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# THE PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI TONBRIDGE WITH

# ST PETER’S HADLOW and ST JUSTUS PADDOCK WOOD

**TWINNED WITH MALAWI**

***MALAWI***

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## Give and it will be given to you… The measure you give shall be the measure you receive

Luke 6.38

*Web Page: www.malawi-twin.org*

Newsletter No 69

October 2017

Dear Parishioners and Friends

We started to twin with parishes in Malawi in 2001 and since then there has been an enormous change in our parish population. In addition, we have now been extended to include St Justus.

This newsletter is intended to introduce our friends at St Justus and those who have recently joined us to this, or parish missionary project. For those who know us, this is a reminder cum update on the current situation.

The project is managed by a team of five parishioners: Peter Wells, Brian Wilkins, Anthony Halter, Liam Collins and Jill Davidson. Each has their own responsibilities and we meet regularly to consider ongoing requests from the priests in Malawi, for support of ongoing or proposed projects.

We assist only the poorest people, who live in small rural communities. These are mainly subsistence farmers and around 80% of the population are in this category. Malawi is a very impoverished country.

Peter and Brian have been with this project since the start and several of our parishioners have visited our project parishes. Peter has visited Malawi four times, so we have a good knowledge of how our giving is or has been used.

These newsletters are addressed also to ‘friends’ because, over the years, we have been blessed with the help of many supporters and benefactors. These are companies and individuals, near and far, who donate cash, skills and services, particularly regarding our Container project.

*During the past 16 years our parishioners and friends have given over £600,000 worth of aid to our Malawi projects. We have benefited several thousand people through food aid, education, building and social needs plus nine lorry loads of gifts varying from computers and school equipment to clothing and toys.*

Funds are transferred electronically, direct to the personal bank account of each priest, who is then responsible for the management of the money sent. We will then receive reports and photos (if appropriate) to show us how the project has been managed.

Overleaf is a brief description of our current projects. Much more information including photos, is available on our website. Have a look!

*Our parish mission to Malawi has been an extraordinary success and we thank God that this continues.*

Container Project – Brian

This project has attracted support from both companies and individual specialists, around and beyond Kent. They give freely of their time and skills to provide materials and transportation and enhance the quality and safety of items we will send. Members of our parish pack the goods into cartons – often in the freezing cold of winter. We rent space in a large sea-going container and this cost is met annually by one of our parish families.

We will be going again in 2018; the date is yet to be arranged.

Microloans - Parish Co-ordinators

This is simply a ‘kick-start’ for those in the parish communities who have the skills to support their families but lack the finances to set up their business. Funds are sent to the priests and they allot to those whom they consider are capable. To date, this project has been highly successful and in keeping with the aim to ‘help people up rather than help them out’.

Sponsorships – Peter

This project has existed since the start but has needed to be amended to suit changing times. We were assisting secondary students through four or five years of schooling. A number of these progressed to university and often their sponsors would continue to support. Amongst these we can boast: teachers, college tutors, a journalist, a doctor who works at one of the main hospitals and a priest who is currently studying Canon Law in Rome.

Solar Lights - Jill

We have been sending funds to help the priests buy solar lights for those without electricity, who comprise most of their parishioners. These people have twelve hours of total darkness every day. Can you Imagine this?

Parish Projects: (We assist three parishes:)

*Chiringa* (Jill) - *Karonga* (Anthony) - *Changoima* (Brian)

The aid we give to these parishes varies according to their needs. All are situated in rural areas and have their own church, primary and secondary schools and pre-school play group. They also have a number (often in the high teens), of outstation communities which can be in remote areas, where vehicular access can be very difficult and impossible in the rainy season.

Your team are asked for help with construction, repairs and electrification (if available?) and our annual container usually carries cartons full of toys and clothing for the children.

This is just a summary of what Malawi-Twin is all about. We hope you will become interested in this our parish - - -

*Mission to Malawi.*

Peter Wells

On behalf of your Malawi team