

## Pastoral Care and Malawi

I will give a brief background to our supporting the congregation of St John's Church and Milala school, which is attached to the Church in Katolonji in Malawi.

A friendship has existed between the people of Scotland and the people of Malawi since 1859 when the people of Malawi extended a warm welcome to David Livingston and his companions.

The Scotland Malawi Civic Partnership was officially launched in 2004. On 3 November 2005, the Co-operation Agreement between the governments of Scotland and Malawi was signed and registered as a Scottish charity. Since then, the partnership has grown at an astonishing rate, as the national umbrella organisation supporting Scottish links with Malawi.

St John's Church in Largs set up the Africa Committee in 2007 to develop and support the partnership with their sister Church in Katolonji, also called St John's after the one in Largs. A millennium project had helped to build the Church and manse in Katolonji.

In April 2016, the minister of St John's Katolonji, Stenbridge Moyo, and the Head teacher, Freeman Phiri, visited our Church and Bible study group, as a result of which, goods and money were donated to the school, which has over 800 children, many of them orphans through HIV/Aids.

We have continued to send money every 3 or 4 months. The first sum of £320 provided, exercise books, reading books, pens, chalk and balls. The second sum of £450, sent at Christmas after a bad harvest and inclement weather, provided food for 100 orphans, iron sheets and nails for the roofs, and the third sum of £400 has provided 30 school uniforms for the most needy children, and writing materials for all the children.

The leader of St John's Africa Committee has recently returned from Katolonji, and he will arrange to come to Cumbrae and tell us all about his visit. He is presently making a film of the visit.

To date we have £144 which I plan to send, along with any further donations, in July. The whole community at Katolonji send their heartfelt thanks to the congregation of Cumbrae, for their generosity. St John's in Katolonji has a congregation of 2000, and 350 Sunday school children.

There is a donations box at the back of the Church every Sunday, and every penny benefits the children and community at Katolonji.

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