



Scotland Malawi Partnership

Faith Links Newsletter 2018



A Warm Welcome to our Faith Links Newsletter 2018!

A very warm welcome to the SMP's 2018 Faith Links Newsletter! This year, we are delighted to deliver a special issue in time for our **2018 Buy Malawian** campaign.

Faith-based members form one of our 17 key areas of partnership and indeed many were instrumental in the founding of the Partnership itself. Recognising this, and the key role that faith-based members continue to play in espousing the values and principles that are at the heart of the people-to-people, mutually beneficial relationship between are two countries, this newsletter is motivated by three main aims:

- (1) To update our faith-based member community on just a few examples of some of the incredible work and projects being undertaken in Malawi by our dedicated members over the past year;
- (2) To welcome our faith-based members to our 2018 Buy Malawian campaign, and who are integral to its success; and
- (3) To provide a sense of overarching bilateral relationship and the continued support available from the SMP, including an 'ask' for YOUR input for our next **Faith Links Conference**.

Our faith community is at the heart of the Scotland Malawi Partnership's work, and therefore, we invite you to join us in the launch of our **2018 Buy Malawian** campaign, hosted between **the 5th and 19th March 2018**. We will need your support and participation to ensure that the campaign reaches out to as many people as possible, so that we can all celebrate our invaluable links with Malawi.

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Are YOU up to the CHALLENGE?

Competition:

We will be giving away a **HOLIDAY TO MALAWI** as part of the 2018 BuyMalawian campaign, with flights courtesy of **Ethiopian Airlines**, free tickets to the **LAKE OF STARS FESTIVAL** and a range of other prizes suitable for churches, faith community groups, as well as individuals.

We invite SMP members and the public to enter the campaign by taking part in one of four challenges, sharing their efforts on social media using the hashtag **#BuyMalawian2018 challenge**, by post to the SMP or email to the SMP:



The Walking Challenge

Take the walk of a lifetime and hike your way through Malawi, stopping off at the locations of Malawi's best food and drink products!

A *special web-tool* will be launched to allow people to track the distance they have walked over the two weeks, using their own pedometers, against the route of the Buy Malawian trail. Do this with your Sunday School groups, or all together as a community!



The Cooking Challenge

Can you host a dinner party for your friends and family using Malawian products? Can you host a *fairtrade Malawian tea-party* at your church or faith group?

Hosts will be encouraged to include information about the food they are eating, with producer case studies, and will in turn encourage guests to themselves purchase these Malawian products available locally.



The Talking Challenge

Can you deliver or host a presentation or talk at your church/faith group/community about Scotland-Malawi links and the amazing Malawian products that you can buy in the UK!



The Trade Challenge

Could you help sell Malawian goods to your own church, community group, neighbours, congregation, office staff in two weeks?

Groups will be encouraged to not just sell what they can but also share information about where they can get more of these products, encouraging individuals to keep buying.



Why 'Buy Malawian'?

In purely economic terms, Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with over half of its population living below the poverty line (less than £1/day PPP). While improvements in basic services such as health and education are clearly required, for any such developments to be sustained there is an urgent need for Malawi to grow and diversify its economy to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

One way to do this is to support farmers, entrepreneurs and small businesses in Malawi by buying, where possible, ethically-produced, fairly traded Malawian products here in Scotland. This supports the creation and sustainability of livelihoods for people right across the supply chain, from small-holder farmers in rural Malawi to retailers in Scotland. More than 94,000 Scots are actively involved in civic links with Malawi. The SMP hopes to harness the enthusiasm that exists across Scotland for these links to help drive sales of Malawian exports.

What does the *Buy Malawian 2018* campaign seek to achieve?

#BuyMalawian 2018 sets out to support the Malawian economy and develop the Scotland-Malawi relationship by:

- Raising awareness of, and building Scottish markets for, Malawian exports available in the UK;
- Promoting Malawi as a world-class tourism and cultural destination;
- Encouraging and supporting sustainable and ethical investment into Malawi;
- Developing a public and media narrative which associates 'brand Malawi' with quality;
- Identifying blockers to increased, sustainable and equitable UK-Malawi trade and mobilising structures across government, parliament, business and civil society to mitigate these challenges;
- Encouraging and supporting the c94,000 Scots with existing Malawi civic links to increase the impact of their individual partnerships by supporting the Malawian economy through their own spending power;
- Helping build a constructive synergy between the 'aid' and 'trade' agendas;
- Raising public awareness of, and support for, Scotland's longstanding friendship with Malawi.

Key Campaign Dates

Monday 5th March: Campaign Launch at Kirklandneuk Primary School

We will launch the campaign on the 5th March at Kirklandneuk Primary School, Renfrew, with the school's choir singing a selection of Malawian songs.

