

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

When a chance meeting.....

.....leads to an exciting project at St Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota



When visiting St Anne's Hospital in Nkhotakota, trustees met Lia, a volunteer nurse from America sponsored by the charity Y-Malawi. Passionate about her work and the conditions in the operating theatres and maternity unit, Lia spoke with emotion about the lack of running water or working flush toilets in this area of the hospital and that medical staff were having to use a bucket of water to scrub up before undertaking surgery. All this was verified by medical staff.

Realising MACS' support for St Anne's, Lia's immediate thought was that perhaps we and Y-Malawi could work together to tackle this situation. Amazingly, she was able to contact the two Lilongwe-based Directors 'and, within a few hours a meeting was set up for the following day.

At the meeting, attended by hospital management and the Diocese of Lake Malawi (DLM) Project Officer, Oscar Mponda, it became clear that this was the type of worthwhile project that fulfilled the aims of both charities, but no decision could be made by MACS before seeing a feasibility study, together with itemised costings, for the installation of a solar-powered water supply system. These were subsequently forwarded in record time to MACS by Oscar Mponda, with a formal request to fund 50% of the project in partnership with Y-Malawi.

When MACS' trustees met on 21 July, with all relevant information before us, we approved the 50% funding request, subject to our Representative Grafiud Tione being involved in the implementation and governance process. Happily, work on the solar-powered system will soon start and will transform the lives of both staff and patients in the maternity wing and operating theatres.

And it all started with a 'chance', passionate, encounter with volunteer nurse



During their time at St Anne's trustees also met some very happy staff (pictured above), the Chief Nursing Officer and team of midwives who were delighted with recent donations from MACS, a second radiant baby warmer specifically for the labour ward and the much needed autoclave, which saves the time and expense of a 100km round trip to sterilise equipment.

St Martin's Hospital, Malindi

St Martin's hospital suffered badly from the storms earlier in the year and visiting trustees were able to see for themselves the extent of the damage to the paediatric ward. Trustees had already agreed to help restore ward capacity by funding the re roofing.



Donald Arden Autobiography

Reflections on serving in Malawi, Southern and Central Africa and England, 1943 – 2014



**Archbishop
Donald Arden**

Reflections on serving in Malawi,
Southern and Central Africa, England
1943-2014



Donald was patron of MACS from 1994-2014

He arrived in Nyasaland in 1961 as the new Anglican Bishop and left in 1981.

The autobiography includes ways in which Donald worked to develop Malawian leadership in the Diocese, a chapter on Political turmoil around Independence, and a chapter on the leading role he played in Malawi becoming the first country in the world where all Churches involved in medical work agreed to work together, and how it became the first to be free of polio.

It covers his early years in Australia, training as an ordinand in England, 38 years serving in Africa and 30 years in England.

The book has 248 pages, photographs and index. It is available at £12.42 + postage from TSL publications on

<https://tslbooks.uk/product/archbishop-donald-arden/>

MACS trustees have spent some time considering succession planning. Currently we have space for two more trustees and we will, in future, be looking to replace some of the current trustees. In particular we are looking for anyone with financial skills, with an interest in safeguarding, and with good administrative skills. We would also welcome trustees with experience in supporter engagement.

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

Educational Bursaries

MACS currently funds students through their four years of secondary school at St Michael's Girls' School, Malindi, Malosa Secondary School, Bishop Mtekateka School, Nkhotakota and Malindi, M'Manga and Nkope Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS). In the school year 2024/25 a total of 84 students were supported. MACS also annually funds ten women to attend a six month Homecraft course at Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre where they learn a variety of skills such as agriculture, tailoring, nutrition and hygiene which will benefit not only themselves but other members of their families and communities.



Pictured left is our first group of students at Malindi CDSS along with Headteacher Frank Sabati. These students all walk between two and five kilometres to school each day and come from villages where subsistence farming is the norm, with no money to spare for school fees. All are extremely grateful for their bursaries, without which they would be unlikely

to still be in school, and had come in on a Saturday to meet trustees. The majority of students from here go on to Technical College and last year three were selected for university. Members of this group aspire, amongst other things, to go into nursing and teaching. These students will now move up to Form 2 and will be joined by a new group of 10 Form 1 MACS bursars in September.

