

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

WATER FOR ST MICHAEL'S



MACS has had a long relationship with St Michael's Girls' Secondary School at Malindi. Indeed it was here that Margaret Parr, who subsequently founded MACS, spent five years as headmistress. As many of you will know, Margaret died in 2023, and very kindly left MACS a substantial sum in her will, so it is with particular satisfaction that the Trustees have been able to help improve the water supply to the school.

A bit of background: St Michael's Girls' School is one of a small number of selective government schools in Malawi (like old grammar schools), so the 590 girls often come from a great distance. As a result, most board, sleeping, living and washing in dormitories next to the school when there's water!

It was under Margaret Parr, in fact, that the school got its first proper water supply, pumped from the lake, to a large concrete tank on the hill behind the school. Unfortunately, the pipework and lake pump supplying the tank has become unreliable and hard to maintain (despite some replacement!). In addition, the power supply to Malindi is both intermittent and expensive. The resultant water shortages had started to cause unrest amongst the girls, as well as making it harder to attract teaching staff.

So, with the help of the Government's District Water Development Office, current headmistress Hellen Kalluvi put together a plan to drill a borehole near the school, and pump water from there up to the tank on the hill, using a solar-powered pump. However, funding was, as ever, tight, (especially as the Government has recently sought to control school fees, with little clarity as to what replacement funding may be available!)



MACS, therefore, got involved last September, approving funding for a borehole, hybrid solar pump, and associated pipework, to connect the borehole to the tank. We got quotes from several suppliers for

the work, choosing a local Mangochi supplier, with a good reputation to do the work. Work started in late October, and would have been completed by end November, had fuel shortages not hampered delivery of some of the piping components. As ever, Grafiud was closely involved in monitoring progress and in controlling the staged payments.

In the end, the project was completed successfully early in the new year, in time for the start of the new term. While water projects are rarely photogenic (often involving holes in the ground!), I think you can agree that the girls in the photos are showing how pleased they are with the result! And they, too, now know they are benefitting from Margaret's legacy in more ways than one!

Clean and plentiful water for Kirk Range Parish

Clean water is a rare commodity in too many rural areas in Malawi. Last December, the Kirk Range parish committee applied to MACS for financial help to drill a borehole near St Mary's Church to serve the whole community, including those working in the busy nearby Golomoti market. Villagers had to walk a long distance to draw clean water, or pay for bottled water, to remain safe from cholera and other diseases. Trustees approved their request and we are happy to see that the drilling has started.....



MACS Supporters Trip 2025, Chilema Vegetable Gardens

In August 2025 a group of 11 supporters, along with MACS Trustee Felicity Shoemith, visited Malawi for a two week trip. As part of their visit they spent a week at the Chilema Ecumenical Conference and Training Centre near Malosa.

One of the activities the group was involved with was spending time with students from the women's course, a number of whom are funded by MACS bursaries.

Among the modules included in the curriculum is agriculture, designed to equip students with the skills necessary to cultivate food upon their return to their villages. One of the supporters, Liz Jolley, worked closely with Chilema's agriculture lead, Ireen Mzokomera and her students to develop sustainable plans for the vegetable gardens.



Ireen had already introduced planting beds, a climate resilient method that boosts crop yields, improves water retention, and restores degraded soils. Liz Jolley and Ireen worked together on a watering, weeding, harvesting and planting plan which they put into action immediately, with the students and the supporters allocated a variety of tasks.

One of Ireen's needs for the garden was to improve soil quality. A chemical free / eco method proposed by Liz and Chilema staff was composting (kitchen waste, maize straw and weeds etc). Father Anderson, a member of the Chilema staff and Liz held a workshop for the students and built three compost heaps which six months later have played a part in improving the yield of the maize crop.



New Trustee Profile - Jonathan Cheal



Jonathan first visited Malawi in 1986 on a school expedition to retrace Livingstone's footsteps and establish a link with Malosa Secondary School. Ever since then, he has maintained a close interest in the country with a particular focus on education and development project work. Jonathan recently retired from a career in investment banking where he worked across a number of emerging markets. He has been a supporter of MACS for some years and has recently become a trustee. He is looking forward to his first trustee visit to the country in June.

MACS Bursaries



ST. MICHAEL'S GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL



PROGRESS REPORT
SENIOR LEVEL

Private Bag 3,
Malindi, Mangochi
Malawi, C. Africa
Email: stmichogrls@yahoo.co.uk

NAME: _____
TERM: 1 _____
STREAM: A _____

FORM: 4
YEAR: 2025

SUBJECT	SCORE%	POS.	OUT OF	GRADE	REMARKS	TEACHER
1 Agriculture	51	38	161	6	Weak Credit	Dzingomvera
2 Bible Knowledge						T.Chalula
3 Biology	56	34	165	5	Weak Credit	C.Duwe
4 Chemistry	57	39	126	5	Weak Credit	T. Nyirenda
5 Chichewa	69	12	167	4	Strong Credit	P.Makunganya
6 Computer						F. Kuyokwa
7 English	66	20	165	4	Strong Credit	E. Banda
8 French						Nkhoma
9 Geography	70	26	137	3	Strong Credit	T.Chalula
10 History						P.Chatopa
11 Home Economics						S.Wallace
12 Mathematics	48	17	161	7	Strong Pass	L.Chiona
13 Physics	61	22	126	4	Strong Credit	F. Kuyokwa
14 Social S & Life S						A.Mwangonde