Wednesday 7th March: Malawi Cross Party Group and All-Party Parliamentary Group

We will have two concurrent meetings, joined by a live video link, of the new Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in Westminster and the Malawi Cross Party Group in Holyrood. This is, to our knowledge, the first time the two Parliaments have been linked in this way, with a joint meeting of sister APPGs/CPGs.

Sunday 11th March: Lake of Stars One Day Festival

The SMP is supporting a special one-day Lake of Stars Festival taking place at the Glasgow Art School on the 11th March. This is part of the world-famous Lake of Stars festival which takes place on the shores of Lake Malawi each September – one of Africa’s biggest and best cultural festivals.

Sunday 18th March: Church services marking Livingstone’s Birthday:

We encourage **churches and faith groups** across Scotland to have special services commemorating David Livingstone’s birthday, officially bringing the BuyMalawian 2018 campaign to a close.

Monday 19th March: Official close of campaign, David Livingstone’s Birthday

Further Information

Please read on for:

Welcome Statements from Vera Kamtakule, the Chief Executive of the Malawi Scotland Partnership, and Kenneth R. Ross, Chair of the Scotland Malawi Partnership Board;

Member Updates from just a few of our dedicated faith-based members on their work in Malawi over the past year; and

Useful Resources for the Buy Malawian campaign, including a printable bookmark with The Lord’s Prayer in both Chichewa and English – distribute these on Sunday 18th March to help close the campaign!

You can always find more information on our website at www.scotland-malawipartnership.org.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing your participation in Buy Malawian 2018!



#BuyMalawian2018

5th-19th March

Welcome Statements

Vera Kamtakule

Chief Executive of the Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP)

Well over 85% of Malawi's 17 million people are Christians. It is argued that Malawi is a God fearing nation. Grant it, Malawi has its share of negativity, but largely, the larger part of the population is comprised of people of faith. This faith is evident in the resilience of the people in the face of social ills like corruption, human right abuses, drought and various kinds of natural disasters. They face these issues with a sense of hope that one day things will be better. In the past 10 years we have witnessed an emerging shift in people's perceptions over local and indigenous things previously regarded as primitive. Malawians now enjoy local food, traditional/herbal medicine and local music by Malawian artists. Coupled with government's initiative to promote the local industries through the 'Buy Malawi Campaign' many small to medium scale businesses have been exposed both locally and internationally.



There is a wave of a sense of pride in supporting local businesses in Malawi. This can be attributed to the fact that when you follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, his mission was based on Love. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 verse 13 saying elevates the position of love in our lives when he says, "and now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love". Indeed one cannot claim to love God if they do not love their neighbor. The Malawi of today is now characterized by people who would stand up for the rights of others irrespective of whether or not they are related e.g. the rights of people living with albinism; meaning that what happens to one, happens to all.

Love is a powerful force that drives people to do things they would otherwise not do ordinarily. On this basis therefore, Malawians believe that by supporting locally produced items, they are not only promoting the businesses themselves, but they are making a significant contribution towards the reduction of poverty as this results in job creation in their beloved nation. Additionally, since the money involved circulates within the country, it is evenly distributed to make a notable contribution to the country's economy. It feels that much better to buy locally produced peanut butter from a widow next door than to buy an imported alternative at a higher price. Whether all this can be contributed to people's faith in God, is another thing, but one thing is for sure, God takes care of His own through people!

Kenneth R. Ross

Chair of the Scotland Malawi Partnership Board (SMP)

Malawi, Scotland and a Passion for Fair Trade



“Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land.” (Isaiah 5:8) The prophetic tradition of the Bible has long been alert to the exclusionary dynamics that can shape an economy, with disastrous effects. In today’s global economy Malawi is one country that could easily lose out as these exclusionary dynamics come into play with a vengeance. As a land-locked country in the heart of Africa it is not well placed to connect with the global trading system. Since this is shaped by powerful countries and multi-national conglomerations, it tends to have little regard for enterprising Malawian producers.

One way to counter such a destructive tendency, is to encourage Malawian trade by buying Malawian goods. The 2018 Buy Malawian campaign makes available a fantastic range of Malawian products – the finest of tea, the most flavoursome coffee, the tastiest of groundnuts and many more. Not only will you get an enviable product but you will be making one more contribution to redressing the balance in Malawi’s trading relationship with the rest of the world.

The Buy Malawian campaign will launch on 5th March 2018, and close on the 19th with the birthday of Dr David Livingstone. I remember being in Malawi in 2009 when the celebrations were being planned for the 150th anniversary of Livingstone’s arrival in the country. Traditionally, Livingstone had been identified with the “three Cs” – Christianity, commerce and civilisation (what we now call development). In seeking to set this in a modern idiom it was suggested that “Gospel, peace, freedom” would be a good slogan capturing Livingstone’s legacy.

