

## The Problems of Success - St. Luke's Operating Theatre



We have an exciting major project on our hands. St. Luke's Hospital, Malosa, which serves five rural health centres, urgently needs a second operating theatre - a tribute to the increased workload that it is attracting. The existing theatre was built in 1965 and, although the theatre block was extended in the early 1980's, it is now inadequate for the demand. The number of procedures has increased steadily - another 5% in the last year - and this is expected to grow following the graduation of a Malosa based clinician in obstetrics and gynaecology. So what do you do when an expectant mother needs an emergency Caesarean section and the operating theatre is already occupied? The solution is a second operating theatre. Easier said than done.

Many minds sought a way of adding another theatre to the existing block. However, it proved impossible to achieve a design that overcame the potential for cross-infection or one that allowed the current theatre to continue working during building works. Consequently the answer has to be a new theatre suite. And that is the goal of our next appeal. Below is a plan of the new concept:



And that is not all. The move out of the existing theatre block provides a building which can be converted into a Nutrition Unit - something else much needed in this flourishing hospital.

**THANK YOU FROM BISHOP MTEKATEKA  
SECONDARY SCHOOL, NKHOTAKOTA**

*"I would like to say thank you for the borehole that MACS funded to help Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School and the surrounding communities. The water project has assisted us in a number of areas. We no longer use the Board's water supply. We pump our own water and supply to all our hostels, kitchen, and school toilets. Students are able to drink this potable water, wash their clothes, and do a number of cleaning jobs. Students are happy now being free from the frequent intermittent water supply by Water Board. WE SAY THANK YOU TO MACS!"*

*The photograph below shows happy students and myself drawing water from one of the taps. God bless you and we feel blessed as well! "*

Jesman Seva,  
Director/Headmaster



## CLEAN WATER FOR MALOSA

The MACS' funded Malosa Water Dam with its tanks, filter systems and chlorine doses has, for many years, supplied water to St Luke's Hospital, Nursing College, Malosa Secondary School, Likwenu Primary School, Chilema Lay Training Centre and surrounding villages.

However, severe drought in recent years has meant that the water levels have become dangerously low, particularly in the dry season, and the quality of the water has deteriorated.

Last September, MACS, Birmingham Diocese and USPG joined together to help fund a supplementary borehole system with overhead tanks to alleviate the problem.

Mr Winasi Boma, Principal Hospital Administrator, said *"We are thankful to our partners for responding so quickly to our appeal for help. Though the water in the old system has served us well, it's now muddy and contains sediments, increasing the risk of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases. A year ago there was a worrying outbreak of cholera and we had to close the school. Now we have water throughout the season, including clean clear water for drinking. Water from the dam will still be important for washing and flushing toilets, but this underground drinking water will change our lives for the better."*



Mr Hankey Makwinja, Maintenance Supervisor, and one of the plumbers test water for the new system



A patient guardian caring for a sick relative at St Luke's said,

*"The quality of the water in the new system is the same as the water we drink at our homes from boreholes, this makes us feel safe".*

## TRUSTEE PROFILES

In September 2017 MACS welcomed two new trustees



**Dr. Martin Herrick** is a retired consultant anaesthetist. He spent a year in Malawi after leaving school, during which time he supervised much building work at Malosa and at St. Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota. His last project was the laying of the foundations of St. Luke's Hospital, Malosa.

After qualifying as a doctor, he spent a year in a mission hospital in the South African Transkei. Subsequently he returned to work at St. Luke's for two years, with short spells at St. Anne's.

Since then he has been a member of educational teams to Africa, India and Romania.

**Margaret Campbell** has had an interest in Malawi since childhood, when she had an aunt serving as a missionary in the then Nyasaland. Through former trustee Anthea Griggs she has followed of the work of MACS for many years. This interest was cemented by joining the 2016 Supporters trip.

She originally trained as a teacher and later converted to leisure management.

As Sports Development Manager in Havering she worked closely with Public Health on a variety of Healthy Lifestyles projects, mostly around physical activity and nutrition, before retiring in 2015.



## How gift list items make a big difference

Donating items from the MACS Gift List makes a real difference. Recent purchases for Malawi from 'medical' donations have included blood pressure and oxygen monitors, watches for nurses, and patient mattresses and bedding.

Nurses' salaries don't stretch far with the rapidly rising cost of living in Malawi, and to have wipe clean watches to pin on uniforms means a lot and helps prevent cross-infection. They have enabled the staff to detect complications by counting the heart-beat of patients accurately.



Blood pressure monitors are expensive to buy as they must be imported. Staff from St. Martin's Hospital at Malindi say that the donations have enabled them to have one in all wards and clinics such as the antenatal clinic which helps to monitor patients with hypertension. We next will be buying paediatric BP monitors too.

