

MALAWI - TWIN

Newsletter No 91
December 2024

Thank you

Heartfelt gratitude from the Malawi-Twin team to our Corpus Christi parishioners for your continuing unwavering support and partnership throughout 2024.

1st January 2024 - We started the year with the very sad news of the death of founder member **Brian Wilkins** who dedicated 22 years of extraordinary service to our friends in Malawi.

Your amazing generosity totalled over £12,000 during 2024 including:

- Sponsorship: **£4,620**
- Solar lights: **£2,104**
- Other Donations: **£1,813**
- Race Night, February: **£1,100**
- James Page Marathon in April: **£1,500**
- Quiz Night, October: **£795**

Sponsorship programme: *This year we have sent £7,010*

In Malawi, Primary schools are free, but Secondary schools have fees that many families are unable to afford, leaving so many children without the possibility of getting an academic education.

The Sponsorship Programme helps Malawian students through their secondary and tertiary education.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, in the last five years, we have seen 37 students finishing Secondary school and 3 students finishing University (Agricultural Economics, Mining Engineering and Nursing/Midwifery).

This academic year (2024/25), we're sponsoring **48 students**: 11 girls studying as boarders, 33 children commuting daily, 3 College students (Bricklaying, Hospitality Management and Early Childhood Development) and 1 University student (Bachelor of Education - Languages).

There are different ways to support the Sponsorship Programme:

- Direct Sponsorship (4 years) - £100 per year for a day student / £250 per year for a boarding girl
- Direct Debit (monthly) - £10, £15 or £20 contribution to the Scholarship Fund
- One Off contribution to the Scholarship Fund

For more information, please contact **Maria Neves** (mj.damaso@gmail.com / **07503663734**)

We ask the priests to send us regular updates of all the sponsored students:

I am the 4th born in a family of 4 children; I live with my dad, a subsistent farmer. I am in Form 1 at Makota Community Day Secondary School. I thank you so much for helping me with the school fees. I promise you that I will work hard in class. God bless you. Yours faithfully, Justina Veremu.

Projects:

Solar Light Appeal – *this year we will be sending £700 to each of our 3 parishes* which will buy over 200 lifechanging, reusable Solar lights. This means that so far, we have provided close to 2,500 lights which will have helped more than **10,000 people**.

SALUT Malawi - (*Sanitary Aid & Ladies Underwear to Malawi*) Following the end of our container project, SALUT has fortunately found another Kent-based charity, Starfish Malawi, that also sends an annual container of goods to support charity projects in Malawi. SALUT will be joining Starfish's work with several schools located in central Malawi between Lilongwe and Lake Malawi. The SALUT team is very grateful to the parishioners for their continued support as they continue to collect donations of underwear for girls and women as well as soap. There will be another collection on Saturday 25 January 2025. For more information, please contact **Jacqueline Nunes**: jacqui.nunes@gmail.com

Linked parishes: *This year we have sent £6,250.* Your generosity throughout the year has enabled us to fund projects in each of our linked parishes. The following are some examples:

Kanyama – Fr Alfred

The main **Kanyama** parish underground water pump was stolen. The loss was very serious as the lack of water could have forced the health centre to close. Our funds have enabled the purchase of a new solar powered pump.

Microloans: we have continued to support projects that allow women to set up their own businesses. Women are provided with cash and training as their starter pack. The beneficiaries repay their loan after a period of four months and the repaid funds will be loaned out again to the next group.

Projects this year have included:

- Snack Baking project:
- Fish, Vegetable and Tomato Business

Schools: Supporting education is one of our primary objectives and we were pleased to help Fr Alfred with a two class-roomed school block whose roof was badly affected in storms. Many children stopped going to school altogether due to the disruption and discomfort.

Changoima – Fr Michael

Fr Michael has thanked us for our support for the Listoni Junior Catholic Primary School which opened in February 2024. Your generosity has enabled us to join forces with the local community to build a brand-new facility. Recently we have sent further funds to help towards a toilet block and drilling a new bore hole. We hope to continue our support as they plan to expand the school.

If you would like to know more, please talk to Anthony, Maria, Jill, Lucy, Vipin, Shyla and Aurelius or look at our website <https://malawi-twin.org/>, noticeboard in the Narthex or Fisher Hall.

