



March 2018

Changing Lives in Chongwe
Charity Reg. No. 1106904

Report for 2017

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We bank with the Co-Operative Bank and as a charity we pay no bank charges.

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Chairman's Report

The charity 'Changing Lives in Chongwe' is in its 14th year. It is what is known as a 'kitchen table' charity as it has no premises and most trustee meetings take place round the kitchen table! You will notice that I have moved to a new house but the kitchen table is still here and trustees still meet around it.



Painting St Anne's school during Christmas holidays

The work of CLinC has continued to centre around St Anne's and St Mark's Community schools in Lusaka's compounds and also enables the children leaving these schools to complete grades 8&9 at local secondary schools.

Cholera outbreak in Lusaka

As I write this report in mid February, most schools in Lusaka have not yet returned after the Christmas holidays due to a cholera outbreak. By mid January it had already affected over 3000 people and killed over 70. Cases of cholera often occur during the rainy season, Nov-March, due to poor sanitation and ineffective rubbish collection in the townships. This year has been the worst ever and in January, the health authorities closed schools, markets and many food outlets to try to avoid it spreading. Gatherings of over five people were forbidden, including church services. The numbers of cases are now falling. The schools finally opened on Feb 12th.

Support for the schools.

Both schools cater for reception children up to grade 7, similar to UK primary schools. Many of these children are either orphans or come from very poor families. Many children start school at a later age than here as parents are unable to pay the school fees required at government primary schools. Parents at St Mark's and St Anne's are asked to give a donation towards the running of the schools but none are refused a place if parents cannot afford this. Parental contributions are used to pay the teachers a small sum each month. In addition, CLinC has continued to send termly bonuses of around £20 per teacher. As community school teachers, they receive no salary from the government.

At St Anne's and St Mark's community schools many classes are held in the two churches but both schools now have two new classrooms, staff rooms and toilets provided by CLinC in recent years.

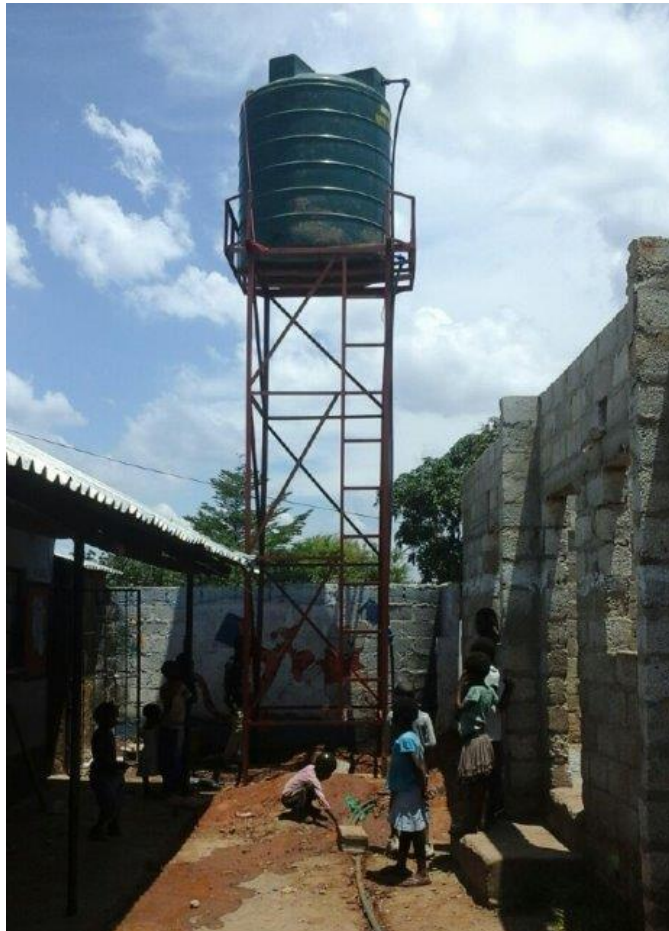
St Mark's Community school has 145 children, five teachers and a carer. St Anne's Community school has 295 children this year, five teachers, one carer and one security guard. The older children are still taught in the church which is due to be demolished later this year. A new larger church is being built around it but teaching will be disrupted for some time.

