The Church of Scotland

Orkney ~ Malawi Partnership

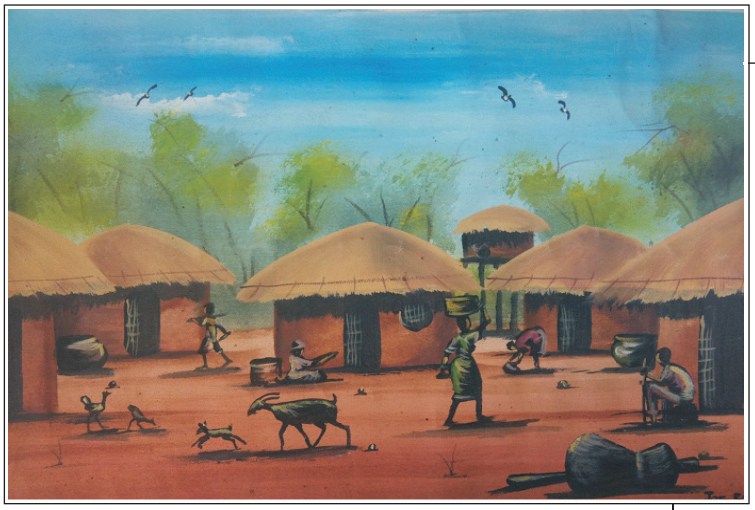
Update for congregations – October 2026

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS 2026

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!"

(from "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v2)

This year's Christmas gift card appeal is now launched and the form is overleaf. The Christmas appeal is now in its eighteenth year and has raised close to £100,000 since 2009 to support frontline projects in Malawi. For those who it's new to, the concept is very simple and gives you the chance to send someone a "gift voucher" card, which will support our partner congregations in the Thyolo Highlands of Malawi. Simply choose how much you'd like to donate, fill in the form and we will send you a lovely Christmas card / certificate (with envelope) acknowledging the donation so you can gift it to a friend. Alternatively, we can post it directly to them saying that the donation has been made by you on their behalf. All forms must be received by Monday 7th December and cards will be posted on Tuesday 8th December unless you request them earlier, in which case we will send as soon as possible (from early November). If you wish to send outwith the UK please ask for the card to be delivered to yourself. If you want it to be sent to different people it would help if you could complete a separate form for each one (copies are fine) or make the instructions very clear. Please just call the number on the back of the form if you've any queries … and, as always - thank you very much for your continued support.



Orkney - Malawi Partnership

A donation has been made on your behalf by

Betty & Fred Smith

to support the work of our Malawian partners
in the Thyolo Highlands Presbytery

Projects prioritised by our Malawian partners this Christmas season include:

teacher salaries and equipment (including desks, teaching materials and laptops for St. Magnus Secondary School,
Solar powered water pumps at borehole water sources,
teaching materials for nine primary schools (including seating, chalk and dusters)
urgent structural repairs to several Church and Manse buildings
amongst others

zikomo kwambiri
thank you very much

FUNDS TRANSFERRED

As usual the October issue is largely taken up with the current Christmas appeal but we're pleased to get the chance to report some funds transfers since the last issue came out in June.

On 22nd September Caroline transferred a total of £7,463, which comprised a £5,000 private donation specifically in support of the St. Magnus Secondary School, £650 from the congregation of Evie & Rendall, and a further £1,813 in private donations. On 29th September there was a further transfer of a £6,000 private donation specifically for the St. Magnus School Bursary Fund, which will help support pupils from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

We're also delighted that we now have ten people giving monthly donations totalling almost £400 per month. This helps hugely with planning and budgeting and we remain extremely grateful to all our supporters. If you would like to join the monthly givers or want to find out more about it please contact any of us mentioned below.

On 28th October Kelvin Matola (Partnership Co-ordinator) and Rev Aubrey Kaliwo (Presbytery Moderator) joined the Orkney Kirk Session meeting by video-link from Malawi to speak about their commitment to the partnership, future plans and to express thanks to all those who continue to support. It was a real privilege to have them with us.

The Orkney-Malawi Partnership Committee currently comprises Sally Bartkowiak, Caroline Butterfield, Alison Dickie, June Freeth, Iain MacDonald, Catriona Matheson, Liz McVicar, Elma Moar and James Watson. For details about the Partnership Committee's work or how to donate to any project please speak to any of the above or contact Iain on imacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk / 01857-677357.

If you'd like to support this year's Malawi Christmas Gift project, (details overleaf) please complete this form (separate details for each person if you wish us to post the gift cards) and post or e-mail to the address below by **7th December**.

Your name : .....Your address : .....

.....

.....Postcode : .....
essential for Gift Aid

Your phone number (in case we need to contact you about this) : .....
your details won't be shared with anyone.

Amount you wish to donate (in whole pounds) : £ .....
cheques should be made out to "Orkney Islands Parish" or bank transfer as below.

Name of person you wish the card(s) to be sent to : .....
just write "self" if you want it sent to you at the above address.

Address you wish the card(s) to be sent to : .....
if different from the address above.

.....

.....Postcode: .....

Number of cards you require if more than one : .....

Tick box if you want us to state the value of your gift on the card(s)? ☐
ie. "A gift to the value of £x has been made on your behalf by ..."



Please tick as appropriate:

I wish the card(s) to be sent as soon as possible ☐
or
I wish the card(s) to be posted on Tuesday 8th December ☐

I have enclosed a cheque made out to "Orkney Islands Church of Scotland" for the amount above ☐
Or
I have transferred the above amount to the account number 00833489 / sort - 80 08 66 ☐
and marked it "Malawi"

I am a UK tax payer and I wish this donation to be treated as Gift Aid ☐

Signature : .....Date :.....
if giving by Gift-Aid if giving by Gift-Aid

send to The Manse, Hilldavale, Westray, Orkney KW17 2DW
Further details from Iain on 01857-677357 or imacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

Remember - deadline for forms is 7th December

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Orkney Islands Parish is a charity registered in Scotland SC003099