***Malawi -Twin***

The Parish church of Corpus Christi Tonbridge with St. Peter’s Hadlow

and St. Justus Paddock Wood

***Sponsorship programme***

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**" Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family. "** *Kofi Annan*

We all know that Education is a global priority that empowers people to contribute to their country's sustainable social and economic development and to live better lives. In Malawi however, education is not affordable to everyone. Only 14.9% of girls and 24.2% of boys complete secondary education.

***Will you please help us to change this by sponsoring a student in Malawi?***

Malawi is one of the least developed countries in the world with 50.7% of the population living below the poverty line. This is one of the lowest-performing nations for literacy in sub-Saharan Africa.

School fees pose a huge burden to families who struggle to raise enough money to send their children to secondary school, as government only fully funds primary school. In addition to the prohibitive fees, a lack of secondary schools in the country means that many students need to walk or cycle great distances each day to attend school (sometimes more than 10 miles), which hugely impacts on attendance and study time. They will happily do this because they are so keen to gain an education

Since 2003, the Malawi -Twin team has been co-ordinating a programme to sponsor the education of many children in both secondary school and university. With the invaluable generosity of our sponsors, many bright students from very deprived backgrounds, have been able to succeed academically. They are now working in their communities as Catholic priests, a doctor, nurses, teachers and social carers, in secretarial and other careers.

With your support, we would like to continue this important project, aiming to help as many students as possible through secondary education. Secondary students must study for four years to gain the *Malawi School Certificate of Education* (MSCE). In some circumstances a promising student may need an extra year to achieve a higher grade in the examinations.

**There are two ways** in which you could sponsor a student …

**Individual Sponsorships**

To sponsor a student in a Community Day Secondary School, we are asking you to give **£75** per year for a period of four – sometimes five years. The students we will support come from the most underprivileged families and the sponsor will have access to all the information regarding their backgrounds, as well as reports of their school progress whenever possible. A photograph of your student will also be supplied.

**Scholarship Fund**

Malawi girls face further challenges and dangers with schooling; the long distance to school increases the risk of sexual harassment and rape. Many young girls drop out of school due to unwanted pregnancy, early marriage and contracting diseases such as AIDS. Also, a gender-based division of labour at home implies that girls are more frequently withdrawn from school to undertake household chores.

Therefore, girls are encouraged to study as boarders, benefiting from safe accommodation, additional tuition and regular meals.

The Boarding fees added to the PTA fund bring the total cost of secondary education to £200 per year.

Thinking of the welfare of the girls in Malawi and wishing to give them equal opportunities, we have created the scholarship fund. This way,if you cannot commit to an individual sponsorship, you can still make a positive impact in the education in Malawi, contributing to build this fund.

We suggest a monthly contribution of **£10**, by standing order, to the Corpus Christi Church bank account.

Your donations will be administrated by the Malawi-Twin sponsorship team and used exclusively to jointly sponsor girls in boarding school.

**Other donations**

Any other donations will be gratefully received and will go to the Scholarship fund. Cheques need to be payable to **Corpus Christi Church** and either posted to me or left at church in an envelope addressed to me.

**All Donations to our sponsorship fund** can be gift aided.

To offer support in any of the options mentioned above or for further information, please contact me via email post or phone.

We hope you will embrace this project and help a child in Malawi to have a better future.

*Maria Neves*