

be able to offer support for mentoring and training in childcare and would also be willing to look at how support can be passed via the internet. We discussed volunteers going to the Home and felt working parties going out to deal with the maintenance of the buildings was definitely a useful proposition as these did not necessarily involve close association with the children but Shelley pointed out that it did not help children already dealing with abandonment to be constantly faced with short-term arrivals and goodbyes.

From our treasurer

In July the half yearly total of donations was £26,000 and US\$6,000 has been sent every 6 weeks. Lloyd has provided information about how the money has been spent along with acknowledgement of receipt. The income from Standing Orders and Gift Aid is increasing slowly. Distribution of newsletters and the sale of Christmas cards usually brings in unexpected donations. **Paddy**

Christmas cards

This year we have had fewer new cards printed because sales dropped last year so please order promptly to avoid disappointment. This is our one big fundraising event which has

averaged an annual profit of around £3,000 each year and goes directly to MRCH.

Do you live near Grafham Water in Rutland? At 1.45 on 22nd September **Anna Lomas** is doing a bungee jump to raise money for MRCH. I'm sure she would appreciate some support.

Thank you to everyone who has donated or held fund raising events for the Children of Zimbabwe. Their need is still so great. Please continue your marvellous support.

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



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We warmly welcome and introduce the new **National Director of Childcare for Zimbabwe** and **director of**



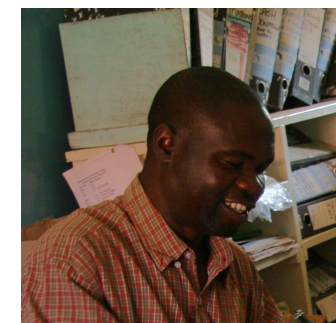
MRCH, Rev Margaret Mawire.

She was brought up by her grandparents and educated at Harare High school, doing A levels through correspondence. She achieved a Diploma in Theology then a BA hon in Religious studies at the University of Zimbabwe. In 2011 she attained her Masters degree in Applied Theology at the Queens Foundation in UK. She has been a serving minister in 3 circuits in Zimbabwe and was chaplain at MRCH during 2010. " I felt challenged to be heading a big organisation like MRCH where so much has been achieved already by my predecessors and so much lies ahead of us that still needs to be done. However I feel blessed knowing that MRCH has a

Registered charity 1120944

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

dedicated team of well qualified staff to assist to drive the vision of MRCH forward. **Our first priority is to ensure continuity.** Childcare in Zimbabwe is under funded so finances and resources for programming are a problem. In my short time here, one thing I have realised is that childcare is expensive.



The team includes **Lloyd Kupeta** who will compliment my role as the National Director. Lloyd is the Senior Childcare Development Officer and has 16 years experience at the Home. Lloyd has a degree in Sociology and in 2009, the Home sent him to the University of Zimbabwe School of social work to study for a diploma in Social work. Part of Lloyd's responsibilities are developing the outreach projects as well as managing MRCH projects.



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Rairo, the Childcare Manager, was also trained by the School of Social work, and is responsible for the overall upkeep of children that are resident in the Home. Rairo has 22 years experience at the Home, 18 of which as part of the management team.



Norlin the Transition Officer, has a degree in Sociology from the University of Zimbabwe and is responsible for dealing with the coming in and going out of children in the Home. She conducts counselling sessions for the children, tracing families, reunification and reintegration as well as making individual childcare plans for all the children in the Home.

The Home will also continue with in service training for both senior management and childcare staff so that they keep abreast with modern childcare trends. Senior management also have the opportunity for staff exchanges with other Homes in South Africa. Moreover, the School of Social Work has trusted the Home to train interns of social work and we also take advantage of the students by tapping into their knowledge since they are still in training.

As you can see, I am surrounded by people that have seen the Home going through various transformations in terms of childcare. They understand the vision of the Home and know we are here to upgrade the needs of the children. I can assure you that childcare programming will not suffer since it is the reason we are here.”

