

Christmas cards

Last year we sold over 10,000 cards and we wish to thank all those who bought/sold many extra cards for us. After requests from supporters, we have chosen photographs of children at the Home for our new card styles, we hope you like them. For the first time in several years we have reluctantly had to raise the cost this year. We have never charged postage, (although thanks to many of you who have always added that cost to your payment), as we have considered the cards to be advertising our cause. As costs and orders have risen quite substantially please consider sending a little extra to cover this cost, especially if you have a larger order, so we can send more of the profit directly to the children. Thank you very much for your support.

News from our Treasurer

Paddy Coles

Up to the end of June £39,000 has been donated. Thank you to everyone who has held fundraising events for the Children in Zimbabwe, their need is still so great. Please continue your generous support.

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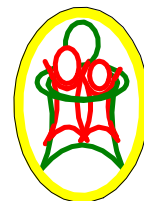
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Catch up with our website
www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org

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



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

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**September
2011**

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Ruth Mahy, Saltash

In March this year 11 members of Saltash Wesley Methodist Church visited our partner church, Mbare Methodist Church, in Harare. The congregation at Mbare used to give financial support to Matthew Rusike Children's Home, but when things became more difficult for them in the 1990's Saltash Wesley took on part of the responsibility for this support. (Mbare still offer as much help as they are able.)

So whilst in Zimbabwe we enjoyed the privilege of visiting MRCH. Unfortunately Astonishment was away, but we were welcomed and given a talk by Lloyd Kupeta, the deputy Superintendent.

We were then shown the different houses and other parts of the complex. The children were extremely responsive (it was a Saturday morning so they were not at school) and seemed thrilled to show us around,

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



We took a colourful parachute with us and they had great fun playing with it.



Lloyd emphasised the importance of their aim to prepare the children for their future life once they left the Home. Great emphasis was placed on the preparation of the

children for the ultimate move away by helping with the duties in the houses, the gardens and with the animals. There was also evidence of the children looking after each other

All of our group found the visit memorable and enlightening. We were thrilled by the care and concern shown, and by the state of the children. Without a doubt we could see the need for continued support from the Friends of MRCH – and ourselves. While we were there we were able to present them with £470 in US dollars, and also with some stationery and sweets for the children, as well as the parachute.

Everyone at MRCH was looking forward with great expectation to Shelley's stay there

Thank you for the lovely photos, Ruth, and all the support from Saltash.

Mission partner – July *Shelley Cooling*

Since completing the Foundation course in April, I have moved back to my parent's home in Sheffield and been busily preparing for my trip, This has included:
- Weekly visits to Queens in Birmingham, to have Shona

lessons, Spiritual guidance and continue networking.

- Engagements to speak at various churches and social groups etc

Attending training

- Action for Children training about trauma
- A conference about education in Zimbabwe
- An international HIV conference
- African cookery lessons, (vegetarian dishes for me)
- Pastoral visits and making contacts.

I was lucky enough to attend 2 retreats. Spring Harvest with it's focus on "Route 66-Getting to know all the Bible" and Cliff College Bible summer school – both were amazing.

So now my freight has been sent, my visa is due any day and my flight is scheduled for 27th July.

My work at Matthew Rusike Children's home will focus around working with children in their early years, many of whom will have been traumatised or who are vulnerable.

Prayer requests:

- Safe delivery of freight that has been donated to the Home

- Work permit to be quickly authorised

- New relationships to be quickly established with myself and my new colleagues at MRCH

August update

Chairman - Carol Banham

Shelley says "Things here are great and I am settling in nicely, just getting used to the pace, sporadic water and electricity and the language. The children have almost all gone now as it is a public holiday"

Don and I will be joining Shelley at MRCH during August and September. Our plan is to make ourselves useful and also to visit the community projects so we can report back to you all with more photos and video. Early orders for Christmas cards will be dealt with as soon as possible on our return.

Fundraising

Joan Sanger, Gainsborough

As part of the year long activities of Gainsborough Methodist Church for the Matthew Rusike Children's Home we held a summer evening serenade at the beginning of July, in Gainsborough Parish Church, with violinist Andy Long, Associate Leader of Opera North

and world renowned pianist Ian Buckle, what a super evening we had.



It was a balmy evening (specially ordered!) and most successful both socially and financially. Carol, our Chairman, came and said a few words about the Home and that was great. People were so generous and supportive.

The Methodist Girls Brigade gave us £50 from the sale of their home made cakes and a very generous donation of £200 from the West Burton Power station brings our total for the event to a wonderful £970.

I think the final total for the year (which ends in August) will be over £3,000. We finish our activities with a 12-hour day in Morrison's on Saturday 27 August, Bank Holiday Saturday, so let's hope it is busy!!

A marvellous result, Joan, and thank you all for your support this year.