

MALAWI - TWIN

Malawi-Twin 21st Birthday Celebrations – July 2022

Newsletter No 87

June 2022

Dear Friends of Malawi,

It's Malawi-Twin's 21st Birthday (2001-2022) and we have planned a **Tea Party** on **Sunday 17th July 2022** at **2-30pm** in the **Fisher Hall** to mark the occasion.

Space will be limited for a sit-down tea therefore tickets will be limited to 100 guests. Entry is by ticket only, so you will need to purchase tickets in advance. The suggested donation per ticket is **£12-50p per adult & £2-50p per child**. Tickets will be on sale at all masses on the weekend of 2nd/3rd July. Any remaining tickets will be available the following weekend.

Your ticket will include a tea of sandwiches & scones, tea/coffee & the 21st Malawi Birthday cake, provided by Sue. In addition, Ken & Sue have kindly offered to provide the bar drinks **at no additional cost**.

This celebration will be the first Malawi-Twin fund-raising event in over two years. Therefore, to keep the ticket price down and to raise some much-needed funds, we are asking guests to help by providing cakes for the tea. Mrs Raffles (Martina) will be holding a raffle. If you are unable to attend perhaps you would consider a donation or provide a raffle prize.

Our Malawi-Twin's first meeting took place in August 2001, attended by Fr. Nazario, Fr. Boniface, Peter Wells & myself (Brian Wilkins).

We started by assisting the parish of Nsanje with Fr. Nazario as parish priest. We have come a long way. Now we have three linked parishes and assist their schools & communities with projects such as irrigation, farming, apprenticeship & training schemes, microloans, business start-up schemes, computer training, solar lights & sponsorship to name just a few. Since 2009 we have sent thirteen containers, which help & assist a further fourteen beneficiaries.

The success of our Malawi-Twin has only been possible with the help & support of you & our parishioners. So a big **Thank you** to you all on behalf of our friends in Malawi.

2022 Malawi Container - Update

I am pleased to report that our thirteenth shared container to Malawi safely loaded at Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 11th June 2022; it was good to see that the container was over 95% full.

We sent a total of 492 cartons using all our allocated space of 700 cubic feet. The total weight of our consignment is 4743 kg or almost 4 ³/₄ tons.

As previously, the most requested items from our friends in Malawi was Computers and items for their schools. Kevin our computer and IT engineer refurbished and loaded basic software onto 39 desktop computers and refurbished a further 12 laptops making a total of 325 desktops and 142 laptops sent since 2009. The computers allow Malawian students to gain vital digital skills which are fast becoming essential to daily life and help them seek meaningful employment for their future.

Your generous donations this year have allowed us to purchase over £1,500 of school materials including several thousand pens, pencils, crayons, felt tips; hundreds of rulers; drawing equipment; glue; textbooks and many other items. The schools and parishes have 12 printers between them; we spent just over £720 replenishing ink and toner cartridges.

This year we sent 26 sewing machines; a sewing machine will allow a family to make items for the family and items to sell in the local market. These funds support the whole family. This year we've sent well over 50 cartons of fabric which will assist the making of garments and other items.

The container includes almost 50 cartons of children's clothes, many cartons of adult clothes and shoes, 32 cartons from **SALUT Malawi** to assist girls & women as well as hundreds of pairs of reading glasses, thanks to **Specsavers** of Tonbridge.

All this has only been possible with the help and support given by you, our parishioners, and the many donors from outside our parish who have supported us for many years.

Special thanks to donors **Tyler's** for providing the warehouse for our project, **Lenham storage** for use of their 18 ton lorry to transfer our items to the container and Nicholas our HGV driver, who freely gives us his time.

May I thank you all on behalf of our friends in Malawi – *Brian*