Rev Margaret Mawire



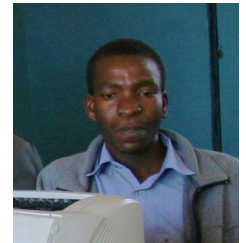
Tapiwa, the Finance officer, ensures all money is recorded and banked. All expenditure is properly requested and authorised for the purposes for which it is intended. Records and data are strictly kept and he prepares the payroll for all employees. He produces reports and accounts for the finance committee and the National Board and coordinates all audits. He ensures all material donations are properly recorded, stored and distributed as requested. Tapiwa also supervises the poultry and piggery, making sure supplies for them are ordered on time and markets the produce to the local people. He'd like to have better breeding stock and feed so that these projects operate efficiently. He needs reliable computers so the stores organised. *“When the electricity returns it means work time is at a premium so another computer would be very useful for all Jullius’ stores”* The budget is presented to the church monthly and he and the National Director prepare the budget in December .

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Portia is the book keeper

Ernest works with the accounts,

both are with Tapiwa in the finance office.



Action for Children

Several members of the FoMRCH executive committee met with Will Morrey of AfC to discuss the changes which were taking place at MRCH and to clarify future roles of FoMRCH and AfC. Unfortunately Dr Bunmi Olysaide of World Church Relations (WCR) was abroad and couldn't attend so the aim is to have another meeting later. Once again the need for transparency on all sides was discussed. The MRCH half yearly finance report had arrived and FoMRCH executive committee minutes are sent to MRCH. A report from this meeting was also sent to MRCH. In future AfC will have a different supporting role with MRCH. AfC hope they may

Progress in **MRCH** **3**
Secondary School update
from **Kuda**, the deputy head.



“We now have our registration certificate (to be an official school) in our office and we are so proud of that achievement. Now we aim to register as an exam centre. To do this we must have a Chubb security door to protect the exams. The door is a bit expensive and we also need furniture that can fill up the hall. Should we reach exam time (November) without more furniture we will use the furniture we have but this means students not taking exams will have to sit on the floor until the 2 month exam period is over. We pray that this will not be the case. Our enrolment has risen and our classrooms are brimful. This year we hope our students will do better in their exams.

We have now put doors and windows in the classrooms and our staff offices were painted blue but the rest of the block is



still awaiting painting. We also managed to furnish one classroom. The toilet pits were dug but the toilets are not yet built, we hope we will have funding for them to be finished in time for the next inspection in January.

We have had ball games these past few weeks and our college did fairly well.

Kellie and Nanette in Australia are sending us money for a photocopier. We hope very soon teaching will be more manageable especially subjects like English, Shona and History, where students need to read on their own.

Thank you for all your support, you are empowering us to stand on our own two feet. Please pass our gratitude to those people who have decided to support our school.”

Kudakwashe

Early Childhood Development Centre

Although Shelley is now working back in the UK she is still closely in touch and supporting the ECD as much as possible. She hopes to return to MRCH one day.

All the ECD rooms are being used now but none of them are decorated. They have kitchen and dining room facilities and a volunteer from the community cooks the meals using the produce and meat from their own market garden. The 3rd room has washing facilities.



“ECD Christmas was celebrated with community programme children and parents, older children returning from boarding school and a few residential children who had not yet left for foster families. We had a great turn out and had a slap up meal, which the children had chosen. Since then the hens and rabbits have multiplied, the goat paddock is now built and they are awaiting the children to return from their holidays with

foster families before they **4** slaughter any animals. One of the older boys, Tapiwa, who looked after all the animals, has left to go to university so another of the residential boys has taken responsibility for them since and has shown great commitment and diligence in his new role.



One day the children were all given a water balloon each to carry around to see how careful they could be....they went on swings, roundabout and slide. Our winner was a little girl who managed to care for it for an hour before it burst!

“We should remember MRCH is now a community organisation- the ECD is supposed to be providing for the very poorest, hence the fees are low and our parents can actually work as volunteers at MRCH to allow their children to have free places alongside the residential children.”

Shelley