

What a challenging 8 months across the world! We hope you're all keeping well and safe. Here is an update of Home of Hope's year so far. We are sending out more regular updates in email form so please subscribe to our mailing list by going to <https://tinyurl.com/yxuv4jc8>.

COVID-19 and Home of Hope

Malawi, like the rest of the world, has been affected by the current pandemic. Thankfully, numbers of deaths and infections are comparatively low. Official figures for Covid-19 in Malawi on 9/11/20 were 184 deaths and 5948 identified cases.

The Home was affected early on as the Government stipulated that schools must close from the 23rd March and not return after the Easter break. All children, apart from around 100 who have no surviving family or village links, went home. Now, in early November, most students have returned to the Home to continue their education.

Fundraising

The last 12 months have seen a great fundraising effort from supporters and Trustees. A film night screening of the inspiring and emotive *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (detailing the story of a young entrepreneur from Malawi) at St Johns and Leonard's Church Bedford and a Grease themed evening at Christ Church Bedford were hosted at the end of 2019. Later, a Disney-themed children's New Years Day party, craft and cake sales raised much needed funds for the home as did a very well-attended Zoom Quiz in the early days of lockdown. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all who participated in these events.



Plans for a Malawi Prom evening and an Afternoon Tea have had to be put on hold due to COVID 19 but we are brainstorming plans for socially distanced alternatives.

Other funds have been donated by our supporters in Jersey, the benefice of Cople, Moggerhanger and Willington and Christ Church Bedford. We have also had some Companies donate to capital projects at the Home of Hope.

2019 Christmas Appeal Building Toilet Blocks.

Thanks to amazing fundraising for our 2019 Christmas Appeal, money has been sent out to Home of Hope and used to build 16 Toilet blocks! Eight of these are for Primary School children, four are for Secondary School pupils and four are for Vocational Training Centre students. Government officials visited the school earlier this month and were very impressed at the provision. More taps have been installed, which obviously helps with hand washing and sanitation in a COVID climate.



Caregiver Toilets and Showers.

A UK Construction Company made a donation to cover the costs to build more toilets and showers for 2 of the caregiver homes, this will also provide more hand washing taps for the children and caregivers, which is very necessary with COVID 19. Originally they had 2 toilets and 2 showers for around 100 children and their caregivers. The work in progress will increase that to 16 toilets and showers.

Macadamia Trees

A new Macadamia tree nursery part funded by Malawi Orphan Fund and by the Neno Macadamia Trust has began cultivation. This will enable the Home to produce more macadamia saplings which they can sell for an income source or plant for themselves in a couple of years. Due to good management trees planted a few years ago are producing fruit earlier than expected at the Home.



Second Harvest

Thanks to the provision of the tractor last year and funding in 2020, 10 acres of Ebbe's farm have been cultivated out of season to plant for a second harvest of maize, beans, potatoes, onions, cabbages and tomatoes. These crops have now been harvested so that planting of the traditional harvest can start in November.



Protection for Education

This project is ongoing and thriving thanks to the efforts at Home of Hope led by Cynthia and Phiriani and fundraising in the UK headed up by long standing supporter Jo Addis. Pre Covid, Jo was selling beautiful tote bags and other crafts made in Malawi or using Malawian (chitenje) fabric at craft fairs. In the last month money has been sent to buy more soap and materials to make pads but also face masks to keep everyone at the Home safe. Please visit Protection for Education's social media to keep up with this wonderful initiative:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/protectionforeducation>

Instagram @protectionforeducation.



Engaging with supporters and raising awareness

Malawi Orphan Fund and Protection for Education were part of a Mission Day at St John's and Leonard's Church early this year to reach out to new supporters. To engage with our wonderful existing supporters, we also held our first Open Meeting, something we hope to continue when social distancing allows. We have also spoken in various Church services and during lockdown have provided a short video update to one Church. If this would be of interest to your Church please let us know.

Christmas Appeal - watch this space, information coming soon ...

Reflecting on the year so far some very exciting projects at the Home have been progressed. It is so marvelous to work and pray alongside the Home's amazing leadership team. They, like us, have faced new challenges which COVID 19 has thrust upon us all. We will continue to pray with, work alongside and support them as they look to share God's love with these young people and their wider community.

The Home of Hope Leadership team is very grateful for all the financial and prayer support they receive from their UK supporters. Thank you also from Malawi Orphan Fund.

Please do follow our social media channels to keep up to date with what's going on!

Malawi Orphan Fund

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MalawiOrphanFund> // Instagram: @malawiorphanfund

Home of Hope:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/homeofhopemalawi> // Instagram: @home_of_hope_malawi