**FoMRCH Treasurer**

The duties of the treasurer are to track and account for all the money the charity receives and spends during the year. This includes receipting and paying in cheques, reconciling the bank statements, claiming Gift Aid and of course making the monthly payments to Zimbabwe. At the end of each year the accounts need to be prepared and audited and presented to the AGM the following April. There is a small administrative task in sending electronic returns to the Charity Commission.

Much of the record keeping is now electronic, including the banking, donation and Gift-Aid records,

The most pressing immediate need is to secure adequate funding to maintain the level of support we currently provide. We need to look to increase regular donations significantly. It is a very exciting time!

 David Graaff

## Christmas cards 2015

Over £2000 profit was raised, thank you to everyone who bought cards

**Annual subscriptions** are now due for 2016. To be a member please send £10 per person to the secretary. As a non member you

will still receive newsletters.

 **John Richer**

**AGM**

Your invitation to the AGM on 16th April is included with the newsletter, please seriously consider joining us without obligation.

The **Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship** **UK** and the **Ruadzano Manyano UK** (women’s group) also regularly contribute money to MRCH. We thank them for their support.

# Friends of Matthew Rusike Children’s Home

***We give mainly financial support directly to the Home***

March 2016 Registered charity 1120944

**JMA**

In January we heard that the Methodist Junior Mission Association had made a donation to MRCH. Thank you for the support.

# Contacts

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**Take a look at our website**

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



This newsletter is distributed by

**The Friends of Matthew Rusike**

**Children’s Home**

NEWS

FROM THE HOME

*Drought is back in Zimbabwe – there has been no significant rain at the right time for many months. ed*

In December Thank you so much for supporting us all the time. We experienced some problems with the generator between mid August and November, some houses had electricity and some didn’t. A changeover switch was replaced but then we had problems with the battery and an airlock in the fuel system. Now the generator is working properly. The repairs cost us US$1,200.00.

The drought caused more electricity shortages. Our timetable for power cuts is normally 16 hours  but sometimes we experienced them for up to twenty four hours. The generator normally consumes around twenty litres of fuel per hour depending on the load. So to reduce costs we normally switch it on for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. Normally we don't switch it on during the day and in that time we encourage mothers to use firewood for the cooking.

*…. a very smoky, sooty job. ed*

When there is shortage of electricity, we can’t pump sufficient water for houses and projects consumption. We need at least 8 hours to fill the water storage tanks. We are glad to inform you that Mark (Australia) purchased a small generator  which we are now using to pump water.

 Rev Margaret Mawire

In January Thank you once again for the remittance and thank you to all the FoMRCH for working tirelessly for the welfare of the children in our care. May God continue to guide you and protect you through 2016.

 Lloyd Kupeta

All the children are back from their holiday placements and are ready for a new term. I am also happy to report that all the children are in good health. Four children started grade one (6 year olds) this year and five children started form one(11 year olds). They have settled well in their new schools. It’s a joy to see them healthy and eager to learn.

We now have electricity almost every day and we use the generator because the cuts are for relatively short times. For example, this week we only had a power cut for 4 hours so far. Zvirinane Matori

In February **News from MRCH college**

I must start by saying the  whole School is excited about this year's O level pass rate. N, our highest, has 6As, 1B and 1C. What is touching is that most of the time he was absent from school because of fees and sickness. There were also days when he would go for piece jobs to help put food on the family table. However, he defied all that and became the student with the best results.

LM and AC made us really proud with As and Bs and we know that these girls' future is bright if they are given an opportunity but sadly they will be unable to afford the fees to study for A level. L was able to continue her O level studies through the generosity of a member of staff who arranged for her fees to be paid in instalments from his meagre salary. BC, a talented long distance runner also got his As and Bs. We pray that this time we give the two girls a chance to further their education. Our belief being that you

educate a woman, you have educated the nation. However, for all the children that l have mentioned, we pray God intervenes. It is my wish to see them all further their studies.

****R and J, sponsored last year by a UK Friend will write their final A level exams in November. These boys are working hard and have a positive attitude to their studies.

Our school choir is now ready to record and we are looking at a budget of about £1500. As you continue talking to our friends in Christ, may you please remember our choir. The choirmaster is working tirelessly with his students to give our college a brand. Once again thank you so much for the wonderful work you are doing.

Our students did well in their exams with a marked improvement in Maths. Generally, the pass rate is improving bit by bit and even the calibre of students coming to join us has become better.

Mrs Nhuta is our new School Head.

Thank you so much and God bless you all. Kuda, Deputy head

*It is important to realise that the school still operates with a huge shortage of text books and all other equipment we take for granted in the UK. It is good to see the new classroom is painted, furnished and has an essential substantial chalkboard.* (ed)

**The UK visitors** last year raised funds to buy some text books

and new bunk beds.

**Please can you help**

Is there a secondary school or group of friends who would like to sponsor a student’s 2 year A level course? This amounts to less than £1000 per student to cover school and exam fees and stationery for 2 years.

**FoMRCH monthly remittance**

Unfortunately we have had to reduce our monthly remittance to the Home by US$1000 and this needs to be reversed. We don’t ask for increased donations because we know people give what they can but can you – gift aid your donation, set up a standing order, (£5 per month is the cost of 2 cups of coffee and is a useful annual amount) or recruit one more supporter to join the Friends?

You can now donate, download gift aid and standing order forms or arrange sponsored fundraising on our website.

**FoMRCH 20th anniversary2016**

To celebrate can you have a special event for MRCH – coffee day, wine and cheese evening, garden party, nearly new sale, bake sale, lunch, silent auction. Will you tell us about it for this newsletter. You will receive more information soon.

Look at our “how you can help” page on the website

**On Being your Secretary.**

After 10 years, and having passed my 80th birthday, I have decided to make way as Secretary for a younger person. It has been a pleasure and privilege to do this job not least because of the excellent work done by the Chair and Treasurer which has made it so much easier.

My Wife and I were founder members of the Friends group in 1996 following a visit to MRCH in 1995 because we wanted to help the good childcare being provided at the Home, by providing Christmas presents for the children.

Over the past 20 years the operating conditions in Zimbabwe have changed enormously with food, power and water shortages plus unrest and currency problems. At the same time the external world has changed with the growth of communications so that a wider knowledge of what makes up our lives is now available to all. However throughout all these hardships and changes, the Matthew Rusike Children’s Home has provided good childcare and also significantly expanded its influence throughout Zimbabwe.

This tremendous success has been made possible by the energy and vision of the staff at the Home and by the donations sent by concerned outsiders, particularly ten years ago by you the Friends when we provided 80% of its funding. Now, when the Methodist church in Zimbabwe is providing strong support for childcare, we still give half of the external donations to the Home, about 25% of the total. The need for support is still very great as national conditions do not improve and Zimbabwe has had to appeal for international help, our efforts are still vital.

The Friends Executive committee is very experienced but we are always open to new faces and new ideas for continuing planning for sustained giving. I hope my replacement will enjoy the satisfaction I have had in working with the Friends and seeing the children of Zimbabwe thrive.

 John Richer

**Treasurer**

Sadly, due to pressure at work, we are also losing our treasurer, David Graaff. **Please consider if you are able to volunteer your expertise.**