

Membership

January 1st is the annual due date for membership renewal at £10 per person per year, a form is enclosed

Please consider setting up a standing order for your donations and/or joining the gift aid scheme. This will give us a known regular income.

Please let us know if you are changing any of your contact details as we had some problems last year.
Thank you

AGM

You are welcome to join us at our AGM on March 19th, see enclosed invitation.

Fund raising

Christmas cards

This year over 10,000 cards were sold, thank you for all your efforts. Not only do the cards make a sizeable profit they are also good publicity for the caring work of MRCH.

We have heard of an enthusiastic group in the Stevenage area which is going to "run" for MRCH. Watch this space for further news.

Thank you to everyone who has regular fundraising events for the Children in Zimbabwe, their need is still so great. Please continue your marvellous support.

Contacts

Please note our treasurer and secretary have new email addresses

Chair: Carol Banham
carol2021@banham.net

Secretary: John Richer
jricher001@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Paddy Coles
9 Ashley Drive West,
Ashley Heath
Ringwood,
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Membership Sec: Gail Richer
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Catch up with our website
www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org

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



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

Registered charity 1120944

March 2011

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

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Barry Barnes reported that the dedicated childcare continues successfully and is impressive to see in difficult situations.

The children attending the community projects supported by the home, who are unable to pay for uniforms and school fees, are cared for by local volunteers. Often these are elderly women, who do their best to give the children a basic education without any resources.

There have been financial problems since last summer, leaving senior staff unpaid for several months and a slowing of progress completing the crèche and other buildings in the community projects. However we heard in February that one classroom has been completed in the crèche and another one should be usable by the time Shelley arrives in April. She believes it will be a great asset when completed.

New water tanks have been installed to ease supply when the water is cut off.

The field donated to the Home by the Methodist Church is being farmed but expertise and improved water supply is desperately needed. When in full use it will give the Home a more independent food supply. Shelley had watched an excellent Nativity play being rehearsed at the Home making the best of few resources. The driving force is Astonishment's vision for improvement. A new Board of Governors has been formed at the Home.



Children at the Home receive extra help in the Home's classroom, given voluntarily by a local teacher.

Rev Margaret Mawire from Zimbabwe, who knows the Home well, is studying for one year at the same college as Shelley and is helping her to learn Shona, the language spoken by the children. She spoke of her concern to improve the education of the children at MRCH.

Mission partner

Shelley told us about the training she is receiving in Birmingham. She is studying contextual theology and caring for traumatised children. Children with special needs can be neglected and part of her role will be to train staff to further improve the quality of care generally. Action for Children is providing the childcare training and the work with children with HIV/AIDS.

Shelley will be building up as many links as possible in the UK, including with the Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship UK, before she goes to Zimbabwe in April and her prayer card will be distributed as widely as possible. She will be sending regular reports back to the UK and we shall pass her news on to you all.

If you would like more copies of her prayer card please contact Shelley on 07710 836286 or waif_uk@yahoo.ie



Imaginative play, preparing 'lunch'

A letter from World Church Relations Office

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I recently visited Zimbabwe on my familiarisation tour as the Partnership Coordinator for Africa for the British Methodist Church. I had the privilege of meeting Mr Astonishment Maripusa – the National Director of Matthew Rusike's Children's Home at Epworth, Zimbabwe. Among other things, I was impressed by the self-help farming project to support feeding the children of MRCH and from surrounding communities.

I submitted a request to the Methodist Church of Britain and a **one-off grant** of £5,000 was approved for this project. I hope it shall be a motivational factor in encouraging the hardworking staff of MRCH during this challenging economic period.

Also a mission partner from MCB –Ms Shelley Cooling has been posted to work at MRCH for at least two years starting after her training at the Christian Mission college (SOCMS) in Birmingham.

May I seize this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to MRCH and continue to wish you well in your ministries.

Love and peace from the World Church Relations Office in London.

Dr Bunmi Olayisade

A Wonderful Success Story

Once upon a time I had to leave Matthew Rusike Children's Home after living in that institution for more than seventeen years. For me this was a turning point as I was now heading into the 'real world'. I had lived in the home since 1988 after my mum's death and my father abandoned me. As a norm, since I was now above eighteen I had to be discharged and pave way for other children in need. By that time I felt so out

and hopeless as I wonder where I was going to get the money to carry on with my education. I just give all the credit to Mr Mapurisa who promised to keep on helping me even when I was no longer staying at Matthew Rusike Children's Home.

I proceeded to Advanced Level and my guardians (UK sponsors) still paying my fees through the Home. I came out well and got a place at the University of Zimbabwe where I acquired a degree in philosophy. By the way I am one of the few girls from the institution who was able to make it to the University Level! I then graduated in March 2010. I am now working at a certain Non Governmental Organisation though still under internship. My life alone is a living testimony because of what the institution brought out of me. Something that I always believe would never have been this good even if my parents were still alive and together. Every time I wake up I always feel I owe Matthew Rusike Children's Home, my UK sponsors, all other sponsors and above all the Almighty, big time, for this life that I enjoy now....if only there was a word stronger than 'thank you'!!!

Eurelia Kamwaza