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THE PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI TONBRIDGE
AND ST PETER'S HADLOW
TWINNED WITH LINK PARISHES IN MALAWI

Give and it will be given to you... The measure you give shall be the measure you receive
Luke 6.38

Newsletter no: 27

Date: September 2006

Dear Parishioner

Father Denis will be leaving us this week and he takes with him a gift of £2000 from our twinning fund. This is to enable him to purchase two sets of much needed books for the seminary library, to aid his students in their studies. He will also purchase twenty bikes for the use of the students, when they go out to visit the sick and elderly in the local communities, often taking the Holy Eucharist to them.

There will be a small amount left over – about £180 – which will go into his 'Poor Students Fund'. This is used to help those boys who have no means of purchasing their school materials, clothing and other essential items.

Since our last newsletter in May, your Malawi team has been quite busy in raising money and deciding how it should be shared out.

In May we received a donation of £400 from the Southampton university students union. At their request, this was sent to *Nsanje* primary school for further food aid for their poorer students.

In May we sent £440 to Father Emmanuel, which was a personal gift from members of our parish.

In July we sent £1000 to *Nsanje* primary school, enabling them to build three girls' toilets and to buy a variety of teaching aids.

In July we sent £1000 to *Kachebere* parish, enabling them to convert an old building into a much needed primary school.

In August when Fr Alfred returned to *Chiringa*, we gave him £1440. This included £1200, our annual donation to finance his pre-school playgroup for the next year. The balance of £240 was a special gift to a small group of twelve children:

These children are blind. They attend The School for the Blind within Nazombe Catholic Primary School. The School for the Blind is, of necessity, a boarding school and the children come from near and far. One or two are from Mozambique, whose border is very close to Chiringa. The children are taught to read and write Braille and every effort is made to integrate them within the mainstream school. This small amount of money will feed these children for a whole year.

When discussing our recent Famine appeal, Father Denis made a very telling statement: "You have no clue how many lives you have saved"

Let us thank God for our Malawi Twinning Project.

PARISH TRIP TO MALAWI

We have received several requests to organise a group trip to Malawi.

When Anne Mahoney visited Malawi this year, she had the opportunity of visiting our 'project parishes' and other places of interest and was able to gather information on hotels. Anne has now obtained details of the cost of flights and hotels, based upon a visit in March 2007, which is felt to be the best time for a visit.

The main features are shown below and we would ask anyone interested to contact Peter Wells as soon as possible.

- The scheduled flight will take approximately eighteen hours, changing at Johannesburg.
- Departure will be on Friday 9th March 2007, returning on Sunday 25th March.
- The trip will last for seventeen days including three days travelling to and from England.
- The cost will be a maximum of £2350 per person and includes hotels, the flight, travel insurance, airport parking, all meals, and the hire of a minibus. The only extras will be all drinks, tips and personal spending.
- Accommodation throughout the trip will be in 5* hotels (four in total), and will include breakfast and dinner. Lunch will vary from day to day, but the cost is included in the total.
- Single travellers will find that there is very little difference between the prices of double and single rooms.
- The itinerary will take in nine areas, including all our parish projects. Time has been allowed for personal sightseeing and two and a half days beside beautiful Lake Malawi to provide the opportunity for rest and recovery.
- Travel throughout will be by minibus, which will also be available for use on 'free' days.

Our costs are based upon a party of ten travellers and the date suggested. These can change depending upon numbers, but we will be limited because of our need for the minibus, which can hold up to sixteen persons.

If anyone is interested they should contact Peter Wells on 01732 358324, when more detailed information will be supplied.

****FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED****

Peter Wells
On behalf of the Malawi Team