# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

**Report of the trustees from September 2024- August 2025**

**What we have done.**

**A Governance:**

1. **Meetings:** Trustees meet to consider applications from Malawi, approve new projects, allocate funds, monitor on-going projects, review policies, address issues of strategy and ensure that MACS is compliant with Charity Commission requirements. We have met six times since our last Annual Supporters’ Day. We hold alternate meetings on Zoom or in person in London. We have continued to meet in St Saviour’s, Pimlico. However, from now onwards, we are moving to St James the Less in Pimlico as the St Saviours room is no longer available. By holding meetings virtually we have halved our annual meeting costs. However, it is still important to meet up every few months in person as this facilitates discussion of topics such as longer-term strategy and enables trustees to meet with one another.
2. **Trustees:** there have been no changes to our trustees since our last annual meeting. However, we would always welcome expressions of interest from supporters who might like to join us. There are vacancies for two more trustees.
3. **Communications with supporters:** Margaret Campbell has produced two newsletters which went out in February 2025 and the most recent one in August 2025. These communications usually result in some significant donations even though they are not directly appealing for support.
4. **Annual Appeal:** we did not have an annual appeal in 2024.
5. **Gift List:** Last year we added to the website the opportunity for supporters to donate sums towards books, mattresses, bikes and bursaries. This clearly did not hold much appeal for supporters as it did not bring in much revenue.

1. **GDPR compliance:** We continue to maintain a list of all supporters and those who receive publications either by email or post. The MACS privacy policy is available on our website and is reviewed annually. We ask all supporters to update us when their circumstances change and would like to encourage you to tell your friends/ congregations about the work we do.
2. **Safeguarding:** Margaret Campbell remains our Safeguarding Trustee. Our Safeguarding policies and procedures are updated and adopted annually, in line with Charity Commission regulations. All trustees visiting Malawi are now required to have a Disclosure and Barring certificate as well as safeguarding references. Jointly with the wider Anglican Communion we have continued to encourage the church in Malawi to introduce robust Safeguarding practices. Schools that we support in Malawi have confirmed they have safeguarding policies in place. Medical facilities follow Malawi Government Safeguarding guidelines. During recent visits we have been encouraged to see evidence on the ground of a serious attitude towards Safeguarding, especially in primary schools where we saw a lesson had been taught to a year 7 class.
3. **Remuneration of trustees’ expenses:** Trustees may claim travel expenses to MACS meetings on an annual basis. Visits to Malawi are in line with current agreed policy. The Project Officer’s trip took place in June 2025 and Margaret Campbell and Julie Lupton accompanied Eileen Eggington on her annual trip. Details of all claims appear in the Annual financial report.

**B Projects**

**1. Applications:** During the past year a total of £????was granted to new projects.

**2. Monitoring:**

(a) **MACS Representative in Malawi:** Grafiud Tione, our in-country representative, has continued to work throughout the year facilitating the smooth running of projects, disbursing funds, checking on progress, giving advice locally and advising trustees. Grafiud requires the recipients of MACS grants such as individual schools and community groups to open accounts and to manage funds awarded by MACS for each project. Trustees remain confident that every attempt is made to ensure funds are spent appropriately and that people are held to account in the event of discrepancies. Grafiud’s expenses are reviewed and adjusted annually in March. Last year we reported on the purchase of a new second hand vehicle for Grafiud. We can now report it is working well, is comfortable and sturdy and appropriate for the challenging roads in Malawi.

(b) **Expert advice:** MACS, when necessary, uses local Malawian professionals working alongside Grafiud to assess potential projects, draw up costed plans, tender documents and monitor work. Such partnerships are very helpful and the additional professional backing assures trustees in the UK and our overseas partners of the quality and sustainability of the work carried out in Malawi.

(c) **2024 Project Officer’s annual trip**: this trip took place in June 2025. Accompanied by Margaret and Julie, the Project Officer was able to visit many project sites as well as meet new Malawians in various posts in the Dioceses of Upper Shire and Lake Malawi. It has enabled some personal contacts which have helped with getting timely information from parties, such as reports from schools for bursary students. Supporters can hear more about this trip in the meeting and in the August newsletter.

**3. Health**

MACS considers a wide range of requests including new buildings, renovations, help with electricity and water, solar power and training.

During the past year we have been able to purchase new equipment for hospitals, improving the care of new borns, enabling better analysis of bloods and so on. We have also been able to support the renovation of storm-damaged buildings at St Martin’s hospital. Most recently we have co-funded the improvement of the water supply at St Anne’s, Nkhotakota.

**4. Education**

MACS supports the education of young people in Malawi through the paying of fees in Bursary Schemes as well as supporting in practical ways with building classrooms and sometime providing educational materials etc.

Fees have been paid for 32 students at both Malosa Secondary School and St Michael’s Girls in Malindi. Some of these have been paid through the Donald Arden Bursary fund, supporting the children of current clergy. We are extremely grateful to Bishop Ramsay School who are funding two students at Malosa Secondary School through their 4 years of education.

In the past academic year at Nkope, M’manga and Malindi Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS) we have supported 50 learners and, thanks to support from our generous donors, we have agreed to support a further intake of 10 students at Malindi CDSS. St Anne’s Church, Edinburgh, in particular, have undertaken to support the education of young people through the CDSS system and we are extremely grateful for this commitment. Loughborough Grammar school’s annual fundraising also supports CDSS students, making a significant difference to their lives. Last year we reported that we have undertaken to meet the exam fees for our CDSS bursary students. We have been able to do this during the current academic year.

School fees for the new academic year, 2025/2026 have been increased significantly in the past month rising from MK350,000 to MK460,000 for Malosa Secondary School and St Michael’s Girls in Malindi. School uniform costs have increased from MK22,000 to MK40,000 making things increasingly difficult for Malawians. CDSS fees have also increased from MK32,000 to MK50,000. Being sure that we can continue to support needy students is really important and we rely on the schools’ selection/ bursary committees to advise on the need.

**5 Parish and Diocesan Support**

Last year we reported that trustees agreed to give a small proportion of each project’s funding to the Diocesan Projects officer to facilitate their active involvement in MACS projects. We indicated that we would monitor this carefully. It proved tricky to implement and so, to date, we have not put this in place. Instead, we agreed to pay overnight and travel expenses for Diocesan project officers accompanying Grafiud on trips. This enables the Diocesan staff to carry out meetings and to maintain involvement in the projects funded by MACS at no additional cost to the Diocese. This move has been welcomed by the Diocesan project officers.

**6. Community and Training**

Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre has run two six-month courses in 2025. These were not as well attended as in the past / pre-covid but those attending who were supported by MACS have expressed their appreciation for the support and assured us that they move on equipped to work well. We continue to support the purchase of books for the library there, sending out funds whenever possible. We were able to access numerous books in the UK, second hand or new and some were taken during the June trip while others were taken out in August.

**C. Fundraising**

We are always grateful to all our supporters who have continued to donate and support the work of MACS throughout the past year.

Julie Lupton

MACS CIO Secretary