the ground: a biogas facility, manure from the cows is channelled into the tanks and methane is produced, which powered a gas ring for cooking and boiling water for drinking. This not only provides free fuel but saves deforestation in charcoal manufacture. The disadvantage is when the manure channel blocks.....

Sister Annette runs a nursery school; the tradition in Tanzania is the children all wear school uniform. The Support Group has helped in

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providing electric wiring and lighting, as well as equipment. We explored the possibility of providing bursaries to allow the Sisters to provide more free or low cost places to those who can't afford the modest fees. In the South there is fifteen percent HIV infection rate, so there are plenty of children with ill parents or one parent.

On the two Sundays in Njombe Canon Edward Houle from the Cathedral took me out to villages for the Sunday services - a village called Kijiji one week and Imbumila the next. The churches were simple corrugated iron roofed structures in villages of mud brick houses with tin or grass thatched roofs. The style of the service was High Church Anglican with a drum, the choirs danced as they sung. Services were announced by the ringing of a bell and lasted at least an hour and a half; at Kijiji we started with a congregation of twelve but by half way through there were seventy. A woman catechist (like a Reader) preached. The second Sunday as we got into the Land Rover to set off, I was asked to preach, thankfully the process of having your words translated into Swahili gives you time to think beyond the brief notes written as the Land Rover bounced along the track! The parish priest was in hospital with malaria. However his wife showed us gracious hospitality after the service - tea, rice, spinach chicken stew. Then we visited two of the households - they had been provided with cows by a church initiative and one had biogas and a well. Both were efficient farmers using their resources well. The Anglican Diocese, after a long interregnum between Bishops, was in desperate financial straits. We also visited an Anglican clinic well run by a committed team, but desperately short of staff and drugs. Malaria is the great scourge here.

Midweek we made a thirty kilometre journey along a dust track through forestry plantations and dry small holdings to Sayuni, a convent in a valley. Here thirty or so Sisters farm, all by hand. The ground is tilled with mattocks, the maize threshed by beating it with large sticks, the lush riverside beds of vegetables are hand watered with green plastic watering cans. There is a tractor but it was in need of repair. All the drinking and washing water comes from the river.

The daily mass was, of course, in Swahali but a dual language booklet Dirk had brought made it easy to follow. Some hymns were familiar tunes as we celebrated the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary we sang *Ye who own the faith of Jesus*, *Sweet Sacrament Divine* and *What a Friend we have in Jesus* in Swahili. As singing is slower than speaking, I could sing along, unfortunately this led certain Sisters to imagine I could also speak and understand Swahili, but they were soon disabused of this impression.

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Two of the Sisters, Cecilia and Angelina are trained nurses. The support group helped pay for Angelina’s training and supplied books and the Old Catholics fund drugs for the dispensary they run. The dispensary provides mother and baby clinics, maternity nursing for child births, diagnosis and treatment of malaria and common infections and treatments for sick infants, including a small mother and baby ward. People will walk miles to get treatment there. It is hoped to develop the facility further by getting funding for a clinical officer (half way between a nurse and a doctor) and other staff. Sayuni is a delightful place to visit and the hospitality was generous; on our last night we ate with the Sisters and they danced and sang (and blew whistles!) and gave us presents. The staple food is ugali, which is made with maize meal and looks like semolina. During our stay we were given rice, chapattis, spinach, peas, stews of chicken, pork or goat, boiled eggs and omelettes and, of course, lots of Tanzanian tea.

We returned to Dar es Salaam, had a moment of drama when a thief opened our taxi door and ran off with Dirk’s bag. We visited Medeor, a German charity that quickly and efficiently supplies wholesale drugs to church and other hospitals and dispensaries. Then the journey home.

After seeing so many people living very simple lives, the wealth of Dubai Airport’s designer shops provided a dramatic contrast. It is that contrast that is the lasting impression, the hospitality, the joyfulness, the colour but also the fragility of life dependant on not always reliable rains and good health, puts the things we fuss about in a different perspective.

In August of this year a group comprising Alison Morgan (TL), Michael Samuel, Matthew Grayshon, Fred Connell and Jonathan Rendall travelled out to Tanzania under the auspices of “Rooted in Jesus” www.alisonmorgan.co.uk and we are delighted to print below the report from Alison Morgan on the time they spent in the Diocese of Masasi

“Rooted in Jesus”

The Diocese of Masasi is in southern Tanzania on the Mozambique border, and is linked with the Diocese of Hereford through whom the initial contact was made. From September it will divide into two, forming the new dioceses of Masasi and Newala. We were working with the priests and catechists from both the new dioceses, and our team included Michael Samuel, the *Rooted in Jesus* coordinator from the Diocese of Kiteto; Jonathan Rendall, from Hereford; Matthew Grayshon, a ReSource

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Associate and experienced SOMA team leader; and Fred Connell, Vicar of the Vale of Belvoir in Leicestershire.

