

**Report of the trustees for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

**Achievements and performance.**

**A Governance:**

**1. Meetings:** Trustees met seven times during the year. On six occasions trustees met to monitor projects, allocate funds, approve new projects etc. The seventh meeting was for the AGM and Annual Supporters' Day on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**2. Trustees:** There have been no changes in trustees during the year. All trustees have specific areas of responsibility.

**3. Communications with supporters:** Two excellent newsletters went out in August and February, informing supporters of developments and progress and highlighting some major areas of achievement. These were produced by Margaret Campbell who also looks after the MACS Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**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:** 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. Margaret Campbell is our Safeguarding Trustee. Jointly with the wider Anglican Communion we continue to encourage the church in Malawi to introduce robust Safeguarding practices. Schools in Malawi have been asked to share copies of their safeguarding policies with MACS. There is still a way to go with this but we are all moving in the right direction.

**6. Remuneration of trustees' expenses:** Trustees claim travel expenses to MACS meetings on an annual basis. Visits to Malawi are in line with current agreed policy and details of all claims are in the Annual financial report.

**B Projects**

**1. Applications:** During the year a total of **£262,994** has been granted to new projects.

**2. Support for:**

**(a) Strategic planning:** as mentioned last year, trustees have been particularly keen in supporting the carrying out of strategic reviews for the hospitals and health centres in Malawi. These, though time-consuming, help everyone to agree where money can be most effectively and appropriately spent to enhance the services being offered. Feedback from Malawi suggests that this form of planning is particularly helpful.

**(b) Internal auditing:** A programme jointly funded with USPG and the Diocese of Birmingham has been funding internal audits in Diocesan institutions. This programme has been welcomed by the institutions taking part and these institutions now make a contribution towards these costs as well.

### **3. Monitoring:**

**(a) MACS Representative:** In Malawi our representative, Grafiud Tione, has worked 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 make use of local Malawian professionals working alongside Grafiud in assessing 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) 2018 Project Officer's annual trip:** Tony Cox and Margaret Campbell accompanied Eileen Eggington on a very full trip in May 2018. This enabled them to look at completed projects as well as on-going projects and to meet many of the people with whom MACS has contact. In particular emphasis was laid on safeguarding policies and procedures. Having three trustees on the trip meant they could take plenty of photographs and get personal stories from beneficiaries of MACS grants. This trip featured in the August 2018 newsletter.

### **4. Health £164,402**

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

Examples of such are:

- I. Raising the £165,000 required to build the new operating theatre suite at St Luke's Hospital, Malosa.
- II. Completion of training of a palliative care nurse for Ndi Moyo.
- III. Medical staff at health centres and hospitals have received blood pressure monitors, and head torches, funded through the popular Gift List.
- IV. Staff house renovation at Nkasala was completed.
- V. A washing machine finally arrived and was installed at Malindi Hospital and MACS is supporting the maintenance/ servicing of the machine.

### **5. Education £76,959**

MACS is very happy to support education of young people in Malawi through the paying of fees in Bursary schemes as well as supporting in practical ways with building and educational materials etc.

Examples of how MACS provides support are:

- I. The bursary schemes continue to support 75 boys and girls at Malosa Secondary School, St Michael's Girls, Malindi as well as at Bishop Mtekateka School, Nkhotakota and also at two CDSS schools: M'manga and Nkope Hill.
- II. Funds to buy books and teachers' resource packs in Northern Malawi were disbursed through Team Malawi, a charity operating principally in the North.

- III. Teachers in rural areas were given good quality solar lamps that enable them to charge mobile phones as well as to have light in the evenings.
- IV. A teacher at M'mangas is living in a newly renovated house.
- V. A new teacher's house was built at Magomero with funds from Haslingfield.
- VI. At St Michael's Girls School, Malindi, girls are now accommodated in a safe and refurbished hostel.
- VII. Mattresses, curtains and cooking pots were provided for Nkope Hill CDSS girls' hostel enabling girls to live at the school during the week.

## **6. Parish and Diocesan Support £5,578**

Examples of grants made within the last year are:

- I. New graduates from the theological college are given a bicycle and maintenance training to help them in their parishes.
- II. The Priest at Magomero lives in a new house with a ceiling.
- III. The people of Matope can enjoy worship in a church with a new roof.

## **7. Community and Training £12,780**

- I. Funds were allocated to help with training in sustainable land use. MACS passed these funds to Tiyeni, a charity whose focus is primarily on land use.
- II. People in the communities served by MACOBO benefitted from another tranche of funding to extend the successful and popular goat pass-on scheme.
- III. 10 Anglican women each year are supported to participate in the six month skills training course at Chilema with 80 % of their fees being met by MACS grants.

## **8. Miscellaneous £3,275**

- I. **Flood reconstruction:** following the disastrous floods in the area early in 2019 MACS granted an immediate award of £1000 towards the reconstruction efforts. MACS supporters channelled donations through MACS as well and a total of £ 6925 has been sent in the current year to The Anglian Council of Malawi who are overseeing all the disaster relief work.

## **C. Fundraising**

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters who raise funds and show interest and support throughout the year.

The annual gift list raised **£7,483** this year. Colin Gardner has continued to monitor the use of funds donated through the Gift List. Gillian Barber, however, helps with 'gifts' to hospitals and health centres.

## **D. Our Supporters**

As always, we remain indebted to all MACS supporters, be they individuals, churches, schools or other groups of people. Your financial as well as your prayerful support are greatly appreciated. Together with the people of Malawi, we are working towards a better future.

Julie Lupton

Secretary.

