

Newsletter  
May 2024



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

We have both good and bad news for you!

The **good news** is that CLinC is now supporting 21 teachers and over 1000 children in 4 community schools in the compounds around Lusaka, capital of Zambia.

St Mark's



St Anne's



St Matthias



Modern City



The **bad news** is that the school year did not begin well in Zambia. There have been outbreaks of cholera during the rainy season for the last 35 years but this year they experienced a severe outbreak, mainly in the overcrowded areas around Lusaka and other cities.

Cholera spreads most rapidly in areas where water becomes infected, and people are unable to obtain treatment. These are the poor areas where our schools are situated.

The majority of homes around Lusaka have no electricity or piped water supply. They have no flush toilets, only pit latrines, with often more than one family sharing the same one. The water that they depend on from local water stations soon becomes contaminated.

During the cholera outbreak, chlorinated water points appeared in some areas to provide clean drinking water.

'Oral Rehydration Points' were also set up to provide rehydration salts and first aid for people living in the compounds. This relieved hospital overcrowding.

A vaccination campaign also began in Lusaka, so hopefully next year will be better!



The delayed term 1 ran from February 12<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup> when they closed for a just one week's holiday. Schools returned for term 2 on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

There are insufficient government school places for the children living in the compounds. This is why so many community schools have sprung up, many in churches, to provide primary education for these children. The government offers no financial support for these schools and teachers often become unpaid volunteers.

This is why we have agreed to support a further two community schools

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

We have been supporting these two schools for 15 years and had hoped that, by now, they would have found some ways to become more self-funding. Sadly, inflation has continued to rise, and parents are finding it more and more difficult to pay their voluntary contributions. However, even the children from the poorest families are given places in the schools.

At Easter, Fr Kenneth, who has been priest here for the last four years, moved to a new post. We look forward to getting into contact with his replacement.

### **Teachers**

This year we sent £650 to each school towards the pay for the ten teachers, three carers and guard. Once this has been topped up from the parental contributions, there is just enough money left to cover the essential bills – electricity, cleaning materials, chlorine, stationary & chalk. We are trying to encourage them to spend a little on buying textbooks and maintaining equipment such as desks but this has not happened yet. We do not want them to depend entirely on CLinC as we may not always be there for them!

Last year, money was sent to cover the registration of eight teachers and also to enable them to acquire their teachers' licences. This is now essential for all teachers. There are still one or two who still need to acquire this license.

**Teacher Training** -We have no teachers in training at the moment.

John Nyirenda, a young teacher at St Mark's, has been offered a Distance Learning place at Kwame Nkrumah University in Kabwe, starting in August. This will be a 'BA with Education' course. He has agreed to cover the cost of extras if we cover his termly fees of around £100.

**Feeding programme.** All children continue to receive a hot, nutritious meal twice a week. We sent £500 to each school to help with this.

### **Repairs last term**

The two new classrooms at St Anne's were damaged during the rainy season and felt to be unsafe to use. Thankfully, it turned out to be less serious than we thought and CLinC sent £200 to repair them.

The pit latrines at St Mark's became unsafe to use and the only toilets available for school and church use were the two flush toilets we funded in 2015.

Blackson Mbewe, who was involved with the setting up of the schools in 2019, contacted us for help. They had plans and labour to build a **new toilet block** and requested financial help from CLinC. They had already raised enough money in donations from the church congregation to start the project. (Shown in blue on chart) CLinC therefore agreed to help. They are still raising money and send copies of receipts for the spending of all contributions from CLinC.(shown in pink on the chart)



We have managed to build a WhatsApp group with four of the church people. Hopefully, once the new priest has settled in, we can get the 'Board' up and running again. This will be an invaluable help for the schools.

**Outstanding projects.** -We have 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?

The **windows of the two classrooms** at St Anne's, built in 2021, are still unglazed and the classrooms unpainted.

**Repair is needed to the concrete area** alongside St Anne's classrooms and the drainage needs improving. The drainage problem has become more serious since the building of a carpark nearby!

**More classroom space** is required at St Mark's.

All of these projects are on hold at the moment.



## 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 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.

The only income is from the parental contributions.

However, a local filling station and a charity called 'Convoy of Hope' provide the school with enough dried and fresh food (rice, mealie meal, soya pieces and beans) 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 they frequently go for months without receiving any money.

This term CLinC has sent £650 to ensure that all teachers and carers receive a small pay at the end of each month.

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





This school takes children from pre-school age up to grade 9. There are six teachers, four of whom are untrained, and one carer. 18 students, out of 21 who took their grade 7 exams, were given places in a government school due to their outstanding performance! 17 grade 9 students passed their exams and are now studying grade 10 in government schools. An excellent result!

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. If, in future, our funds allow, we may look at that. We wish them well.

## Fundraising events

1. The **Easter Coffee Morning** went well and raised £400 for the St Mark's toilet project. This has now been sent along with other donations received. The walls are built and the roof is on.
2. We have attended two **MU afternoon meetings**, giving a PowerPoint presentation on the work of CLinC. We do not charge for travel expenses or for the talk but take along jams, marmalades and crafts for sale. We raised £42 at the first talk (there were only 5 members present and it was at Compton Abdale, near **Cheltenham!**), £78 at the second meeting in **Nailsworth**. The branch leader later topped this up to £100!
3. Unfortunately the talk at **Newent** had to be cancelled as I had Covid! They will book us in again for next year.

### Future plans

**Under the Edge Quilters** have a two-day exhibition in The Chippings Art Centre, Wotton-under-Edge on Sat June 1<sup>st</sup> and Sun June 2<sup>nd</sup>. CLinC has a sales table on both days.

We have a table booked at **Cromhall Flower Show** on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

We hope to have a table at **Tockington Horse Show** on Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be the **Christmas Craft Fair** in Cromhall Village Hall.

In November, I am sure there will be the usual **Wotton Charities Fair** and we will be there!

# THANK YOU

Once again, our thanks go to

....**Cromhall Shop** for enabling us to sell jams and small crafts throughout the year.  
... to '**Crafters**' in Wotton under Edge for allowing us to sell craft items to raise funds.  
... to '**Under the Edge Quilters**' for their support throughout another year.  
...to '**Jackie's Country Crafts**' at Berkeley for offering our craft items for sale.

..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.**

Ann, on behalf of trustees of CLinC -May 2024