

# NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2020**

## **St Luke's new theatre block is finished!**



Management and staff at St Luke's Hospital in Malosa have gathered round to express their joy at the completion of the Operating Theatre (OT) block. The new building provides facilities for strict infection control through carefully designed routes through the block and improved instrument sterilization. There is a purpose-built recovery room so that patients will be monitored, and any immediate post-operative problems can be swiftly addressed. Staff facilities have been improved, and infection control assisted, by providing male and female changing rooms, showers, and wash basins.

It was back in 2016 that Dr Chris Huigens raised the need for a second operating theatre at St Luke's. Too often there was a patient requiring an emergency operation while the only existing theatre was being used for a routine procedure. After two years of discussion and planning, the target of £175,000 was set. MACS was able to commit £100,000 from existing reserves and, with generous donations and bequests from individuals, the parish of St Leonard's Oakley with Wootton, the people of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway and from the Capricorn Trust, the target was reached. In March 2019 building began and fifteen months later the building is ready.

Chief Administrative Officer Mr Winasi Boma said, *"There is no doubt that this is the finest secondary level OT provision in the whole of the Eastern Region and it will serve countless numbers of patients requiring surgery for many years to come. I want to express our thanks to all those who have contributed funds through MACS to create a building of such beauty and high quality."*

A substantial bequest from Australia and gifts from supporters in UK should enable St Luke's to cover the cost of equipping these new operating theatres. These gifts include a generous donation from the parish of Kingston Bagpuize in Oxfordshire, a doctor and her husband in North Wales, plus £225 raised through Rohena Latif, a Facebook fundraiser who last year spent a short attachment at St Luke's as part of her nursing training.



*Staff gather around the nurse observation table*

# **SUPPORTERS' DAY**

## **& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

**Saturday 19 September, 1030**

In May trustees took the decision to hold this year's Annual Supporters' Day and AGM via Zoom. Over the last few months we, like many others, have been developing our online communication skills and are excited to think that this decision will enable many of you to join in, perhaps for the first time, from all over the UK and beyond.

The AGM will take place at 1030 and be followed by the Annual Supporters' Day. The whole event is likely to run for two to two and a half hours, with a comfort break at half time. Of course, with Zoom, you are free to leave whenever you choose!

It is hoped that we will be able to link up with Grafiud Tione in Malawi to hear straight from him how things are going. We plan to show you pictures of various projects, whether on-going or completed. And, of course, we would like you to have the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and enjoy 'meeting' other supporters.

If you think you would like to 'attend' this day, please can you email the secretary at [info@malawimacs.com](mailto:info@malawimacs.com). Then in the week beginning Monday 14th September you will be sent an invitation to the Zoom meeting by email, along with an electronic copy of all the papers for the AGM.

### **MACS WHO'S WHO**

**Patron:** Jane Arden, MBE

**Chairman:** Tony Cox

email: [chairman@malawimacs.org](mailto:chairman@malawimacs.org)

**Secretary:** Julie Lupton

The Cottage, 72 North Street, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8AS

Tel: 01580 291 658 email: [info@malawimacs.org](mailto:info@malawimacs.org)

**Treasurer:** Colin Gardner

217 Main Road, Hawkwell, Essex, SS5 4EQ

Tel: 01268 920 052 email: [treasurer@malawimacs.org](mailto:treasurer@malawimacs.org)

**Projects:** Eileen Eggington

Tel: 07771 870424 email: [projectofficer@malawimacs.org](mailto:projectofficer@malawimacs.org)

**Trustees:** Gillian Barber, Adrian Brown, Margaret Campbell, Richard Davies, Brian Griffin, Martin Herrick.

## MACS 2020 Classrooms Begin to Rise



*Left: Reaching for the skies at Kanthete Primary School*

*Above: Building goes ahead at Mikanga Primary School*

Malawi is a young country. Almost 3 in 10 Malawians are of primary school age. Malawi's future lies in the education of these young people and the Diocese of Lake Malawi, with over 100 primary schools in its care, aims to play a full part in this task. But there is a desperate shortage of classrooms. Not long ago the school secretary of one the schools wrote of "the class of one hundred and seventeen learners, learning under a tree".