Donated pulse oxygen monitors are used mainly in Maternity and the Children's ward. They can now use

oxygen therapy more accurately especially with children with severe pneumonia, women experiencing complications, and the sickest of their patients.

And why the head torches? Even when power is working (not guaranteed) staff often have limited light. Head torches enable procedures to be carried out more safely. They also help staff leaving their houses for night-time emergencies to cross unlit and unsafe terrain.

Medical and nursing text books have been added recently to the Gift list. Libraries rarely have up-to-date books and hospital and clinic staff normally have none at all. Gift List donations can pay for appropriate new books, purchased according to need.

Several hospitals and rural clinics have received bedding and waterproof mattresses recently, all funded by Gift list donors and made and bought locally. These mattresses can be cleaned easily, an important issue when infection is easily spread using torn covers and patients have more privacy with good bedding. Many more are needed!

The Sponsor-a-bed donations are shared equally between hospitals and form an important addition to the general funding for patient care.



## Also from the Gift List

Text books have been distributed to secondary schools.

The local production of sports bibs is being followed up.

Sponsor-a-bed funds have been distributed to St Martin's and St Luke's hospitals.

The gift of more goats to the Malosa Community Based Organisation (MACOBO) pass-on goat scheme has been approved.

The local production of new easels, desks and chairs for teachers has been approved.

Funds to support the Chankhungu Orphan Centre have been passed on.



## NEW PROJECTS approved since the last newsletter

- ◇ Solar panels for the MACS representative's office.
- ◇ Eight day training for children's caregivers at MACOBO.
- ◇ A strategic review for St Martin's hospital.
- ◇ Renovation of a three classroom block at Nkhanda Primary School, Likhubula Parish, Zomba.
- ◇ Re-roofing of the rectory at St Philip's Rectory, Likhubula Parish.
- ◇ Roofing of Holy Spirit Church, Matope Parish.
- ◇ Installation of electricity in Namwera Parish to Parish HQ, Chinwenya Primary School, staff and teachers' houses, offices, the church and one school block.
- ◇ The purchase of a new washing machine for St Martin's hospital, Malindi.
- ◇ A grant to pay for 80% of the cost of ten people on the Chilema Women's training course.
- ◇ School fees for students at Malosa Secondary School, St Michael's Girls' Secondary School, Bishop Mtekatoka School, Nkope Hill CDSS and Mmangas CDSS through various bursary schemes.
- ◇ Construction of a double classroom block with office at St Francis' Parish, Kasungu.

## DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE ON OUR MAILING LISTS?

In our last newsletter we indicated that, in order to comply with the latest Data protection regulations, we would have to invite every individual person on our current mailing lists to opt in. Some of you already indicated you wish to continue to hear from us by post or by email. However, this is your final opportunity to do so. **Should you as an individual not respond, MACS cannot contact you again and your details will be deleted from our lists.**

**Here is how to make sure you still hear from MACS:**

*NB: If you received this newsletter **without** an opt-in insert, you have already opted in and therefore you don't need to do anything more at all.*

### EITHER

If there is a **white opt-in form** with your newsletter and if you wish to receive mailing from us in the future, you have to indicate this in such a way that we can record your preferences. If we don't have a record of your preferences, legally we are no longer able to contact you. The opt-in form can be completed in ink and posted back to me, the Secretary, at the address on the form.

### OR

You can **go online to our website** [www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org) click on Contact us, scroll down and complete the form with your preferences then press Submit.

### OR

You can **phone the Secretary** on 01580 291658.

### OR

If you receive communications from us **by email**, then click on the link in the email. This will take you straight to the opt-in form which you can then complete and submit. Our email to you should include a note if you have already opted in.

*If at any point you wish to change how you receive news from MACS, or if you wish to unsubscribe, you can indicate this via the Website or through the Secretary at [info@malawimacs.org](mailto:info@malawimacs.org)*



By permission Bill Brookman/Matt Page

## MACS doesn't need a busker or a one-man band!

We **do** need a new trustee who will be responsible raising funds for major projects in Malawi.

Experience in making successful applications to grant-making trusts would be an advantage.

For details see [www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org)

# SUPPORTERS' DAY

## & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Saturday 29 September  
10.30 – 3.30 pm

St Saviour's Hall, St George's Square Pimlico SW1V 3QW

10.30 Eucharist followed by AGM

12.30 lunch

Afternoon speakers

Please bring your own lunch - we will provide drinks!

**Friends and family most welcome!**

## WHO'S WHO

**Chairman:** Tony Cox

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**Projects:** Eileen Eggington

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**Trustees:**

Jane Arden, Gillian Barber, Tony Cable, Richard Davies,

Margaret Campbell, Brian Griffin, Martin Herrick

## THE GIFT LIST IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!

Please support our work by buying alternative presents for  
birthdays and anniversaries

Available online at [www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org)