



## **Report of the trustees from September 2022- August 2023**

### **What we have done.**

#### **A Governance:**

- 1. Meetings:** Trustees meet to consider applications from Malawi, approve new projects, to 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 five times since our last Annual General Meeting ( November 2022). We agreed to hold alternate meetings on Zoom or in person in London. By holding meetings virtually we have halved our annual meeting costs. However, we consider it is still important to meet up every few months in person as this facilitates discussion of topics such as longer-term strategy.
- 2. Trustees:** Trustees remained unchanged throughout the year.
- 3. Communications with supporters:** Margaret Campbell has produced two newsletters which went out in February 2023 and the most recent one in August 2023.
- 4. Annual Appeal:** Because of our need to attract funds in the wake of Cyclone Freddy, we did not launch any other appeals in 2023.
- 5. Annual Gift List:** in autumn 2022 we offered only one option to supporters: pencils for schools. This was neither popular nor easy to administer and we would not go this route again.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Safeguarding:** Margaret Campbell is 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.

- 8. Remuneration of trustees' expenses:** Trustees may claim travel expenses to MACS meetings on an annual basis. We have reduced the number of in-person meetings, post Covid19. Visits to Malawi are in line with current agreed policy. The first Project Officer's trip since 2019 took place in May 2023 and the chairman and treasurer accompanied the project officer. Details of all claims appear in the Annual financial report.

## **B Projects**

**1. Applications:** During the past year a total of £106,546 was granted to new projects. Last year we reported a significant reduction in applications received. This trend continued until the 2023 Project Officer's trip which highlighted to people in Malawi the possibility of making applications again. It is anticipated that more applications will be forthcoming.

### **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) 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.

**(c) 2023 Project Officer's annual trip:** this trip, the first since 2019, took place in May 2023. Accompanied by our Chairman and Treasurer, 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. They also toured sites

where the devastation of Cyclone Freddy was very apparent. This trip has enabled trustees to feel more connected again to what is going on in Malawi. It has enabled some personal contacts which have helped with getting timely information from parties, such as reports from schools for bursary students.

### **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.

During the past year, the renovation of Staff housing at Malindi Hospital was completed.

### **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 29 students at Malosa Secondary School, St Michael's Girls' Secondary School, Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School and 20 at various Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS). Following a review in early 2022 of the Bursary system, we were concerned by a significant increase in fees in Malawi. This forced us to re-consider our projections. However, a generous donation of £25,000 towards bursaries has meant we are confident of being able to honour our 4 year commitment to bursary students and, in the autumn of 2023 we will be able to review the position once the new fees structure has been announced and we may well be able to extend the bursary scheme.

### **5 Parish and Diocesan Support**

Cyclone Freddy devastated many areas, particularly in Southern Malawi in the early part of 2023. In response to the need, MACS allocated £2000 of General Funds to help with reconstruction. This gift, through the generosity of donors, grew to £13,513 which has been channelled through The Anglican Council of Malawi (ACM) to bring relief and hope for affected communities.

### **6. Community and Training**

Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre continues to train students from rural areas. Student numbers have reduced significantly post-Covid but MACS has

supported the training of 10 students on each of the two courses run in 2023. Janice Price is the link trustee for Chilema and keeps us informed on progress. The temporary library that was renovated was visited by the Project Officer and as it is sufficiently large, MACS agreed to fund the purchase of shelving, desks and chairs and some books. There are no current plans to build a bespoke library.

### **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. We have been especially grateful for two anonymous donations: one gives real support to the bursary scheme while the other, for capital projects, has meant we have embarked on a round of building double classroom blocks with offices for primary schools and for one Community Day Secondary School.

Julie Lupton  
MACS CIO Secretary