In response MACS launched its 2020 appeal for £90,000 to build twelve classrooms in six schools.

In the last few months, thanks to the generosity of MACS supporters and the efforts of the local community to make bricks, the classrooms have begun to rise. Despite the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, building has started on all six sites, bringing the hope of a safe and secure learning environment for many hundreds of pupils when the new school year begins in September.



*Mr Lacton Banda, Deputy Head of Msambaimfa Primary School, looks forward to moving into the new classrooms*



*DIY Brickmaking - 40,000 per classroom*



# MACS and Covid-19 in Malawi

## MACS commits £24,000 to our partners in Malawi as Covid-19 spreads in the country.



*Health Information Poster*

In a rapidly developing situation, MACS has made emergency grants of £2,000 to the Chilema Lay Training Centre at Malosa and to each of the three Anglican boarding schools in the Dioceses of Lake Malawi and Upper Shire. This is in order to assist in on-going expenses until the planned re-opening of all educational institutions later in the year. This came in addition to the £6,000 which was sent to three Anglican hospitals for cleaning materials and Personal Protection Equipment at the start of the pandemic. A Post-Covid Support Fund of £10,000 has been set on one side in order to aid the necessary reconstruction of medical and educational services in the country once the worst of the virus has run its course.

The country as a whole remains very vulnerable. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Guardian reported that: *"In Malawi there are just 25 intensive care beds and seven ventilators in the country of more than 18 million people."*

The virus arrived relatively late in Malawi with the first 3 cases reported on 2nd April. On 13th July, the Malawi Ministry of Health reported that 2430 cases of Covid-19 had proved positive with just 39 deaths. Many of these cases are amongst Malawians returning from South Africa. Initially returnees were quarantined in Kamuzu Stadium in Blantyre but, at the end of May, over 400 returnees broke out of the stadium, complaining of a lack of water, food and sanitation facilities at the centre and raising more fears of the spread of the virus.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June the Voice of America website reported that, in a recent survey by the Malawi Institute of Public Opinion, 82 percent of Malawians said that they were more scared of hunger than being infected with coronavirus.

A nationwide lockdown, originally planned to come into effect on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, was postponed indefinitely by the Supreme Court because of lack of provision for the informal sector of the economy which makes up around 89% of Malawians in work. However, all schools, bars, and restaurants have been closed. Gatherings of more than 100 people are banned.



*PPE arrives at St Luke's Hospital*



*Full PPE in St Luke's isolation ward*

The UK Department for International Development has provided £1.8 million to UNICEF Malawi, the International Monetary Fund will give US\$150 million and the World Bank announced a \$37million grant to strengthen Malawi's capacity to meet the outbreak.

On 13th July George Massi, the administrator at St Martin's, Community Hospital, Malindi, reported that Mangochi district is one of the hotspots as many local people travel to South Africa for work, mostly travelling on uncharted routes making them very difficult to trace.

Currently Mangochi district has 80 confirmed cases, including 67 imported from South Africa; six are health workers from the District Hospital. Confirmed cases are increasing on a daily basis.

Resources for preventive measures are a limiting factor. *'We do not have enough cash. Supplies are scarce and expensive. However we have managed to improvise an HIV-testing tent, which can be used as an isolation room for any suspected case of Covid-19. But we still lack so much, including infra-red thermometers, isolation beds, basic drugs, PPE.'*

Timothy Phiri, acting senior medical officer at St Luke's Hospital, Malosa, reports that preparations there have included the procurement of supplies of PPE, the training of clinical and nursing staff at the hospital and health centres in COVID-19 case management, installation of water buckets with taps and soap dispensers in strategic positions, introduction of a triage system at the hospital main gate (with all other gates sealed) and identification of an isolation ward. They currently have no active cases.

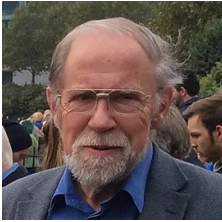
The hospital is working closely with the district health office to obtain items such as oxygen concentrators, additional beds and monthly supplies of PPE but much more is still required.

