

MTWARALINKS

WINTER 2017

Welcome to our latest newsletter. If you are already one of our supporters, thank you for your help. If you'd like to know more about what we do and what we need, then read on.

Whilst we have been unable to fund the bore hole as we had hoped, work continues at Kilidu. During the rainy season, thanks to the buildings we have provided which have gutters and large concrete reservoirs, we are able to harvest a lot of water. In the dry season the villagers manage as best they can. They still have a long dusty eight mile round trip to fetch clean water. The authorities have not yet designated Kilidu or its surrounding homesteads formally a village and therefore with no status it attracts no public investment. Children graduating from the kindergarten that we have built have to travel the eight mile round trip to the nearest primary school. With school fees, school uniforms and money for food to be found, it's not surprising that many children don't go—especially in the rainy season when the road is almost impassable.

The picture (right) shows one of the Sisters from the Holy Redeemer Order in Mtwara with some residents waiting for food. Many of these older people are too frail to work but have no children to support them. Aids and other diseases kill people, young and old, and once your children die you can find yourself destitute..

We try and use our funds each of these pressing needs.



New students in Lupaso kindergarten

The young children (left) are enjoying a sweet treat outside the refurbished kindergarten at Lupaso. You might notice that the walls are made of stone and cement, a rare sight in southern Tanzania. This kindergarten and the large church next to it were built by German missionaries many years ago. The church, the kindergarten, the clinic and the small training college are still functioning but they lack many basic resources. Electricity is intermittent, water supply unreliable. There are two dedicated teachers here—one in the kindergarten and one in the college—but they have no equipment, little stationery and only a few items of broken furniture. We will try to help them next year.

www.mtwaralinks.com

supporting vulnerable families in Tanzania

Every penny counts
Please give generously.

WWW.MTWARALINKS.COM

Finance report

Thanks to all our supporters our income from donors has stabilised at approximately £5000 a year. With some sales of carvings and other donations and tax rebates through Gift Aid this amounts to £5698.05 for the year October 2016-October 2017. Actually, we received £905 from HMRC just last week which leaves us with a healthy balance of £2455.64. Over the same period we have made gifts to projects in Mtwara totalling £7293.77. Of this £1500 is for sponsored students and the remainder supporting our projects in either Kilidu, the kindergarten or the dispensary

Brought forward	2853.86		
Total income Oct 16-Oct 17	5698.05	Expenditure	7293.77
Balance at Oct 16	1258.14		
In the bank on 13 Nov	2455.64		

BANK DETAILS

HSBC, Station Rd Leeds LS15 8EU
Sort code: 40-27-33
Account name: Mtwaralinks
Account number: 21525409

Apart from £11.00 we had to spend to renew the domain name for the website every pound has been sent to Tanzania, changed into Shillings and spent in cash locally. We have bought rice and beans for many dozens of older people, paid a teacher's salary in the kindergarten, paid for furniture and teaching resources at the kindergarten, paid for repairs to an old tractor used to cultivate the land out at Kilidu and sponsored two students—one Sylvester who is studying to be a motor mechanic at the Ndanda training college and Aloys who, though from Masasi is at secondary school in the far north of Tanzania. Both young men have no other means of support. We are now also supporting a young woman as she trains to be a Montessori nursery teacher. She might work anywhere in Tanzania but is from the Mtwara region and again was found by the Sisters with no means of support from her parents.

I have, as I write this, received another request for sponsorship for a young man who is unable to complete his junior medical officers training. On behalf of Sister Tadea and all the people old and young who receive assistance from you, thank you so very



Fr Vincent's wheels!

Fr Vincent Sabitii's parish is at Lupaso, about forty miles west of Masasi and about a hundred miles from Mtwara. His work includes supporting the work of the small technical college there. Mtwaralinks supports a student from Lupaso—Sylvester Mmole—who Vincent was helping, once his parents died three years ago. Sylvester is studying to become a motor mechanic.

In the past Vincent has been able to reach the far flung hamlets of his parish by Landrover. Lupaso can only be reached by a dusty track which in the rainy season can become impassable with mud. Vincent's Landrover was his only contact with many of his parishioners. Whilst there is a daily bus service to Masasi, many of his parishioners exist in the most remote areas, many miles from the bus route.

Two years ago, his Landrover broke and neither him nor his Order have been able to pay for the repairs needed. Since then he uses a piki-piki—the local term for a motorcycle, whose driver he pays to take him to say Mass on Sundays.

The cost of repairing the Landrover is too much for Mtwaralinks, but Vincent is not disheartened. He writes to me regularly with news from Masasi and Lupaso and the needs of his parishioners, particularly the young students who want to continue their education.

If you'd like to help, please get in touch.