TOTAL POINTS POS. OUT OF:
REMARKS Av. Score: 63

CLASS TEACHER'S COMMENT:

She has passed. Encourage her to keep on working harder in all areas

HEAD TEACHER'S COMMENT:

She has passed but she still needs to work harder to improve the weaker grades

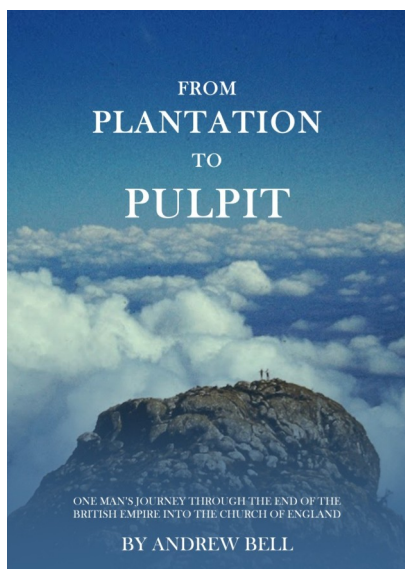
MACS supports a total of 29 students at St Michael's Girls' School and Malosa Secondary School. Their progress is closely monitored, with school

reports forwarded each term and annual thank you letters written. A quote from this letter:

'I am a form 4 student at Malosa. My guardians are small holder farmers who cannot afford to pay school fees.....I am now staying with my older sister due to the passing away of both parents.....'

You have received this newsletter because you are registered on our system as a supporter of MACS CIO, Charity no.1188309. You can update your preferences or unsubscribe at www.malawimacs.org or by contacting the secretary at info@malawimacs.org

From Plantation to Pulpit



This book tells the remarkable story of Ken Bell, the last in six generations of colonialists who served across Asia and Africa

Andrew Bell, son of author Ken Bell, writes:

As a young tea planter in Malawi, he witnessed first-hand the final years of British rule and the birth of a new, independent Africa. Aside from tea, Ken's other great passion was Mulanje Mountain and he completed many, often hair-raising, expeditions up various peaks.

Ken became a committed Christian when he was a young man. During his time in the tea industry, from the 1950s to mid-1970s, he felt increasingly called to the church. This led to training and eventually ordination in Malawi, by Bishop Donald Arden - former patron of MACS.

Ken left Malawi in 1974 and began ministry in the Church of England, as a curate and then vicar.

Now in his 90s, Ken reflects on a life shaped by the British Empire, war, illness, political upheaval and a deep faith. His story is one of survival, resilience and transformation – a journey through the twilight of Empire and into the light of spiritual service. There was also a very special visit, with an important mission, to Sri Lanka, just before his 90th birthday.....

Ken has long been very committed to MACS and would like all proceeds from the sale of his fascinating life story to go towards MACS, and the work they are supporting in a country he knows to be the warm heart of Africa.

Copies of his book are available from MACS at £15 plus £5 post and packaging. Please email your order to info@malawimacs.org and transfer the money to:

Malawi Association for Christian Support CIO
Sort Code 20-54-25, Account Number 70069507

MACS PROJECTS approved since the last newsletter

You will notice that a number of these projects relate to crucial repairs to infrastructure owing to severe storm damage.

- **Mpondas School:** Refurbishment of second classroom block, damaged in storms, funded in partnership with the Diocese of Birmingham.
- **St Martin's Hospital:** Re-roofing of outpatients department, severely damaged in storms.
- **Magomero:** Maintenance of the Bishop Mackenzie Shrine chapel, including roof, windows, doors and painting. Funded in partnership with All Saints' Church, Haslingfield.
- **Leonard Kamungu Theological College:** Africycle bicycles, maintenance training and repair kits for eight new ordinands.
- **St Martin's Hospital:** Air conditioner units to be installed in the operating theatre, the laboratory and the pharmacy.
- **St Martin's Hospital:** Purchase of a blood bank refrigerator.
- **St Michael's Girls' School:** Solar powered borehole installation.
- **Kapiri Health Centre:** Upgrade feasibility study.
- **St Martin's CDSS, Malindi:** Double classroom block & office.
- **Chilema:** Replacement of damaged water tank, with funds raised by an individual supporter.
- **Chalenga Full Primary School, Mangochi:** Double classroom block and office.
- **St Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota:** Replacement of 21 brick fence panels following severe storm damage.
- **Ndi Moyo:** Financial support for 30 health care professionals from across Malawi, from government, faith, private and military establishments, to attend a residential palliative care initiator's course.

MACS CIO SUPPORTERS' DAY

Still on Zoom! Bringing together supporters from all over the UK and well beyond. Join us on

Saturday 26th September 2026

10.30 am to 1 pm

The programme will include updates from a number of trustees, including the chairman, treasurer, project officer and other trustees who have recently visited Malawi.

Our Malawi Representative, Grafiud Tione, will also be on Zoom.

There will be opportunities to talk with other supporters and to consider how to develop the work of the charity.

Join us on Zoom by contacting the Secretary at info@malawimacs.org

MACS WHO'S WHO

Patron: Jane Arden, MBE

Chairman: Martin Herrick

email: chairman@malawimacs.org

Secretary: Julie Lupton

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Trustees: Gillian Barber, Adrian Brown, Margaret Campbell, Jonathan Cheal, Andrew M, Felicity Shoesmith.