Everyone seemed happy with this suggestion. Then someone said, “What about fair trade? Did David Livingstone not stand for fair trade?” Immediately everyone agreed – this was a point that had to be added so it became a four-point slogan – “Gospel, peace, freedom, fair trade”.

When we eventually got to the stadium in Blantyre the huge crowd that gathered to celebrate the Livingstone anniversary roared their approval of the processions, the drama, the dance, the singing and the speeches. But the loudest roar was reserved for the point about fair trade.

This brought it home to me how much Malawians today still feel excluded from opportunities to trade fairly. They looked back to Livingstone and his determination to replace the slave trade with legitimate commerce as a continuing inspiration. They look to the Scots of today, Livingstone’s descendants, for solidarity as they continue to seek trade justice. Each packet of tea, each bag of coffee that we buy represents another small step towards meeting this deep longing for justice.

Responsive Prayer

- Leader:** For the bonds that unite Scotland and Malawi
- All:** We offer thanks and praise
- Leader:** For inspiring friends from Malawi
- All:** We bless your holy name
- Leader:** For all in Malawi trapped in poverty;
- All:** We pray for freedom and fullness of life.
- Leader:** For all those with insufficient income;
- All:** Bring creative new ways of earning a living.
- Leader:** For the Malawi Government, short of resources
- All:** We pray for visionary leadership and good governance
- Leader:** For Scotland seeking to partner with Malawi
- All:** Grant respect, solidarity and resourcefulness
- Leader:** For the campaign to Buy Malawian
- All:** May it may bear witness to your justice
- Leader:** For we bring our prayers in Christ's name. Amen

Collect

As we make our Lenten journey, grant that we may be in solidarity with all who suffer deprivation and injustice through unjust trading rules. Inspired by Jesus, may we take every opportunity to let our lives be good news for the poor. Especially we remember friends in Malawi whose human dignity is at stake. Unite us in seeking the justice and freedom promised by our Lord on the tough path that he trod. For we make our prayer in his holy name. Amen



Updates from our members

INNERLEITHEN, TRAQUAIR AND WALKERBURN – SCOTTISH BORDERS

Seven members of the community and Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn church visited Malawi in October 2017 to strengthen the congregational partnership established 9 years ago with Thondwe church, part of the Presbytery link between Peebles, Melrose and Zomba. The trip aimed to build on the 2016 visit to Scotland by Rev Picklen Chafulumira when a 5-pillar action plan was co-created, and Twinning committees established.

The purpose was to:

1. Experience and learn from the Malawian culture of worship by participating in two services and understand how both congregations might benefit from the partnership.
2. Meet members of the Thondwe church congregation leading the capacity building programmes related to the 5 pillars of the action plan namely health, education, economic empowerment of women and agriculture diversity.
3. Participate in the opening of a Primary School library funded by our local Rotary club and built by the Thondwe church community.

During our ten days in Malawi we participated in group activities with our partners and arranged individual programmes according to each team member's expertise. This resulted in contributing to two lively church services, a joint visit to a Game Park, a celebration of our national dishes on World Porridge Day and sponsoring a local football derby match where we provided the kit!

In support of our 5-year plan much of the time was also spent on fieldwork and research visits to the 2000 pupil school, a local health clinic and many start – up businesses that we created together. With so many of the community poor sighted we also organised and distributed 40 pairs of new glasses donated by an optician in Peebles to match prescriptions following eye tests by a Malawian ophthalmologist. Two young people with medical conditions were introduced to us and both have now been given professional assessments and treatment pathways to aid their recovery. To support girls education we collaborated with the charity Peebles Days for Girls to produce 50 washable menstrual hygiene kits which were distributed after the church service, together with a short health education workshop.

One of the highlights was celebrating the official opening of a library funded by the local Rotary in Innerleithen and built by the Thondwe community. It also contains a reading room and staff room with computer and printing facilities. A solar electricity system was installed which makes it the only public building within an area of two miles to have lights on. It will gradually be used for community purposes.

Much is being planned for 2018 with new business start-ups including welding and egg production, stronger school links and the visit to Scotland by a group of young people.



ISLAMIC RELIEF

Islamic Relief's One-to-One Orphan Sponsorship is a global programme that allows individual donors to sponsor an orphan and their family, ensuring all the child's needs are met. Currently, over 55,000 orphaned children are sponsored by Islamic Relief donors around the world. You can find more information about our programme on their website.