***MACS continues to raise funds to meet the needs of hospitals, schools and Christian institutions affected by the virus.***

***Donate via the MACS website [www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org)***

## Why MACS is changing

*Tony Cox, Chair of MACS explains why it is proposed to change MACS into MACS CIO.*



At the 2019 Supporters' Day and AGM I said to the meeting, "We live in a litigious world. Until very recently I was being sued over a magazine I edited where I had printed a picture without acknowledging copyright. Last week I spoke to a friend whose charity – and thereby whose trustees – had been forced into a £30,000 pay-out over the injury to a spectator at a charity rugby match. Another friend had been forced to pay £40,000 after a former employee of the charity had taken them to an industrial tribunal and I know of a Parochial Church Council that had been taken to court over an injury to a bell ringer. Until very recently all charity trustees or members of PCCs were personally liable for any debts or lawsuits incurred by their organization and it was becoming more and more difficult to recruit trustees who were willing to take these risks. Increasingly trustees were being chosen for their wealth not their wisdom".

"Under these circumstances, in 2013 the Charity Commission in England and Wales introduced a new form of charity known as Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) under which trustees no longer have any personal liability. Charities have been encouraged to convert to a CIO with a new constitution based on a model provided by the Charity Commission. Over 17,000 charities have already made the change".

"MACS is proposing to follow this path in the near future. This involves setting up a new CIO to be known as the **Malawi Association for Christian Support CIO** which must then be registered with the Charity Commission and will be granted a new charity number. The proposed constitution of MACS CIO has exactly the same aims as our present constitution and retains the obligation to report its finances and charitable activities to its supporters on an annual basis. It will also be obliged to consult supporters on ways of developing the work of the Association. However, it will remove trustees from any personal liability as well as bringing our constitution in line with modern methods, for example over making decisions by email or tele-conferencing. It will also limit formal membership to the trustees alone who will be solely responsible for decision-making".

**Now** I am pleased to report that the Charity Commission has approved the terms of our new constitution and granted registration to the Malawi Association for Christian Support CIO, Charity no 1188309. At our AGM and Supporters' Day in September 2020 we will be asking supporters to endorse our plan to transfer activities from MACS to MACS CIO.

Our next steps will be to open bank accounts and transfer funds to MACS CIO so that on January 1st 2021 MACS CIO can continue their work on behalf of the people who make Malawi the Warm Heart of Africa.

## **New Projects** approved since the last newsletter

- Funding repairs to the roof of St Michael's and All Angels Church at Namalomba.
- Renovation of a 5 classroom block at Sopani, Ntchisi.
- Repairs to two water pumps at Nkope.
- The establishment of a £10,000 post Covid-19 Support fund.
- Emergency grants totalling £6,000 to three hospitals and their health centres.
- A grant of £2000 to Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre.
- Emergency grants of £2000 each to Malosa Secondary School, St Michael's Girls' Secondary School, Malindi and to Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School, Nkhotakota.
- A grant of £150 to Nkope Hill CDSS for extraordinary expenses during Covid-19.

## **A thank you from Bishop Mtekateka School....**

*'I would like to sincerely thank you for the COVID-19 emergency grant offered to Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School. The grant has been used to purchase items identified by the school taskforce as necessary for the school to re-open. I am glad to report that Bishop Mtekateka is now, to a greater extent, ready, with all relevant items in place for this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic.*

*We, as Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School, would like to thank you for such a timely grant which has allowed us to procure these items now, before demand increases on the market which will certainly increase prices. Your prompt action on this issue is a blessing to us and obviously cost effective. We are not taking this for granted. Once again, thank you very much and God bless you all'.*

Jesman Seva, Headteacher

## **So far this financial year the GIFT LIST has funded:**

- £1000 each to St Luke's and St Martin's Hospitals from Sponsor a bed.
- The purchase of bicycles for four Ordinands at Leonard Kamungu Theological College.

**Gifts can be purchased quickly and easily on our website:  
[www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org)**