

Newsletter
June 2025



Changing Lives in Chongwe District - Charity No. 1106904
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Dear Friends of CLinC

It is now almost a month since we returned from Zambia!!

During our two week stay, it was great to visit all four schools that CLinC supports, see what was going well and what problems they have. We managed to visit each of the schools at least twice, meeting the staff, pupils and priests.

St Mark's & St Anne's Anglican Community Schools

We have been supporting these two schools for over 15 years now and many of the teachers have been there from the beginning.

We met Fr Joseph, who replaced Fr Kenneth one year ago, and he told us all about his 'Strategic plan' intended to encourage the church to support the schools. This sounds an excellent, but not new, idea, and we eagerly wait to hear how it progresses.

In his first year he has rearranged the interior of the school block we built and created a larger room from the old office and staffroom. The new office is now at the end of one of the larger rooms together with a storeroom for dry food and other school materials. Two definite improvements.

Due to lack of teaching areas, most classrooms have two grades being taught at the same time with the blackboard shared! Overall, teaching and learning appeared good.

However, the **toilet block** that is being built for the church and school, has not yet been completed. Apparently heavy rains were responsible for this delay, and we hope to hear soon, that it is finished and in use. Our one concern with the design of the building is the number of flush toilets which will consume large quantities of water! The cesspit still needs treating as well.



Teachers

We met the teachers from both schools and they all told us a little about their lives and families.

Most of the teachers now have diplomas in primary education' two have 'degrees' and John from St Mark's is in his second year of training, funded by CLinC.

CLinC also sends money to provide all teachers and carers with a basic monthly pay.

All teachers are dedicated to teaching and caring for the children.



Feeding programme. Over recent years we have not increased the feeding allowance in the hopes that the schools will find help from the community. This has not happened and now the money we send, around £500 a term to each school means that all children at both schools receive just one hot, nutritious meal each week. It sounds very little but makes a difference to children and parents. There is a suggestion, at St Anne's, that the staffroom in the classroom block, built in 2021, be converted into a kitchen. Apparently, schools with a kitchen will be eligible for free school meals! We await to hear if they find a way of doing this.

Outstanding projects. - Last year we requested quotes to repair the desks at both schools but still have not yet received them. We have also suggested that they appeal to parents for help here. Hopefully a local carpenter or parent will have the tools and time to help, perhaps at a reduced cost for the school? Many desks with loose seats were seen. A stitch in time....???

Visiting the classrooms at St Anne's, built in 2010, it was obvious that they are in desperate need of re-plastering and re-painting. Hopefully this will get done soon.

The walls do not display colourful posters as seen at other schools but the children are fully focused on their lessons.



The photocopiers at both schools were not working and these are essential for photocopying examination papers. Alice claimed that the one at St Mark's was beyond repair but Charity, at St Anne's, seemed certain that theirs could be serviced. We left the money to do this.

St Matthias Anglican Community School, N'gombe, Lusaka

This community school was set up many years ago with the help of Fr Jackson Katete. Lessons still take place inside the old church where pews are adjusted to face 4 ways and blackboards are a fixture on the walls! The only light comes through the door and small windows. A meeting was arranged where we met Fr Moses, the current priest, David the headteacher and all of the staff.

Again, the only income at the school is from the parental contributions but this year CLinC has sent money to provide all teachers and carers with a basic pay. This has resulted in a more stable staff.



The church building becomes very noisy with four classes being taught at the same time. Rosemary the Early Childhood teacher is seen here teaching letters and sounds to her class in the car park next to the church.



We found that a new 'baby classroom' was under construction and seemed to be working well. CLinC has send money to buy a door and windows, and a blackboard and paint. We look forward to seeing photos of it when finished.

These mats are one of the gifts we took for St Matthias and will be of great help as the new curriculum includes learning of letters and numbers at the pre-school stage.