Also, Islamic Relief Malawi is working in partnership with The Humanitarian Academy for Development, KR Foundation funded Action on Climate and Consumption project implemented by Islamic Relief Malawi, as part of raising awareness and taking initiative on the project, Islamic Relief Malawi took part in the National Tree planting exercise at Namasimbo Primary School in Nancholi area, Blantyre as of Friday 19.01.18. In collaboration with Smuth Forum, 1,000 seedlings were planted around the school and surrounding areas for reforestation purposes. The area's Chief, Counsellor from the Government of Malawi, PTA committee, School Head Teacher, and community members, were among many other significant stakeholders who came to show their support. The benefits of tree planting are numerous, and we anticipate a positive impact on climate change with such collective efforts. Taking advantage of the rainy season, Islamic Relief Malawi will try and plant as much trees as possible, involving everyone and reminding people that its every person's responsibility to plant at least three trees every year and looking after the trees so as to make sure growth is monitored. We urge you all to take action on climate change and consumption, from planting and conserving trees to mitigating pollution of all sorts as well.



January 2018 – National tree planting at Namasimbo Primary School, Nancholi

ST BERNADETTE'S MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

Following the close of 2017, a huge message of thanks to all of you from The Malawi Partnership Team.

Prayers & Masses have been offered in Namulenga throughout last year for our parishioners who have been ill or have died. Prayers & Masses have been offered in St. Bernadette's Motherwell for our whole partnership community and recently for two Namulenga teachers injured recently in a serious road accident. Both are recovering well.

Student Sponsorship - 17 new Form 1 students now have sponsors thanks yet again to the wonderful generosity of you, our parishioners. That's a total of 95 students being sponsored by our community. We continue to exchange letters & cards at Christmas & Easter.

50/50 Club - Thanks to your £5 each month, with the support of Mary's Meals, we have used half the money to fund the feeding of 250 little ones aged 3 - 5 yrs daily each month since January 2015. Also don't forget that every month one lucky parishioner wins the rest of the money & we always post the winner's name on the noticeboard in the church. What a difference your £5 a month makes!!!

Namulenga



Dairy Farming Project - Thanks to your recent generosity we have £2500 to buy 5 dairy cows. In Namulenga, they are building a Kraal for the cattle and members of the community are being trained to take care of the animals. They will notify us when all this is done, we will then release the funds to buy the cows. All money raised from this project will be used to support the orphans and vulnerable children in the community.

Recently, we have been fortunate to be linked in partnership with a gentleman who has visited Namulenga and worked with the students in our ASN classroom. Anand has sent us wonderful photos & videos of the fantastic work being done thanks to your support.

And finally, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Lisbon Lions winning The European Cup in 1967, The Celtic Foundation raised money to allow Mary's Meals to build 67 brand new school kitchens in Malawi. One of those 67 kitchens is being built right now in Namulenga - Another Triumph for the Partnership between our two communities.

Namulenga sends you heartfelt thanks! Have a wonderful new year!

The Presbytery of Ayr is twinned with Bandawe and Limphasa Presbyteries of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Northern Malawi



PRESBYTERY OF AYR

The Presbytery of Ayr shares a report on their recent visit to their twinned Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod – Bandawe and Limphasa Presbyteries.

Background and Purpose of the Visit

The Covenant of Partnership between the Presbytery of Ayr and Bandawe and Limphasa Presbyteries of the CCAP in rural Northern Malawi began in 2004 when a World Mission team, including a minister from the Presbytery of Ayr, visited Malawi just after a very poor harvest.

The story of the traumatic experience of seeing many people virtually starving led to a Presbytery of Ayr team visit in 2006 to determine how best to help and the Presbytery Partnership Agreement has been in place since then. Subsequent team visits have taken place in 2008, 2010 2012 and 2014, as part of the Partnership Agreement to visit every other year. We have also welcomed our Brothers and Sisters in Christ here to Scotland on occasion.

The Covenant has encouraged individual churches in the Presbytery of Ayr to Twin with individual churches in our two Partner Presbyteries. This has worked very well and the team visits are to help sustain, develop and strengthen these links and to manage the specific projects we support.

In addition to informed prayers, the areas identified to help the local communities include: churches – people and church buildings; orphans – orphan care centres and nurseries; widows – widows associations; education – primary and secondary school and a school for the deaf; health – clinics and hospitals and; the need to achieve long term sustainability.

The 2017 visiting team comprised of Julie Griffiths, Alloway Parish Church, Fiona Ferrans, New Cumnock Parish Church, Bill Duncan, Alloway Parish Church, Bill Weir, Troon Portland Church, Rev. George Fiddes, St. Nicholas Parish Church, Prestwick, Beth Whittington, Ballantrae Parish Church and Linda Bryson, Kingcase Church, Prestwick.

