

Mr and Mrs Mapurisa arrive in the UK on October 1st. They will be spending a few days in London then will set off around the country meeting with and talking to as many people as possible. Their itinerary is enclosed. If you would like to hear them please contact the host and ask for details of the meetings or services they have planned. If you would like to attend our Executive meeting in Droitwich at 10.30 on 17th October, they will be there too, please contact our secretary.

Treasurer's Report

Fundraising so far this year has been good, and to date we have received just over £40,000. I have remitted some £43,000 to Zimbabwe, which includes money that we had been holding towards the crèche project. Early in the year MRCH opened a bank account with a Botswanan Bank, who have a branch in Harare, and this has made the transfer of money much easier, safer and quicker. It is doubtful if you have ever heard a treasurer say that they are satisfied with the level of income, and although our income is in line with previous years, we can do with additional funds as the work of MRCH expands. You will read elsewhere in the newsletter of the considerable numbers of children that are being helped and the circumstances in which they live. My grateful thanks for all your support, and if you are able to encourage anyone else to join the Friends and make a contribution that would be wonderful.

Paddy Coles

If you wish to receive your newsletter by email please let us know. It does help if we can save postage and printing thank you. Contact Carol at

carol2021@banham.net

Contacts

Chair: Carol Banham
carol2021@banham.net

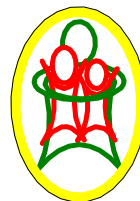
Secretary: John Richer
john.richer@talk21.com

Treasurer: Paddy Coles
9 Ashley Drive West,
Ashley Heath
Ringwood,
Hants BH24 2JW
Tel: 01425 478244
Padjen@ukonline.co.uk

Membership Sec: Gail Richer
gmricher@btinternet.com

www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org

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



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

September 2009

In 1996 a few friends who had worked briefly in MRCH decided to form a group to raise money for 'extras' like Christmas presents/parties etc. Now 13 years later we find we are providing over 80% of the income necessary for feeding and caring for the children and the day to day running of the Home. In that time we have become a registered charity which enables us to claim tax rebate thus raising even more money for the children.

If you have been supporters for as long as this, and many of you have, you have been instrumental in helping great changes and expansion to take place. You have continued to support MRCH through the last few years of trauma and severe deprivation. Many of you responded quickly when extra funds were requested for emergencies such as operations.

Over half of our supporters buy our Christmas cards each year, many of you selling extra packs to improve our profit. Some of you have used our website to print photos and use the information to give talks so more people know about the Home. More and more of your ideas for fundraising are reaching our newsletter, please let us know about your event.

We give support, mainly by cash, but also by advice and assistance to the Home for the benefit of the Children

The Home itself has moved from dormitory style living to family groups in houses each with its own garden, in line with modern childcare practice. The childcare has moved outwards into several communities across the country where children have been orphaned through HIV/AIDS. Through the Methodist Church many of these local communities are now caring for their local orphaned children and fostering the children, who are in residential care, during the school holidays.

You have sponsored two previous visits to the UK of Mr Astonishment Mapurisa Superintendent of MRCH, and who is now the National Director of Childcare for the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. After each visit more friends have joined us and more money has been raised. In October he and his wife will be here again and we hope you will be able to take the opportunity to introduce new friends to hear him speak.

Your support has been vital not only for the survival of the Home but also its expansion into the community and its care for children across Zimbabwe.

Thank you everybody.

Joint Meetings

At the end of June some FoMRCH executive committee members met with Bishop Sitole of the Zimbabwe Methodist Church, Action for Children and World Church Relations Office...

The Bishop warmly thanked FoMRCH and AfC for their long term and continuing support. He described the Church's support for Childcare based on the expertise at MRCH, which has grown to the extent that the name of MRCH is given to their work nationally and the MRCH Superintendent is also the National Childcare Director for the Methodist Church. At District, Synod and Circuit levels in the Zimbabwe Methodist Church, each unit has an associated MRCH committee and a specified person to co-ordinate MRCH activities. 10% of their income is devoted to childcare(though he said this was still a small amount due to the economic conditions at this time). The Superintendent and the three Childcare Development staff funded by AfC interact with these Church bodies. The Bishop spoke warmly of the building work in progress to create a Day Centre at the Home which will be used by local people in Epworth as well as children at the Home using the

crèche.

The Superintendent's visit is regarded as important and it was agreed we should all meet again in October to review progress with Astonishment at the end of his visit. Will Morrey of AfC is keen for their staff to hear Astonishment's comments on MRCH childcare work in Zimbabwe.

Here are some more photographs from Sheila Williams' visit to the Home....



Children from the crèche hoping for some exciting new toys to play with and help them to develop skills.



The Tailoring project has been a

successful enterprise within the Home. It helps to generate funds locally as well as providing the children with school uniforms.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards are now available. If you want to place an order **different to the one you usually have**, please let me know as soon as possible.

Carol

Thank you Ian

We are very grateful to Ian Robinson who has designed and updated our new brochure. If you need some brochures for people to take away from your fundraising event please let us know how many you would like and they can be posted to you.

We received this in June....

Just to let you know our coffee morning went well. The sun shone and everyone sat out in the garden, and we have raised over £400. So I'm thrilled that everyone has been so generous and I have had a lot of kind helpers. I think there may be more money to come so will wait until after the weekend to send you a cheque.

*God bless you all love
May(Knight)*

*And from Mandy....Hi, I have received information and supported MRCH for 15 years, since I spent a time doing voluntary work at the Home. On September 12th I will be taking part in the Great North Swim, swimming a mile across Lake Windermere. I would like to collect sponsors and raise money for the Home and I need some leaflets to publicise MRCH. I also need a transfer logo for my Tshirt to raise awareness on race day. I am looking forward to raising lots of money for a place that is very close to my heart.
Regards Mandy Gilyard.*

We hope you will let us know how you get on Mandy and do let us have a photograph for the next newsletter.

We received this from Astonishment mid August.....

"I was in Mzinyathi, rural Matebeleland, where I was supervising construction of the MRCH Community Resource Centre there. When I returned, we had no electricity for the whole of this week. It was only coming around 11 o'clock in the night and off around 5 am. I had to wait for electricity so that I could respond to your mail".

Comment from another contact....

"It is true that food is now available in the shops, but the US\$ is scarce for many people and we no longer use Zim\$.