

New Treasurer

We are very pleased to welcome Immanuel Mudzingo to our team as our treasurer. He is a member of the Methodist Church in Britain as well as Zimbabwe Methodist Church Fellowship UK. Immanuel has an academic qualification in business management and professional training in the banking industry. He presently works for an established brand in automotive supply chain sector. We look forward to Immanuel working with us to continue our support of the children. We thank David for all his work over the last 3 years but we are not losing him as he is staying with us as a committee member.

20th Anniversary Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal. You have raised £4740.05 from a tea party, talks, coffee mornings, open gardens, gold and diamond anniversaries, and a triathalon. Well done everyone.

Shirley Richer

Christmas cards

A big thank you to all who have bought cards and especially all of you who have sent extra donations and gift aided them. This year we didn't send out automatic orders but have still sold over 2000 cards; with added donations and after only postal costs are deducted we have raised a clear profit of £1000 - all of which will go for the children's care. Many thanks to you all for the support.

Carol Banham

This newsletter is distributed by
**The Friends of Matthew Rusike
Children's Home.**

Annual subscriptions are now due for 2017. To be a member please send £10 per person to our **new treasurer**. As a non member you still receive 4 newsletters and everyone is welcome at our meetings. Please join us for our next meeting 11am on Saturday 8th April 2017 at Droitwich Methodist Church. We have a bring and share lunch afterwards with time for a chat. Please contact our secretary for details.

Thank you to all who have raised funds for the Children in Zimbabwe, their need is still so great. Please continue your marvellous support and could you set up a standing order and/or gift aid your donation?

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Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

We give mainly financial support directly to the Home

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Registered charity 1120944

NEWS FROM THE HOME

September/October We are all doing well and all the children are back in school for the last term of the year. They are all in good health. It is very hot now and hopefully this year we will have adequate rains, another drought is unthinkable.

The last remittance came in time to purchase critical drugs for the clinic. We only get 5 drugs from the National Pharmacy and the rest we have to buy. It is a requirement that we always have emergency drugs readily available because we work with children. So thanks to the Friends the clinic is fully stocked with drugs at the moment.

The creche is doing well in terms of early learning development for small children in the Home and from the Community based programme but is not doing well towards self sufficiency. Maybe we are too far away from the local people who are reluctant to walk long distances with their little children.

We had a recruitment drive in August which was more successful for the college which increased it's enrolment from 254 to 304 and now we have A level Examination centre status our A level student numbers have gone up from 11 to 33.

Teacher salaries are paid from the student fees and MRCH money - our staff cannot be absorbed onto the government payroll until the freeze on new recruitment is removed.

November We are all fine but extremely hot. We had our first rains

yesterday – it was just drizzle but it has managed to cool us off a bit. Mark and the Australian Embassy installed solar panels recently to pump the boreholes for the irrigation. This should save us US\$20 or \$30 a day on our electricity bill, according to the electrical engineer who helped him.

Zvirinane Marore

These pictures show the huge difference a reliable irrigation system makes – notice how dry and sandy the soil is between the irrigated rows



...and look at these tomato plants beside Rev Margaret Mawire! Ed



We harvested quite a lot of fish from our pond. We ate the last batch only last week. The fish was distributed to all the 8 housing units and the staff also had some on 2 occasions. We eat fish with sadza or rice mainly. Next time we harvest fish I shall send you some pictures.

Zvirinane Marore



The fish pond is now fully enclosed and out of bounds to the children.

Visit to MRCH

Reverends Ed and Audrey Standhaft visited MRCH again in June. They were warmly welcomed and well looked after in the guest house.

“We spent 4 days in the library continuing to sort books, clearing away rubbish and stapling hundreds of exam papers. We had 2 days teaching 6th form business studies but as the college was having 2 weeks of mid year exams there were no normal lessons. All exams were held in the hall where all the chairs and tables were. We did some extra English and RE at weekends. We led 2 morning prayers with the staff as well as an open air school assembly.

We had some time with the new Presiding Bishop and the former

secretary to the board of trustees. Most lunchtimes were spent at Mercy’s house eating with the staff and sharing interesting conversations together.

The Home still receives lots of help from the Zimbabwean Church members – donations in kind of food, clothes and also local businesses provide all the bread and a lot of meat, despite the desperate economic situation. However, as the people are suffering so much from unemployment and wages not being paid, prices are very low and producing very little profit.

The visit to the creche was very fine: the cook was most enthusiastic to show us the shining new floor tiled kitchen and dining room. There are 39 pupils of whom 8 are from the Home. The new head is the only teacher now and one of their classrooms is being used by the college.

Earlier in the year the staff at the home did not get their salaries for a few months and the Methodist Church stepped in. Now the salaries are up to date but the medical care scheme the staff were in was closed due the crisis in the country so they no longer have medical insurance.

There are now 95 children in the home as the drugs mean that children are not being born with HIV and parents are living very much longer. Of course there is a lot of poverty but this is not a reason for children to be in a home.

The outreach centres are doing well to feed needy children: we visited one on the outskirts of Harare where the church folk grow vegetables on

site for the hot meals. Lloyd, Rairo and Margaret went to Bulawayo Mzilikazi centre to give training to about 40 volunteer caregivers.

Reverends Ed and Audrey Standhaft

Holiday time with foster families

All the children have foster families they stay with in school holidays. They take bags of home grown food with them.

Here are some comments from 4 young people.

PT age 11

I have been going to my foster parents for the past 7 years. I am very grateful for what they do for me. They have embraced me in their family life. I feel wanted and have developed a strong sense of belonging.

NM age 12

This year I went for the first time for school holidays to my foster parents. I was well received. I enjoyed the new environment and got to learn new things. Being an abandoned child, I love being part of a family.

MM age 16

I have been going to my foster family for the past 7 years. We have developed a strong bond. Being chronically ill, she accepted me without discrimination. I feel loved and cared for. I am very grateful for such kindness shown towards me.

TN age 14

I have been going to Gweru to my foster parents for 7 years. My foster parents love me so much and are making arrangements to adopt me. I was abandoned when I was a baby. I love my foster parents so much.

A wonderful donation

I am the outgoing president of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Methodist Women in Britain. Our ladies have been fundraising for the Home for the past 2 years and we have raised over £6000.

If possible we would like this money to be used for a specific item/project if there is a particular need at the moment. I know beds were needed recently but have now been bought.

Jean Woodland

MRCH was asked for their present ‘wish list’ which was sent to Jean. The ladies chose to pay for essential repairs to **all 8 of the houses**. This will involve replacing some doors and broken window panes, new shelving, fixing door locks, taps and toilets etc and then redecorating as much as possible. Maintenance of buildings can often be way down the list of priorities as of course care of the children comes first. One day they hope to be able to tile the floors in each house to remove the back breaking job of the mums polishing them. Thanks to this MWiB group this wish may have come closer to fruition.



Huge rocks get warm in the sun and are good to sit on.