The purpose of this visit was to strengthen and develop the Presbyteries twinning and relationships, and the many supported projects in the districts of Limphasa and Bandawe. The team would focus on the practical and prayerful support of the Presbyteries, and how Ayr Presbytery might support this work in the future.

Programmed Activities

The visit was from the 23rd May until June 7th, including travelling time. The itinerary included: a visit to the Synod Office in Mzuzu; visits to the two Presbytery offices at Limphasa and Bandawe and attendance of Presbytery meetings, visits to ten churches linked to Ayr Presbytery and many Prayer Houses, including one along the banks of Lake Malawi; visits to several schools, nursery schools, orphan care centres, widows association, clinics and hospitals; visit to a Church of Scotland HIV project at Ekwendeni Mission Station; spend time in the homes of our partners and of friends made on previous trips; pay our respects at the graves of Scottish missionaries to this beautiful place and to take part at several church services, with team members preaching.

We took out medical supplies, mobile phones, Communion cloths, church banners and pulpit falls, discipleship course materials, USB sticks from twinned congregations here with information about their congregations and activities, items of clothing, bags of buttons, toys, pencils and various other gift items. In addition we took project funds from a variety of sources and fundraising activities.

All aspects of the itinerary, and more were covered.

Highlights

There were very many highlights during the trip and they included:

- The warm and affectionate welcome at the Presbytery meetings of Limphasa and Bandawe and meeting new Ministers. The Ministers from all of the congregations as well as Session Clerks from all of the presbytery congregations had made a huge effort to come and welcome the 2017 team. Each presented gifts to the team and shared stories and greetings from their churches.
- Taking part in worship on the two Sundays whilst we were in Malawi. It was a privilege to have some team members preach for Ascension and Pentecost.
- Travelling in a small fishing boat along Lake Malawi to visit Sange prayer house only accessible by boat. We were met by many children singing "I have decided to follow Jesus". To see the small buildings full of worshippers and church members all singing and dancing to celebrate our arrival was so moving.
- Watching the team simply playing and laughing with, and spending time with many, many orphans, sharing God's love, will be a highlight.
- Visiting the Church of Scotland HIV project at Ekwendeni Station, learning about their many projects and how they support young people and their families after diagnosis as well as their youth diversion work, was excellent.
- Before worshipping at Old Bandawe church, we proceeded to the graves of Scottish Missionaries, and laid wreaths made for us by the Women's Guild.

- Our team leader being inducted into the Women’s Guild of Malawi and presented with her uniform.
- Naming a baby at Ekwendeni hospital for a young Mum, who had had a difficult delivery, but was honoured to ask us to name her baby boy. Our choice, Alpha (First born).

Memorable Stories

- Visiting projects supported by the churches here and being able to bring back news of success after success.
- Spending time with old friends, and given the opportunity to meet and make friends with many more of these wonderfully warm people.
- Hearing of the success rate of the work of “God Cares, Girls not Brides” – they have been working near the City of Mzuzu with many schools and encouraging the girls to stay in education and not be married young. Whilst the law in Malawi has now changed to marriage from 18 years, this is difficult to police, and many young girls are forced by their families into early marriage. GNB give them school uniforms to fit in. To hear that at one particular school the drop-out rate had reduced from 10% to just 1% this last school year, was fabulous!
- To see a water diversion project at Bandawe All Girls Secondary School, funded by Alloway Parish Church. This project saves the school enormous sums of money. 1,000,000 Mwk/month was their water charges for last school year; these have been reduced significantly to 300,000mwk this year! A saving equivalent to £630 per month!
- To spend time at the girls school in the new dining hall and kitchen, and to hear that the community are able to use it for a small charge for events like marriages etc, raising income for the school.
- To see the evidence of the projected good harvest for 2017 – an answer to prayer!
- Spending time at Kavusi Clinic. A new purpose built clinic for the community who live too far away from the hospital. Also to see medical supplies previously packed up by the Presbytery and sent to stock the medicine cupboards.
- Travelling along the Lake with the Minister of the congregation Rev Margaret Kilemangero and the Presbytery Clerk, Rev Alick Mhone, and members of the Phiri Congregation, and been met by the children on Sange Prayer House. Whilst we had choppy waves travelling back to Nkhata Bay, the feeling and presence of God was amazing! Travelling in His Creation – seeing the moon and stars so clearly and magnificently lighting up the sky.
- Meeting new partner Ministers and hearing of their evangelism and pastoral support of their congregations, even though they had many challenges around transport.
- Being met at Pundu Prayer House by the congregation, laying tjenge on the floor and waving branches of leaves, reminding us of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- Seeing the love of God, as many widows associations and Women’s Guild members care for children.
- The exam success of girls at Bandawe Girls School. Twenty girls this year have been accepted into University! A record.
- Watching team member’s faces as they finally got to meet Malawians who they have been corresponding with and supporting for many years. Seeing the love shared between fellow Christians, who perhaps did not speak the same language, and yet the smiles and hugs were words enough.
- We were welcomed at Phiri congregation by its many church members with a social evening of dancing, singing and celebration. To watch one or two team members and their magnificent “Dad” dancing was an absolute treat.