The toilets at St Mark's are flush toilets built in 2015 and depend on water being collected overnight in a tank owned by St Mark's Church.



The toilets at St Anne's were constructed in 2010; four pit-latrines and a urinal. These are used by both pupils and teachers.

In 2016 money was sent to install a borehole and a water tank. This is situated between the school and the new church walls that are under construction.



Water is now available on tap for all their needs.

As they now have a good water supply and header tank, CLinC are looking at upgrading the pit latrines to flush toilets.

The quotations for installing flush toilets at St Anne's school have been received. It will also be necessary to build a septic tank to prevent contamination of the local area.

Water from many boreholes has become contaminated and the health authorities are therefore insisting on the water supply being chlorinated if the school is to remain open. Money to cover the purchase and fitting of a chlorinator unit was sent in January.2018.

Cartridges for this are expected to last three weeks and cost about £9.

Chlorinator unit





Feeding programme

Many of the children come to school hungry and we continue to support the weekly feeding programme for all 450 children, providing just one meal a week for the first two terms and 2 meals a week in the third term when food is even more scarce and therefore more expensive.

Feeding programme at St Anne's

Sponsorship of secondary pupils.

Grade 7 pupils all take external exams, and those with good results are offered a place in a government run school. Pupils with poorer results usually get offered places at a later date. In January 2018 all pupils were accepted on first choice. Government run schools insist upon payment for school fees, uniform, books and shoes. Few families from the compounds can afford these costs and children would drop out of school. CLinC decided seven years ago to try to enable pupils leaving our community schools to gain an education to at least grade 9. This enables them to apply for employment.

In 2017, CLinC sent money to pay for the school fees for 65 pupils between grades 8 and 12. In addition 17 pupils had their school fees paid by Zebra Trust. As numbers were growing each year, we realised then that we would be unable to pay for grades 10-12 in future years.



Money to pay school fees for 2018 grade 8 & 9 pupils was sent in early February . Zebra Trust have once again sent a grant to cover 17 pupils in grade 8.

Sponsorship of teachers.

Langson Zuze, completed his OU Teaching diploma in 2017. He will remain as a grade 7 teacher at St Anne's for at least two years to pass on the skills he learnt.



Janet Ngoma has been a teacher at St Mark's school since it opened in 2009. She has completed two years of her Primary Teaching Diploma. Money for the first term of her final year has been sent. We wish her well.

Teaching materials

All classrooms have blackboards. It is usual for two classes to be taught by the same teacher in the same room. The board is divided into two halves and the lesson work is copied onto the board by the teacher. Text books are still in very short supply. In 2017 we sent a further £300 towards the purchase of new ones.

Tests and internal examination papers are typed by the staff and then taken for photocopying. The schools asked if CLinC would consider buying a photocopier to be shared by the two schools. A grant application for this was sent to St James' Place. We also included a request for a grant to connect St Mark's to the electricity supply. The grant was awarded.



Quotes for photocopiers were received and money was sent. As both schools now have electricity, they decided to buy two smaller photocopiers, one for each school.

Many challenges face the schools..

There is a shortage of text books and materials for all classes, especially the grades 6 & 7.

Teachers still only receive a small allowance for the work they do.

A lack of sports equipment and kit prevents the schools taking part in sports events in Lusaka.

The toilets at St Anne's require improvements to bring them in line with the health authority's regulations.

Plans for 2017-2018

Money will continue to be sent each term for :-

Teachers' bonuses

The feeding programme

Final year's sponsorship fees for Janet

Sponsorship fees for grade 8 & 9 pupils

Money for text books if funds allow

We will also consider the possibility of improving the toilets before the rains in October when cholera is likely to break out again.

It is hoped that we will visit the schools in September this year to see how they are progressing. We plan to take sports equipment and kit out with us and we will be contacting local schools to see if they can help with this.

Thank you to all sponsors and supporters for your generous donations to CLinC.

For more information contact www.cromhall.com/clinc