

Nick Garrett's Mega Marathon
At 1.40am on 25th June I completed the London-Brighton marathon. After 17 & a half hours of running it was without doubt the hardest thing I have ever done but the thought of the cause I ran for kept me going over the day and night. The final total (£2,800) was £800 over my original target. I am expecting this to be higher once gift aid is added. It took me over six weeks to fully recover. The photo is of me at half way, I was going to send you the photo of my feet post race but it's too gruesome for the newsletter.



100km!!
A terrific effort, Nick. and thank you for your support.

Legacies

Due to 2 substantial legacies being left to us we were able to pay 5 months staff salary arrears last January which was greatly needed and appreciated by all the staff. Now our treasurer is looking into the purchase of a new, much needed minibus for the Home. The present one is very dilapidated and unreliable David and Wayne's drive in West

Africa raised £4,000 (see June newsletter) and this will also go towards the new vehicle.

Only receiving these two legacies made these large outlays possible.

Newsletters

4 times a year we post 195 newsletters and email 156 in the UK, Zimbabwe and Australia. Can you help us save costs of copying and postage by receiving your newsletter by email?

Christmas cards

There are no new designs this year. Single design packs are still available but **we shall be sending out mixed packs only, unless you let me know what you want instead.** Thank you for your support. Carol Banham

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



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

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We give mainly financial support and advice to the Home

September 2014

NEWS FROM THE HOME

I want to thank you and the Friends of MRCH for organising the UK trip. Thank you all for your kind hospitality. It was something that I had never experienced my whole life and the love is just overwhelming. I must say my experience has taught me a lot about love and I will always cherish it. Most of all, thank you for your commitment to the children of MRCH. I have a lot of things to be thankful for and I may not be able to write them one by one but I hope you understand just how grateful I am for everything. May God bless you all. Its back to work now Lloyd and team had everything under control.

Margaret

Those of you who were able to meet and talk with Margaret will know how much life at the home has moved on this year. The generator is only used during daytime power cuts. Constant electricity means staff can do a full days work; the house mothers no longer have to move outside suddenly to cook meals; light means that homework is done in the evenings and the library is used for studying in the evening. (the sun goes down around 6pm

all year and then it is extremely dark) Pigs and poultry can be slaughtered in bulk and stored in the freezers and each house has full use of it's own fridge and freezer.

About the time the generator was installed Uniting World of Australia completely replaced and updated the water system at MRCH. Water is now constantly available and children no longer carry buckets of water on their heads.



Most of the gardens and both greenhouses are on a drip system; the piggery and poultry projects now have their own pumped water supply. More 10,000ltr water tanks were installed and each house has an outside water tap so they can now aim to be self sufficient in vegetables.

2 The youngest member of the MRCH family is Blessed who was 2 days old when he arrived. The children love to carry him around and sing to him.

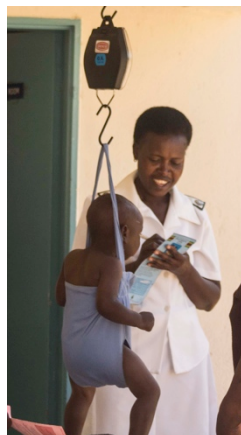


Thanks to Action for Children all staff have received more childcare training. The School of Socialwork has given certificates to all those who have done their childcare course, from the house mothers in the Home to the volunteer staff at the Outreach centres. There have been animal husbandry and horticulture training for the people in charge of those projects and another teambuilding away weekend will take place in August while the children are with foster families for the holidays. Relief staff will be employed to cover at MRCH if needed. Action for Children will support training for 1 more year and then must withdraw their support.

The home continues to support the young people after 18 with skills training or further education wherever possible.

Clinic

The nurse and Health centre have built up an excellent reputation and are now registered with the Health Authority which means they should now be able to receive free medicine. A local doctor has volunteered to run a weekly clinic. Local people are now able to attend the clinic.



Here a baby is being weighed.

Detailed records are kept about each patient.

Rev Margaret Mawire has spoken to all 12 synods in Zimbabwe to talk about the Matthew Rusike Organisation in order to raise more support from the church and the annual May open Day attended by local circuits raised US\$8,000. Due to drought, the donations of maize had dropped and MRCH had to buy 4 tons of maize recently.

Now the college is officially registered with the Education authority and is also an official examination centre, they needed to extend the curriculum to include some practical subjects so Fashion and Fabrics, Computer

5 We really enjoyed having Margaret to stay with us and the meetings in Doncaster and Sheffield were very successful. For Cantley church, in Doncaster, it was a final fundraising evening after 3 years supporting MRCH. After Margaret's talk we were well entertained by St Wilfrid's Cof E 'Jubilate' children's choir. We had a warm, sunny 'day off' visiting Epworth and the Wesleyan rectory when John and Shirley Richer joined us.