- Getting closer to God and each other throughout the experience. Sharing tears, laughter and devotion was an experience that will never be repeated, even if we return; this was a unique opportunity between these seven wonderful people.
- To pray with the Head teacher of the Girls School on Bandawe station, following the recent death of a form 1 student to cerebral malaria. He talked of the most awful journey he had ever taken – to travel with her dead body back to her family, some four hours away from the boarding school, and to attend her funeral on the schools' behalf. A privilege to support him in prayer as well at the family of Chimchemwe Saka.

Lessons Learnt

We learned so much about faith, hope and love throughout our time in Malawi. Regardless of the deprivation and poverty that Malawians experience, their faith in God never diminishes. They appreciate all that is done for them by their partner churches here in Scotland.

There are many cultural differences, particularly in the treatment of women and young girls. We sometimes found this hard to witness, and yet it is important to be respectful at all times.

It is important that we continue to constantly monitor our partner projects and, God willing, to do so in person on a regular basis.

To appreciate what we have here. The facilities our churches and congregations enjoy. The wonderful homes we live in.

Seeing the effects of climate change was challenging. Roads have been devastated by flooding in recent years, leaving infrastructure fragile and under threat. This message will be shared with our congregations here. Every one of us has a responsibility to God's World, and its people of all Nations.

There was a feeling that the girls school had had all the support it needed; having heard of the sad death of a child of thirteen year old girl, talented, achieving and child of faith, God made it very clear that there is more to be done – the first being to supply new mosquito nets to each girl, and each teacher.

Achievements

- The team was able to visit the many projects our Presbytery supports, to evaluate them on behalf of the individual churches, and agree where support should focus next.
- Spending time with friends in Malawi, sharing life experiences and faith stories, growing the faith of the team. Wonderful daily devotions and linking them to the challenges we were facing each day. Listening to God and responding appropriately.
- Showing us all how privileged and fortunate we are to have families who love and care for us, and support us in so many ways.
- Supporting and loving each team member. Celebrating their individual gifts and talents and sharing them with our Malawian friends everywhere we went.
- Identifying future support projects and learning more about the work of the two Presbytery Clerks. Been able to discuss another "Alternative Gift Scheme" for the entire Presbytery here. We have previously done one for mosquito nets and for solar powered lights. We discussed at Presbytery meetings ideas for Christmas 2017 – so far being, seeds and fertiliser, food, school uniforms, school fees.

- We have tried to identify Malawian friends who may be able to visit Scotland and the partnership here. We spoke with previous visitors and asked how it was for them going back home. Their response was wonderful. They had seen the trip not for them, but for their partnership, and so they shared much news and many gifts, keeping little for themselves. These previous visitors had been identified on past trips, and so looking out again and choosing carefully is vital for a successful future visit.

Prospects/Actions for the Future

We have been asked by many organisations to give presentations and talks about the visit, enabling us to lift the profile of the Presbytery Covenant of Partnership, and all of the fantastic work the church partnerships have undertaken.

Congregations had asked us to look at specific projects that they are considering supporting in the near future. Many photographs have been taken, as well as detailed discussions, which will be reported back to them.

Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools, in the Parish of Alloway, have given much support to Bandawe Primary School over the past nine years. We brought back letters to pupils here in P5, 6 and 7. This relational work is so important to the continued partnership and linking of these very diverse education facilities. We have been able to feedback information from staff and pupils about how the support of our schools has greatly improved the learning environment in Bandawe, which in turn has increased the academic success of the school. We were able to identify future possible focuses for curriculum sharing and a possible visit from Alloway Parish Church to the schools in 2018 was discussed at great length.

Whilst visiting many nursery schools and orphan care centres, we left small gifts of pencils and colouring books for the children there, from the nurseries and schools here in the Presbytery. We will encourage our congregations to use their Chaplaincy to teach children here of children and their lives in Malawi. We will encourage Sunday Schools and Bible Classes here to form relationships and twinnings with the young church in Malawi – who would have much to teach us.

We brought back much information for twinned congregations here. Reports will be sent and photos shared. We will encourage new relationships – not just Minister to Minister, but Guild to Guild, Sunday School to Sunday School, Session Clerk to Session Clerk, etc etc.

Our love and passion for Christ has grown in us all. If we can help other congregations with potential or existing twinnings, we would be delighted to do so. Sharing information and experiences are vital.



Did you know...?

YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

This year is the Scottish Government's **Year of Young People 2018!** To celebrate, on 20th February, we hosted our very own **Youth Congress** at Hampden Park in Glasgow. We welcomed over 300 S3 to S6 students and their teachers from across Scotland to kick off a year packed full of events for the Year of Young People 2018, in partnership with our youth members.

The theme was **'Partnership in action – my views, my voice'**.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

At the Youth Congress, we kicked off our **Scotland-Malawi Video Competition**, where we invited young people across Scotland to create a video (no more than 90 seconds long) about Scotland's friendship with Malawi.

ENCOURAGE the youth in YOUR congregation, church, faith group, community to participate!

The video can be about a visit you have enjoyed to Malawi, a faith partnership, or just your take on what you think is so special about the friendship between our two countries. You can do it individually or in groups. We want to see what YOU think about the Scotland-Malawi relationship. What are your priorities? What story do you want to tell?

This competition is part of Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, so it is about taking the time to listen and celebrate young people's voice within Scotland's international work.

THE PRIZES

We are working with a range of media partners for the competition, each of whom have donated a very special prize for the competition: the chance for winners to come in to their studio/newsroom, learn first-hand how the Scottish media works, and make their own Scotland-Malawi news package, or write their own article! AND, more surprises in the spring for our winners... so stay tuned!

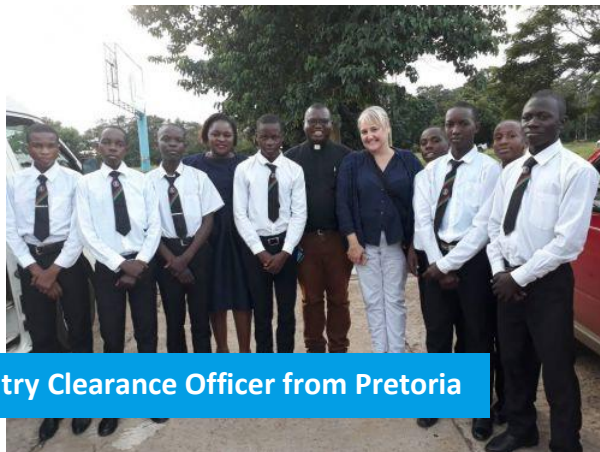
To enter, simply upload your video (max 90 seconds) to YouTube and email a link to events@scotland-malawipartnership.org no later than **1st April 2018**.

You need to make sure you have permissions from anyone featured in the film, especially young people, and permission to use any music featured.

FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE at www.scotland-malawipartnership.org.

Important information for members

VISA SUPPORT



St Patrick's Minor Seminary, MaSP and an Entry Clearance Officer from Pretoria

NEWS STORY

A long-planned UK visit of pupils and teachers from St Patrick's Minor Seminary in Rumphi, as part of their partnership with St Benedict's High School, was rescued from near-cancellation after a heroic effort by both schools, the UK Government, the Scotland Malawi Partnership and our sister network the Malawi Scotland (MaSP).

On Thursday 8th February, three working days before travel, the school in Rumphi was informed by letter that the UK visas had been rejected. Within just a few hours the SMP had been informed and two Scottish MPs, Patrick Grady MP and Gavin Newlands MP, raised the matter in the main chamber of the House of Commons. The SMP wrote to the UK Government within minutes of being informed of the decision and, all credit to UKVI, the decision was reversed within an hour of receipt of the letter.

However, this still left the serious practical problem of getting the group's passports from Rumphi to Pretoria – as UK visas cannot be stamped anywhere in Malawi, not even by the British High Commissioner. The Rector of the St Patrick's Minor Seminary drove the passports later on Thursday the six hours down to Pretoria where they were couriered to Pretoria on Friday.

There was insufficient time to have the passports couriered back from Pretoria, without risking the school group missing their flight. So a committed Entry Clearance Officer at Pretoria personally flew with the passports to Lilongwe to deliver them in person.

MaSP were able to collect the passports and facilitate a meeting between the Entry Clearance Officer and the school group in Lilongwe, pictured, to tell the official more about their forthcoming visit and pass on their thanks.

The group of school children and teachers travelled out on the 13th February and enjoyed a two-week visit to Scotland as part of their school partnership with St Benedict's High School.

Members are reminded that the SMP can assist with their UK visa applications, as we have strong channels to offer direct support, but we need to be contacted before the applications are complete. Please contact David@scotland-malawipartnership.org as early as possible in the process.

FURTHER SMP SUPPORT

At the Scotland Malawi Partnership we aim to support our members' capacity in as many ways as possible. This can include **support with visas for Malawian visitors to the UK**; **free training** through us; **signposting to training from other organisations** that may be of use; **Chichewa language and culture classes**; and much more!

