

Report of the trustees from September 2021- September 2022

What we have done.

A Governance:

1. Meetings: Trustees meet to monitor projects, allocate funds, approve new projects, review policies and address issues of strategy. We have met six times since our last Annual Supporters Day. Five meetings have been on Zoom, in preference to coming into London using public transport and then we met in person, in London, in September 2022. By holding meetings virtually, a considerable amount of our UK expenses has been saved: no rental costs for meeting venues, no trustees' travel expenses etc.

The Covid working group set up in 2020 did not need to meet at all in the last year as no requests were made for help with Covid prevention.

Following the success of the virtual Annual meeting of Supporters in 2021 we agreed to continue to meet on Zoom in 2022 but that we are likely to revert to an in-person meeting in 2023. Blended meetings are tricky to manage. We hope to take into consideration the views of many of our supporters before we make a final decision on this matter.

2. Trustees: Trustees remained unchanged throughout the year.

3. Communications with supporters: Margaret Campbell has produced two newsletters which went out in February 2022 and the most recent one in September 2022. We also produced our 2022 Appeal and, more recently a legacy leaflet that has been distributed to all our supporters. We have continued to contact supporters with new bank details for Standing Orders encouraging them to close their Standing Orders to Santander and set up new ones for MACS CIO with Barclays.

The Annual Gift List was produced in the autumn 2021 in a new format and resulted in limited support. We decided to limit the Gift List to one specific item in 2022-23 to see if this is more popular. This will feature Pencils for Schools.

Our 2022 appeal to raise funds for solar back up for St Michael's Girls' Secondary school was well supported and the work was all carried out during the recent school holidays.

4. 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.

5. Safeguarding: Margaret Campbell is our Safeguarding Trustee. With her guidance, and in line with Charity Commission requirements, trustees have drawn up and adopted Safeguarding policies and procedures for trustees and for our Malawi representative. 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 in Malawi have now shared copies of their safeguarding policies with MACS.

6. Remuneration of trustees' expenses: Trustees may claim travel expenses to MACS meetings on an annual basis but no meetings were held in London in the 2021-2022 Financial year. Visits to Malawi are in line with current agreed policy but no visits have been made to Malawi since we last reported to supporters in 2021. Details of all claims appear in the Annual financial report. We were able eventually to recover the airfares from the agent for three trustees who were forced to cancel their trip to Malawi in 2020.

B Projects

1. **Applications:** During the past year a total of **£83,169** was granted to new projects. We have had far fewer applications than in the past.
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 helps the recipients of MACS grants such as individual schools and community groups to open accounts and to manage funds awarded by MACS for particular projects. Trustees remain confident that every attempt is made to ensure funds are spent appropriately. Grafiud's expenses are reviewed and adjusted annually in March.
 - (b) **Care was taken** to ensure Grafiud did not feel obliged to travel during the height of the pandemic and that he understood he was only expected to travel to monitor projects as and when he felt it was safe to do so. Thanks to the joys of Zoom and WhatsApp, we are able to keep in much more regular contact with Grafiud now and this is really helpful.
 - (c) **Expert advice:** MACS has continued to use local Malawian professionals working alongside Grafiud to assess potential projects, drawing up costed plans, tender documents and in monitoring 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.
 - (d) **2021 and 2022 Project Officer's annual trip:** these trips have not taken place due to Covid-19 restrictions. Trustees agreed there are too many risks involved in making a trip this year with Covid and travel disruptions. Our Project Officer is planning to make a trip to Malawi in May 2023 along with perhaps two other trustees.

3. Health

MACS is happy to consider a wide range of requests including new buildings, renovations, help with electricity and water, training and financial management.

The major project completed in the last year was the renovation of the operating theatre at St Anne's Nkhotakota. Even more recently we have been able to put £10,000 towards the purchase of much needed equipment for maternity and neonatal care at the same hospital.

The renovation of two staff houses at St Martin's hospital, Malindi, has also been undertaken. We prefer to renovate houses as there is limited land available on the site for new builds. Improved housing helps with staff retention.

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 providing educational materials etc.

Fees have been paid for 64 students, the majority of whom are girls, at Malosa Secondary School, St Michael's Girls' Secondary School, Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School and various Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS). We have recently reviewed the Bursary scheme to ensure that we can continue to commit to paying for a full four years' education for students once they enter the Secondary education system.

5 Parish and Diocesan Support

Malawi suffered devastating floods this year and £2,000 was sent to the Diocese of Southern Malawi through the Anglican Council of Malawi (ACM) to help with relief efforts.

6. Community and Training

Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre continues to train students from rural areas. Many of them are women. We agreed to increase support for students this year: 90% of the fees for 10 students are now paid for both courses running within the year ie the January and the July intake. We have also undertaken recently to pay for the renovation of an existing room to become a temporary library while plans are drawn up to provide a bespoke library and additional classroom. This will enable Chilema to receive formal course accreditation within Malawi thus raising its profile.

C. Fundraising

We are especially grateful to all our supporters who have continued to donate and support the work of MACS throughout the past year. In particular, one of our trustees, Richard Davies, has recently raised well over £2500 for education by being sponsored for 50 days to use only technology that was available to him when he married, 50 years ago. We are most grateful to Richard and Wylva, his wife, for completing this fundraising challenge. It has meant our Website remained unchanged for some time but Richard is now back online and updating everything. If anyone has come good ideas for fundraising, please let us know so we can support you in any way.

Julie Lupton

MACS CIO Secretary