We met Margaret twice more. First at the meeting in London with Rev Will Morrey, of Action for Children and Dr Bunmi Olayisade of World Church Office. The main topics discussed were **1.** The continuing life of the Home **2.** The outreach into the community **3.** The concern for young people at 18 as they move out into the community. **4.** The proposal to extend the secondary school. Sadly, Will also had to tell us that AfC will be withdrawing their support in 2015 in order for them to concentrate on their UK work.

We met again when she came to our Executive committee meeting. We heard more about the valuable work we are all supporting and the committee agreed to raise the monthly amount sent for the care of the residential children in Epworth.

Carol and Don Banham, Doncaster

Copies of the DVD are available from our secretary; in the autumn the photos will be available to download from our website.



A substantial breakfast before school



At home with tea and television



A family playing together at home

3 studies and horticulture are now included. With these upgrades it is hoped that all the teachers will soon be paid by the government.

Future plans and upgrades

10 children need more than one bathroom so they are looking to add a shower room to each house; every building needs a fire extinguisher; the houses all need general maintenance.

The on site college is growing and educates over 400 11-18 year olds from the local community identified by the outreach programme as vulnerable. The plan is to find sponsors within Zimbabwe, as well as overseas, to provide boarding facilities for children from the outreach resource centres who are unable to pay fees for secondary education. The Methodist church owns a large area of land outside the confines of the MRCH site but support is needed for the building, equipment and care staff.

Please remember this ambitious project in your prayers. (Ed)

The MBCA bank in Harare provided funding last year for 2 x 10,000 litre water tanks. Senior staff at MRCH are meeting them again in August to discuss further support.



3 more tanks and the rest of the water system was updated this year by Uniting World, Australia.

Margaret's visit in June

Margaret's visit has been a great success. She is the easiest of guests to entertain. We spent Saturday afternoon sightseeing with one of the city's voluntary guides and the evening meal at church was attended by 23 people, including 2 from Harrogate. We enjoyed the DVD and Margaret answered many questions about the Home and Zimbabwe. Sunday morning service was attended by Rangers and Rainbows, plus several parents (more than usual) Our minister interviewed Margaret, which expanded items raised the previous evening. Margaret was warmly received at the strawberry tea in the afternoon and she met a few new faces at the evening service. Moira and Richard Parker, York

Margaret was a delightful guest and I think she enjoyed all the contacts she made. We had about 30 here for supper on a balmy summer evening. Margaret very much enjoyed meeting people then and also at the Midweek Communion. After lunch that day Jean and John Lark drove us around Richmond Park where we were lucky to see a large herd of deer ... our British wildlife!! Thank you for organising Margaret's visit.

May Knight, Surbiton

It was great to have Margaret at the Ladies meeting and it has created more interest in the home. We were able to send £200 to the FoMRCH from the night which we were thrilled about. Val and Mick Cooling, Sheffield

4 We had a great weekend. The church event at Cambridge Road was well attended including the Chairman of Birmingham District. Thanks to Debbie and Terry for organising it. The talk with the Northampton Zimbabwe Fellowship went very well though we did not get there till about 10.30pm. The Presiding Bishop stayed so Margaret got to meet him and Rev Adam Nyawo. We came back on Sunday in time for Margaret to lead worship with the Birmingham Zimbabwean fellowship group and ended the day with a braai (BBQ) Zimbabwean style with sadza. Again a very enthusiastic group and we hope this will follow with positive responses.

Michael Mapako, Birmingham

It was lovely to meet Margaret and see the DVD, it's always good to be reminded just what a worthwhile cause it is! One of our young people (Michael Mapako's son) is hoping to go out for a week or so to visit over the summer, so we are hoping to be able to send him with something if we can get it organised! Well done and thank you for organising it all. Everything that FoMRCH is doing really is making a difference in such difficult circumstances.

Debbie and Terry Berrill, Birmingham

Malcolm and I had a lovely time hosting Margaret. What a very gracious and courageous woman. It has been brilliant hearing at first hand all the news from MRCH and of course their other work in the surrounding areas. We had an evening meal here for Margaret and most of our Mission Committee; we visited Chartwell (the home of Winston Churchill) enjoying walking round the house and beautiful gardens. Our church evening went very well and Margaret spoke superbly. Numbers were disappointing but those who came were very enthusiastic. Two people from Zimbabwe came from our New Eltham church and they went away with the FoMRCH leaflets saying they would like to help in some way. Margaret had a lovely 'catch up' with Juliet Ushewokunze, our minister at Petts Wood. Margaret was Juliet's superintendent.

Faye and Malcolm Payne, Orpington



The educational value of jigsaw puzzles is a new concept to both children and staff