Some upcoming opportunities that may be of interest:

- ✓ For members who are keen to strengthen their safeguarding policies and procedures in light of recent events: The SMP is looking to deliver a free training course for members in this area in the coming months. If you would like to express an interest in attending such safeguarding training, or support in developing a Safeguarding Policy, please email kathy@scotland-malawipartnership.org
- ✓ Chichewa language and culture classes: courses due to run in May in Glasgow and Edinburgh, please email grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org to express your interest
- ✓ Communications training: our Media and Comms Officer, Jackie, offers training in all aspects of communications, from dealing with media enquiries to using social media to telling your impact stories through video. Trainings can be in groups or one-to-one in our Edinburgh offices. To express interest in any of these areas, contact Jackie@scotland-malawipartnership.org
- ✓ Scotland's International Development Alliance is holding a [training day](#) on 8th March, covering topics such as fundraising, GDPR / data protection, and communications. Members of the Alliance attend for free, non-members £100

We're also keen to listen to what support you would like. If you have any requests or ideas, please don't hesitate to email **Kathy, our Member Services Manager** at Kathy@scotland-malawipartnership.org, or **Grace, our Member Services Officer**, at grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org, or give us a call on **0131 529 3164**. Grace is responsible for all faith links and our faith-based community at the SMP, so please contact her for any related support.

FAITH LINKS CONFERENCE

Our last Faith Links Conference in Giffnock, East Renfrewshire was an overwhelming success, and we are delighted to announce another one in the works this **summer 2018**! As agreed at the last Conference, we will be hosting one event in **Edinburgh**, and one regional event in **Aberdeen**.

Before we start planning, we want to hear from YOU!

Do you have a LOCATION in either Edinburgh or Aberdeen (or both) that you can offer for our Faith Links Conference? If so, please get in touch with Grace at grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org.

We are also keen to welcome HOSTS for our Faith Links Conference! So if you would like to put forward your church/faith group/community in either **Edinburgh** or **Aberdeen**, please contact Grace.

Available Resources

THE BANANABOX TRUST

The Bananabox Trust has now opened its doors at 11 Peddie Street, Dundee for the collection of goods to be transhipped to Ekwendeni in Northern Malawi.

This member charity will transport goods for other charities operating in Malawi. It also collects items for its own projects and to support hospitals and other institutions in country.

Bananabox Trust fully supports the SMP guidance on things that should/should not be sent. Its website (soon to be published) also contains helpful advice. Within these guidelines, the Trust accepts clothing, new knitting, tools, books, stationery, toys, medical equipment (but never drugs), household goods and so on.

The Trust can be contacted through Alan on alan.laverock@gmail.com.

Alan carried out various projects in Malawi - details on the Bananabox Trust website or sign up for eNews.

TALENT TRUST CONSULTANTS (TTC)

Talent Trust Consultants (TTC) is an organisation which specialises in providing insurance for faith-based groups and individuals. They only serve missionaries, church workers, or those with a primary focus on fulfilling The Great Commission. They offer long-term cover and outreach cover for those undergoing shorter-term assignments. For more information, you can visit their website www.talent-trust.com.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (CICHEWA & ENGLISH): PRINTABLE BOOKMARK

The bookmark of The Lord's Prayer in Chichewa and English, which you can distribute to all members of your faith community throughout the Buy Malawian Campaign, and especially on **Sunday 18th March** to help us close the campaign in celebration of David Livingstone's birthday.



**Cut around the dotted lines to
create your own bookmark!**



Pemphero la Ambuye

Atate wathu wa kumwamba,
dzina lanu liyeretsedwe,
ufumu wanu udze,
kufuna kwanu kuchitidwe,
monga kumwamba chomwecho
pansi pano.

Mutipatse ife lero chakudya chatu
chalero,
ndipo mutikhulukire ife machimo
athu,
monga ifenso tiwakhulukira
otichimwira,
musatitengere ife kokatiyesa, koma
mutipulumutse ife kwa woipayo.

Chifukwa wanu uli ufumu ndi
mphamvu ndi
ulemerero wa nthawi zonse.

Amen



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen

94,000
Scots &
198,000
Malawians
involved

74%



of Scots
support
Malawi
links

46%



of Scots have
a friend with
a Malawi link



2 million

Malawians
directly
benefit

£40
million
from
Scottish
communities



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU?

Please contact **Grace**, our **Member Services Officer**, at grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org for all ideas, suggestions, or input on meeting your support needs.

OUR ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

As this is an annual newsletter, we want to hear **YOUR** updates! If you'd like your story to be included, a resource advertised, or event published, please email Grace at grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org by **DECEMBER 31 2018** to be included in the **2019** newsletter!

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