This trip was remarkable in a number of ways. Firstly, for the difficulties experienced before we got there – due to the late decision of a September date for the inauguration of the new Diocese, our visit was cancelled and then eventually reinstated. The Bishop was unexpectedly called away to Provincial meetings for the duration of our stay, and we arrived one team member short due to last minute family illness. But once there, it became remarkable in another way. Two years ago God had spoken to Bishop Patrick from Nehemiah Chapter 2, promising that he would ‘rebuild the walls of the Diocese’. As we moved into the second week, with the Bishop’s wife Emmy joining the team as our principal interpreter, it became clear to her and to Lukas Saidi, the Bishop’s Chaplain, that *Rooted in Jesus* is intended to be the means by which this promise is fulfilled.

We ran two four-day conferences, the first attended by 53 clergy and their wives, the second by 58 catechists. The first week was characterised by a seemingly universal recognition amongst those who came that this was an important new initiative for the Diocese, and a way of moving forward with the latest resources. Each day began with an astonishing dawn sung Eucharist in the century old stone Cathedral. We taught in a comfortable conference building, with large, shady mango, acacia and cashew trees providing additional open air seminar rooms. The new teaching method was a challenge, but with two sets of practice groups and a high speed demonstration from Michael, they were off. The newly appointed coordinators, Lukas Saidi and Samwel Luhuna, rose rapidly and enthusiastically to the challenge, talking late and early with Michael about the best way to support the new groups. But the key moments came in the early evening ministry times. A clergy wife named Monica, a local Government Officer, was overwhelmed on the first evening by a great sense of the love of God, and she and one or two others were caught up into a loud, prolonged and heartfelt sobbing of ‘Asante Yesu’ (thank you Jesus). On the third day, as we were thinking together about ‘Asking God for more’, we all stood together, hands open, in complete silence, waiting on God, then praying together aloud; until a spontaneous sung ‘Hosanna’ rose in harmony from the united throats of 53 people.

The second conference was for the catechists. The catechists, who had never previously been brought together in this way, spent four days singing. Two of them, one limping from a motorbike accident the day before, the other suffering from malaria, led us in a sweetness of worship

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which we all agreed surpassed anything we had ever heard before (though we preferred the daytime renditions to the night time ones...).

This conference was characterised by openness, determination and above all laughter. If laughter is the mark of a growing church, as Christian Schwarz suggests, then this is the Diocese to watch! The most telling moment? On the last day, as I sat in Michael’s session on what happens next, conducted in Swahili, I saw them rise as one to their feet, and surge into a line at the front of the conference hall. There they stood, hands open, eyes closed, and – sang. Michael came up to me. They have learned from the practice lesson that we need to make a specific response to Jesus, and receive the Holy Spirit. Most of them say that although they have served God all their lives, they have never formally done that; they are asking if they could do it now, and would you pray for them? I said I would...

We did other things too. On our rest day we climbed the hill behind the Cathedral compound to the cross at the top, and prayed for the Diocese stretched out beneath our feet. On the middle Sunday we preached in churches, including Mkomaindo where the first freed slaves stopped on their way back to Malawi, preached the gospel and formed what is said to be the first church in East Africa. And in the afternoon we ran a healing seminar in the Cathedral.

For us the climax came at the very end. Bishop Patrick had decided that each conference would end with a commissioning in the cathedral, where we would celebrate the Eucharist together and where each person would be given a certificate and the *Rooted in Jesus* books. After the final Eucharist, thanks were exchanged. We were each given beautiful wooden carvings, handmade by the renowned Makonde tribe, representing the nativity. This, Lukas explained, is ‘because you have brought new life to our Diocese’. There followed the only standing ovation I have ever received – sung, naturally. I am still recovering from it... *Bwana Asifiwe* – praise the Lord! We look forward to seeing what he does next in this wonderful place amongst these wonderful, singing children of his.

Prayer pointers : Please pray for Bishop Patrick, and for Lukas Saidi who will coordinate the programme in Masasi Diocese. Pray also for Samwel Luhuna, who will oversee its development in the new diocese of Newala. Thank God that we were able to leave money to buy a Good News Swahili Bible for each group leader, and pray that these will reach the intended recipients. And pray for each of the clergy, clergy wives and catechists who will lead a group: the programme starts at the beginning of September, in the midst of the inauguration for the new Diocese!

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And finally because of the rising cost of producing Masasi News, we asked if people were willing to read MN online, rather than have a hard copy mailed to them. We are very grateful to the people who responded and offered to receive MN via email, but we have now succeeded in finding a more cost-effective way of producing MN and as people do seem to appreciate the booklet - some people like to dip into in at their leisure and others say it is the perfect size to read in bed - we have decided to send a hard copy to everyone on our mailing list. We hope you enjoy reading this latest issue.