

Newsletter
June 2020



Changing Lives in Chongwe
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Dear Friends of CLinC,

I thought I would update you with how things are going with our schools in these difficult times.

Coronavirus in Zambia.

In Zambia, the numbers of Covid-19 cases has continued to be low. As of June 5th there have been 1089 confirmed cases. 912 of these have recovered, 170 are currently affected and 7 have sadly died. Most of these cases have been people flying in from infected countries or lorry drivers at country border posts. Thankfully it has not spread into the townships as feared.

Schools in Zambia

All schools have been closed since March. The Government is now lifting restrictions and, as in the UK, schools began to open on June 1st. Only examination grades returned, grade 7 in our two schools and grades 9 and 12 in secondary schools. The government has instructed all schools to have a thermometer; masks for pupils and teachers; hand washing facilities for children arriving at school, sanitizer and cleaning materials. Health officials will visit the schools and close them down if these are not found present! Staff and pupils will also have to maintain social distancing.

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

The photo below shows first morning back at St Anne's with 22 grade 7 pupils, all wearing their homemade masks. Lessons are being held in the interior of the new church that has been built around the old one. The old church has been demolished and half of the new roof is in place. At the moment, construction work is not taking place but the school will lose this teaching space when it restarts!

Grade 7 pupils are also beginning to return at St Mark's. This term will close on Aug 28th!! Both schools are still looking to buy the required thermometers!



St Mark's

Termly payments

With the return of pupils, we hope the voluntary parental contributions will start to come in so that the schools will have money to pay the teachers again. CLinC will continue to make up the shortfall until then. There has been no mention yet about the re-introduction of the feeding programme.

An exciting project for St Anne's

Both of our schools began in Anglican churches and continue to make use of the church land and buildings.

Recently a new priest, Fr. Kenneth Kasezya, has been appointed for the group of churches including St Anne's and St Mark's. He seems to be keen to support the schools and we have been communicating by email. We hope to have a photo of Fr. Kenneth for the next newsletter



With Fr Kenneth's help, St Anne's has just acquired this piece of land with a row of two room dwellings on it. St Anne's school can be seen in the top left-hand corner with the new church under construction beside it.

The plan is to convert some of these rooms into classrooms for St Anne's pupils. Members of the church have agreed to do this without charging for their labour.

Three of the dwellings are occupied and the rent from these will help provide money for materials for the alterations.

The land in front of the houses will be used for sport and other outdoor activities.

It is hoped that the acquisition of this land will help with the sustainability of St Anne's School in future years.

Teacher training.

Six of our ten teachers are involved in training, three at local colleges and three at Mosa University. The courses are mainly done through distance learning so, although colleges were closed to full-time students, our teachers were able to complete assignments during lockdown. Each term has a 'residential week' for distance learning students. Normally our teachers travel to the college each day for this, as residential fees would add to the cost.



This photo was taken during an earlier residential week.

Kelvin, head teacher at St Anne's is first on the left, Alice, head teacher at St Mark's is last on the right and Mary, teacher at St Mark's is seated in the centre.

In April the residential week was cancelled and work was carried out by E-learning. This was a problem for some of the teachers as their mobile phones were unable to cope with this.

Income

Thank you to everyone who has monthly, quarterly or annual standing orders for CLinC as this does enable us to plan ahead. Also thank you to those of you who give annually to enable us to sponsor pupils through grades 8 & 9. We have not heard how the current grade 8 & 9 pupils are coping but presume the grade 9 pupils are back at school as they are an examination year.

A big thank you also to everyone who gift aids their donations. This makes a tremendous difference to our income. If you pay tax and would be willing to gift aid your donations, please let me know and I will get a form to you.

Fundraising

This has been difficult since lockdown and four planned talks to local organisations were cancelled. However, the sale of jams and marmalade has continued in Cromhall Shop and raises a steady income for CLinC. In addition, handmade, non-medical masks have been sold this spring for use in crowded supermarkets, garden centres or on public transport. A big thankyou to Cromhall Village Shop for allowing us to do this.

The latest news from Zambia is that churches will re-open on Sunday June 7th. I wonder if they will be allowed to sing!!!?

Thank you all once again for your continued interest and support over the years.

Trustees of CLinC:- Ann Greenhalgh, Doug Collett, Peggy Collett, Fe Gray
Nic Fleming, Colin Nash, Penny Kells
For more information visit - www.cromhall.com/clinc