

Take a look at our new website

[www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org)

**Thank you to Leigh East who has given our website a completely new look Please let us know what you think.**

You can see the complete version of "Meet the MRCH Staff" and information about being a "Volunteer at MRCH" There are Shelley's newsletters; newsletters from the Home as well as our own, and more photographs for you to use to complement your fund raising events.

We would love to showcase your fundraising events too so please send us pictures and reports of what you did and how much you raised.

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

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

Welcome to my home!



Blessed made his home, complete with tv, sweeping brush and chairs!

### AGM

This year the AGM is on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> at Droitwich Methodist Church, please come and meet us. Everyone is welcome to join us for the Bring and Share lunch after the meeting. Details in the included letter.

### Contacts

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Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

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### NEWS FROM THE HOME



Excerpt from "Meet the staff"

**8 House Mothers Mercy, Lillian, Faith, Fungai, Mildred, Alice, Nancy and Sylvia.**

These warm hearted ladies lovingly care for the children in the house units. Each of them has a family of their own, most grown up now, who they leave with other family members for 30 days at a time while they're at MRCH then they have 10 days break to go home. All of them have very obvious pride in their homes at MRCH.

**Mildred** cares for 6 babies, all under three. Amelia is the youngest at 3 months old. I said it must be a lot of work looking after so many small children and she said "it's not hard when you love little ones"

**We give support, mainly by cash, but also by advice and assistance to the Home**

The other mothers each care for 11 –12 children ranging from 2 to 16. teaching them their duties around the house, cooking, washing and cleaning and helping them with their homework.. Once they reach 16 they move to live in the independence units where they look after themselves with help and support available from the house mothers.

**Sylvia** has been at the Home for 5 years and cares for 11 children. She doesn't have a counter or cupboards in her kitchen and some of her smaller children have to share beds. She feels the children need more weekend activities to take them off site "but we can't afford trips. When a child has a birthday we want to do something special but it's so difficult. They see other children from the community have cakes and drinks. We try to cook what's in the house a different way but it's usually the same as usual and we sing to them. They say 'why didn't you make me a cake to take to school to give to others?'

It would also be nice for all the staff to go out together again. We did it before, we did team building games and it was very good and helpful to us.”

**Mildred** and **Sylvia** live in the 2 last houses to be adapted from the old boys’ dormitories and they are sparsely furnished and lacking storage.

**Lillian** has been at MRCH for over 20 years. She was the first of the mums to move into the new houses in 2004. “The houses are wonderful! Now I have time to talk with the children and listen to their problems and help them. I teach them how to cook and clean and take care of the garden.

**Mercy** has been at MRCH for 26 years and has 11 children to care for. When the electricity goes off cooking is done in the outside kitchen. Fungai and Mercy cook a good lunch for the staff each weekday.



### News from Shelley

In January, Shelley began “working with our teenagers to prepare for the launch of our monthly English service with English songs- ‘Our God is an awesome God’, ‘Here I am to worship’ and ‘Great is thy Faithfulness’ They sang amazingly well for the first time in English! Our first English service at MRCH was a success with an excellent speaker, excellent steward but most of all the choir did me proud, they were amazing!! Since then the choir has sung at an important event for big local donors. So has anybody out there got some old song books we can have so I can teach them some more. Something like Mission Praise or Songs of Fellowship?”

***Please contact the chairman for details of where to send them. Even if several people send a single copy it will be a great help.***

“Tomatoes and onions being planted in our ECD garden



With donations from Shelley’s family and friends, the youngest children are now learning to grow vegetables and care for goats, sheep and rabbits for food and selling, the aim being to make the **Early childhood Development Centre** more sustainable.



“Drumming and dancing ECD style”

### Report from our Treasurer

‘ 2011 was our best year ever for fundraising, and we received nearly £79,000. As a consequence I was able to remit more money to MRCH, and that in turn helps the home to assist more children in the community, besides providing for the children in the home. A big thank you to all who helped in any way to raise this sum, and please keep it up. The number of people making Bankers Order payments is steadily increasing, and this is

becoming an assured part of our income. If you are sending funds to me, it would be helpful if you could give me your email address if you have one, so that I can acknowledge your donation this way. Thank you once again for your support ’  
Paddy Coles

### A Jubilee Event?

Could you have a fundraising event to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee, such as a Garden Party, a BBQ or a dinner party?

Here is an idea from Ann Jones which you could adapt to suit.

“Every year, around Christmas, I make a meal for my badminton group. I supply food, drinks and games and they all give me £15 each This way we have a nice cosy atmosphere, no rush to finish, a good time is had by all and we raise money for a good cause as well.“

### Christmas cards

Our sales dropped this year to around 8,000 but many people compensated by donating extra money and the profit was around £3,000. Thank you to everyone.