

Changing Lives in Chongwe District - Charity No. 1106904 [anngreenh@gmail.com](mailto:anngreenh@gmail.com)

Dear Friends of CLinC,

Thank you for your continued support of CLinC, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, twelve of which have been involved with the support of St Anne's and St Mark's Community schools.

**Climate and weather** - There are two main seasons in Zambia, the dry season from April to October and the rainy season from November to March.

The climate is changing in Zambia, just like in the rest of the world. Over the past few decades Zambia has experienced droughts, seasonal and flash floods, extreme temperatures and very dry spells. Parts of the country have been affected differently but the impact on communities has been immense both economically and otherwise. Roads and bridges in rural areas have been washed away and crops destroyed.

The rainy season so far this year has been poor. Small, subsistence farmers, with no alternative supply of water, are seeing crops fail. They depend on their crops to feed themselves and bring in money to buy other foods, medicines and essentials. The main crops grown in rural areas include maize, cassava, beans and bananas. Failure of the rains results in hunger.



As I write, there has been no rain for many days, temperatures in daytime are over 30 degrees and no lower than 20 at night. Any seedlings will not have survived this hot dry period. Thankfully there is promise of some rain next week but will it continue long enough to sustain growth?

Very few families in the townships around Lusaka have land suitable for growing much produce. Tomato plants and varieties of squash are often seen but the maize meal has to be bought. This is the main food in their diet.

**Covid situation** – Since September when I wrote last, there have been few cases of Covid. However, cases are rising again, possibly due the arrival of the Omicron variant. The high temperatures at the moment will hopefully help to keep numbers down.

**St Mark's and St Anne's schools** – Schools have just closed on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> for a month's holiday. This is the end of the school year and grade 7 pupils are eagerly awaiting results of their recent examinations, hoping to gain a place at Chipata School in January.

### **The feeding programme.**

It seems necessary that CLinC will continue to pay the monthly teachers' pay and provide two meals a week for all children at both schools in 2022.



These plates show a meal of nshima (maize porridge), bean, onion and tomato relish. Other meals may be made with dried tuna chunks or small dried fish to provide the much needed protein.

At the moment all parental contributions continue to be used to cover school expenses such as electricity, chlorine for water treatment, chalks, pens etc. CLinC hopes to send money for more textbooks next year.



Over the last three months the exchange rate has been steady around K23 /£1. However, this week it has suddenly dipped to K20 / £1. Sponsorship money and next term's allowances will be sent in early January, so, for both their sake and ours, we hope things will improve after Christmas.



**Teacher training** – Kelvin successfully completed his degree course and graduated from Mosa University in October. He said the graduation day was ‘awesome’!

Wendy, teacher at St Mark’s graduated in December but I have not received any photos yet. Charity, teacher at St Anne’s will graduate in January 2022. They will continue to teach in our schools.

This leaves Alice and Mary, both teachers at St Mark’s, to complete their final year’s training at Mosa University next year.

Thank you to all of you who have supported CLinC over recent years and enabled us to pay for this training. It will transform the lives of the teachers and also the teaching at St Mark’s and St Anne’s.

### **New classroom project at St Anne’s School.**



The two new classrooms are coming on!  
In the background of this picture can be seen the water tank for the school and the roof of the first classroom block, built in 2010, to the left of it.



The roof is now on the new classrooms and security bars for both doors and windows have been fitted to keep the building safe. The



next stage is to fit windows and doors.

Next year, hopefully, all lessons at St Anne’s will be in classrooms and children will not have to carry desks and chairs to and from the church. The roof not only covers the classrooms but extends over the front of the building to protect children from hot sun or pouring rain!

The building project has also provided work for local people.

**Fundraising news** – Opportunities to raise funds have been few.

**The CLinC Supper and Quiz evening** on October 2<sup>nd</sup> went ahead and was a great success, raising over £900. Thank you to everyone who supported this.



**The Charities fair** in Wotton was sadly cancelled.

However, we held a **Christmas Craft Sale** outside Cromhall Shop on Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> and raised around £230. It was a cold, windy day!!



### **Looking ahead**

**Jams and facemasks** continue to be sold at Cromhall Shop and facemasks at Minchinhampton Golf Club. Thank you to both venues for enabling us to raise money this way.

We have one Mothers' Union talk booked in for July 2022 and hope it will not be cancelled this time.

### **THANK YOU AGAIN ..**

..to those of you who have standing orders for monthly, quarterly or yearly donations. This does help us to plan ahead with confidence.

...to those of you who send an annual sum for grade 8&9 sponsorship. We will be sending the sponsorship money in early January.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. **Without you, we couldn't do it.**

Ann

On behalf of trustees of CLinC – December 2021