



Malawi 2018



The story so far.....

Our association with Malosa began back in 2010 when, as a church, we started to support St Luke's Hospital through USP (an Anglican mission charity which supports communities around the world). Together with St Luke's Watford, we contributed £32,000 in 2012 to build a new maternity wing at Nksala Health Centre, which is one of Malosa's outreach clinics. Eager to see how the new maternity ward was progressing and to meet and help the communities we were supporting, a group of us travelled to Malawi in 2014.

Our findings brought home to us the reality of the poverty in Malawi. For example:

- The new maternity ward was not operational at that time; the 'maternity ward' they were using was simply a single bed, and they did not have resources such as basic pain relief.
- The maintenance team at the hospital lacked adequate tools to get jobs done.
- Most of the nurseries could not provide food for their toddlers to eat during the morning. They did not have sufficient materials to teach the children.
- Three out of four of the steamers used to cook maize in the secondary school were out of order, with no prospect of fixing them because of a shortage of money.

Our response to the situation included the following:

- Taking supplies from the UK with us such as DIY tools, knitted teddies, blankets, books, maintenance tools, paracetamol, syringes, bandages, dressings and three pairs of crutches.
- Whilst in Malawi, we worshipped and prayed with the people we met.
- We financed and organised a 'Training and Workshop Day' for the nursery volunteer helpers.
- We financed and helped to decorate three nurseries.
- Our volunteers worked alongside the maintenance team at St Luke's hospital in Malosa to help renovate and refurbish the women's ward, purchasing materials and tools for them.

Following the trip, along with St Luke's Watford, we raised further money to fund the repair of the steamers and to purchase some desks for the school.

The people we met in Malosa were full of joy, and deeply appreciative of what we were doing for them - and very keen to do all they could to put systems and strategies in place to realise their long-term goals.

Our work would not have been possible without the generosity of our supporters, who provided £5435 to buy these basic tools and materials. Thank you!



Maternity ward at Nksala

This outstation of St Luke's Hospital, Malosa, serves a population of 18,000. 90% of expectant mothers choose to have their babies at the health centre but, with only one delivery bed, the facilities are inadequate for between 60 and 90 births per month.

This major development was funded by two parishes: St Lawrence Abbots Langley and St Luke's Watford. It has provided the centre with much enhanced facilities for their under 5s clinic, free family planning service, provision of ART for AIDS patients and about 6,000 outpatient visits per year.



Malawi 2018

A group of volunteers from St Lawrence Church is planning a return trip to Malosa in the summer of 2018.

The purpose of the trip is to maintain and build upon our existing relationship with the communities of Malosa, and to work alongside people there with their current projects, to help them to fulfil some of their hopes for the present and for the future.

The parish is committed to developing its relationship and practical involvement with its partner communities in Malawi, as stated in the most recent Mission Action Plan (strategic plan). We hope that the congregations of our churches and people in the wider community will be willing to learn about the needs of these people and embrace our efforts by supporting 'Malawi 2018' generously.



How can I help?

In order to make our return trip successful, we aim to raise **£20,000**.

The St Lawrence team are covering their own travel expenses, accommodation and personal costs, so **100% of the fundraising income** will go towards projects and materials for the people of Malosa.

You can help in the following ways:

- Pray for the people of Malosa and for the St Lawrence team as they prepare for their trip;
- Support our fundraising activities and encourage others;
- Organise your own fundraising;
- Make a donation to the appeal.

Donation forms are available in church, on the website or from the Church Office.

Our on-line giving site can be found at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/malawi2018>

If you would like further information about the venture, or have any ideas for helping out with fundraising or anything else to do with the trip, please speak to Wendy Meldrum. Her details are available from the Church Office - phone 01923 261795; e-mail adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk



THANK YOU!



About Malawi

Malawi is considered to be one of the world's least-developed countries. The economy is supported primarily by agriculture, and the population is largely rural. With insufficient natural resources of its own, a history of famine, a high rate of HIV-AIDS and relatively low life expectancy, the country currently depends heavily on aid workers and financial assistance from outside to meet what we would consider to be basic needs. The Malawian government is facing challenges in developing the country's economy, putting effective education provision in place, improving healthcare, and protecting the environment, with the ultimate goal of becoming self-sufficient.



Fact File

- Size: just smaller than England
- Life expectancy: 55 years (UK 80.77 years)
- Population 18.3 million (England 54.3 million)
- Gained independence in 1964 from Britain
- Based on IMF (International Monetary Fund) data from 2017, Malawi is the sixth poorest country in the world. Its GDP per head is \$1,139, whereas here in the UK our GDP per head is \$42,513.
- The infant mortality is 44.8 per 1000 live births, down from 76 ten years ago. Whilst this is encouraging progress - a testament to the efforts put into improving maternity care - it is still a great contrast with 3.6 deaths in the UK. 51.79 out of 1000 children die between the ages of 1 and 4.
- Nearly 1 million Malawians have HIV/AIDS.

It is a country of outstanding natural beauty.

Sources: BBC website 'Malawi country profile, April 2017': <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13864367>; IMF website: <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>; Geoba.se website: <http://www.geoba.se/country.php?cc=MW&year=2016>; World Population Review: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/>