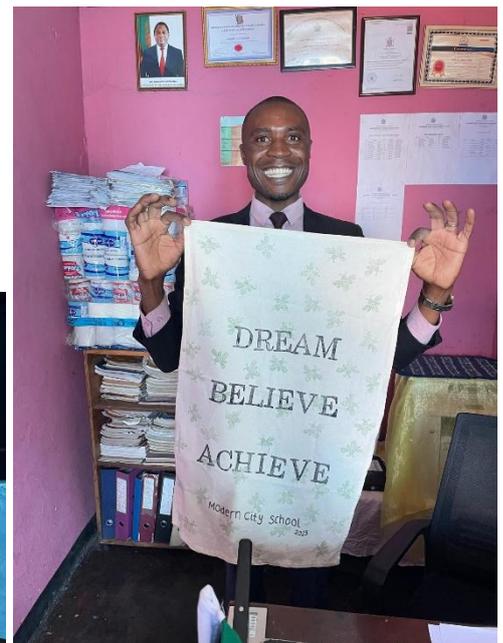
A local filling station and a charity called 'Convoy of Hope' provide the school with enough dried and fresh food, including rice with vegetables, to feed the children throughout the term. Wonderful! It is well known that hungry children find learning difficult! This leaves the parental contributions to pay for all other essential expenses. Last on the list is the teachers' pay and, before the help from CLinC, they frequently went for months without receiving any money.



Situated in a very poor neighbourhood, Ng'ombe, the school has suffered from break-ins. To ensure that our gifts of educational materials, footballs and skipping ropes were kept safe, our driver took us deep into the local shopping area to the stall of a metal worker who made a lockable metal trunk for us by the following day! In general, we were pleased with all that we saw at St Matthias school during our visit.

Modern City Christian Community School

This school is only a few years old. It was set up by Langson Zuze, once a teacher at St Anne's. Once he had qualified, taught for two years to pass on his knowledge, he decided to set up another community school to cater for the large numbers of children still not receiving an education.



This is Zuze in his office.

.....and all of his staff.



We visited his school last year and were very impressed with what he had done. Unfortunately there is no church to provide teaching space for this school and he has to rent the rooms. This is an additional cost of around £500 a term.

This school currently takes children from pre-school age up to grade 9, but in line with the new curriculum, the school will only go up to grade 6 or 7 in future years. There are six teachers and one carer, all full of enthusiasm for their teaching. The classroom walls are covered with colourful, informative posters. I could have stayed there all week!

This term we have managed to pay the room rental of £500 and have sent a further £650 to ensure that each teacher receives a small pay each month.

They are unable to run a feeding programme due to lack of funds.

However, there is a larger problem looming over them! The owner of their premises has given them notice to move out at the end of this year. He did offer to allow them to buy the premises but they are not really fit for purpose.

So, we have been working with them to find a solution to this problem. There is a piece of land nearby that is up for sale for around £5,000. We have decided, after much thought and consideration, to buy this for them. The plan then, will be to build classrooms, kitchen and toilet block as soon as funds can be found.

Fr Katete, who many of you have met, has agreed to help with this project, beginning with CLinC purchasing the land.. He will be the named owner, on behalf of CLinC, until the the project is complete. The ownership of the land will then be passed to Modern City Community School.

We have the money to pay for the land but will need to work hard to raise money for the school building. The whole project will cost around £30,000 but will be built in two phases. So, we are asking anyone who feels able to help with this project, to pledge a sum, large or small, by replying to me on this email. No money will be requested until all plans are confirmed.

The thought of the 250 children and six teachers being forced out of their school is heartbreaking! I know that there are thousands in similar situations all over the world. We can't help all of them, but we can help these teachers and children. Please help us.

Thank you.

Fundraising events

Our recent **Supper Evening** went well, passing on news from our May visit and raising £770 for the work of CLinC.

Coming events.

Sunday July 6th – stall at Tockington Horseshow.

Saturday July 19th – stall at ‘St Andrew’s Open Day with crafts’

Saturday September 6th stall at Cromhall Flower Show.

October 18th & 19th stall at ‘Under The Edge Quilters Exhibition’

Saturday Nov 8th – Christmas Coffee Morning with crafts in Cromhall Village Hall and The Charities Fair in Wotton at the end of November.

Once again, our thanks go to –

‘**Crafters**’ in Wotton under Edge for allowing us to sell craft items to raise funds.

‘**Under the Edge Quilters**’ for their support throughout another year.

We are sadly missing Cromhall Village Shop for advertising events and selling jams and marmalade throughout the year. A sad loss to the village too.

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 can **Gift aid** your donations. This brings in over £1,500 a year and costs you nothing! I have forms if you would like to Gift aid your donations.

Thank you to all of you for your continued interest and support.

Without you, we couldn’t do it.

THANK YOU

Ann, on behalf of trustees of CLinC -July 2025