Trustees met bursary students at all the schools and they were without exception very grateful and clear that without the bursary it is very unlikely that they would be in school today. Here are some comments from students at M'manga, Nkope, Malosa and St Michael's.

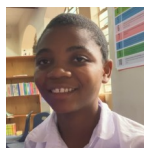
'I live with just my mother in M'manga village. The bursary has helped me so much because if it was not there I would not be here' (M'manga, Form 1 student)

'I live with my aunt, she is a farmer growing maize and groundnuts. I want to go to university and become a journalist. This bursary means so much as my family could not afford to help me and pay school fees'. (St Michael's, Form 4 student)

'In our lives we lack money and with the coming of MACS we have found help, which is a great support in our lives. We are giving great thanks to you, MACS'. (Nkope CDSS, Form 4 student)



'My bursary has helped me to finish school without any financial problems and I am very grateful for it. I hope to be accepted by a good university and want to go on to become a doctor'. (Malosa, Form 4 student)



'The bursary has helped a lot. As you can see in Malawi we have problems with economics'. My parents would not be able to pay as school fees are very high. I hope to do engineering' (Malosa, Form 1 student)



Project Officer Visit, June 2025

Each year our Project Officer, Eileen Eggington, visits Malawi accompanied by two other trustees. This year that was Julie Lupton and Margaret Campbell. So, what happens on these visits? Here, in photographs, is a taste of our visit .

We took part in many informative meetings with our Malawi partners, some formal and some more relaxed.



Above left, meeting the building Committee in an almost complete classroom at Mwanza Primary School and right, with diocesan colleagues in Lilongwe.

We inspected MACS buildings, some more complete than others, and met the people who are enjoying them.

Bottom left, Grafiud Tione, Eileen and very appreciative staff at St Luke's Hospital, middle, children at Mwanza, and right, school block at Magomero





On Sunday we enjoyed worship at Mponda's cathedral.

We took lots of photographs, handed over books and sports kits, discovered just how hard it is to pump water from a borehole and heard how studying has enriched the lives of students at Chilema.



Left, Chilema students nearing the end of their six month Homecraft course.

By the time we returned to Lilongwe we had driven over 1,200 kms and had experienced the reality of travelling on Malawian roads!



As an old Scots saying goes,

Mony A Mickle Maks (MACS) A Muckle



Jesus' disciples were overwhelmed by the needs of the crowds and they could not see how to feed them. It took the generosity of one boy, who only had a couple of fish and a bit of bread but, once offered to Jesus, this was blessed and ultimately fed more than 5000.

I do wonder if others, who also carried a small amount of food on that day, realised that if they added their little to what others were offering, it might become a lot!

MACS works with whatever you are able to offer. God blesses what we do. Please consider setting up a Standing Order giving a regular amount to support the work.

You might want to review your current giving as well. To set up a Standing Order, go to our website, www.malawimacs.org and download a form. Alternatively, phone the Secretary to ask for a form to be popped in the post to you.

Equally, if you do a lot of your shopping online nowadays, please consider using www.easypfundraising.org.uk and nominate MACS as the beneficiary. It costs you nothing but makes a world of difference. Thank you.

PROJECTS approved since the last newsletter

- Restoring ward capacity following storm damage by re roofing the paediatric ward at Saint Martin's hospital in Malindi.
- The construction of reinforced walls, using gabion baskets to protect the intake pipe in the lake at Nkope. This is in order to prevent rising lake levels from damaging further the intake pipe.
- Funding trainers in five primary schools in the southern region to educate students in making soap and menstruation kits. This will be done through Seedsowers, Malawi.
- Embarking on a joint venture with the charity Y-Malawi to co-fund a solar water project at St Anne's hospital, Nkhotakota.
- Enabling 10 women to study at Chilema on the six month course running from July 2025. MACS pay 90% of their fees.
- Continuing to supply textbooks and course books for the Chilema course through the continued generosity of our donors.

MACS CIO SUPPORTERS' DAY

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

Saturday 27th September 2025

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

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