

Malawi Birmingham Partnership

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Bishops of Birmingham, Lake Malawi, Northern Malawi, Southern Malawi and Upper Shire

Pentecost, 15 May 2016

We give thanks together for fifty years of the Malawi Birmingham Partnership and are grateful for Bishop Wilson, Bishop Arden and the early pioneers. We acknowledge our partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ and our sharing in the bonds of unity that link us within the worldwide Anglican Communion. We recognise with joy the spiritual riches that we find in each other and that are unlocked as we share them together.

We are thankful for all that Birmingham has been able to do for the practical support and development of the Anglican Church in Malawi. Our Partnership has reached across the gap between material abundance and material need. This help should be seen in the context of the wider support offered also by other Anglican charities and mission agencies. The main areas of support and particular instances include:

Education

- Teacher skills share teams offering interactive in-service training to Malawian primary teachers
- Gifts of educational materials, school books and furniture
- Renovation of teachers' houses
- Provision of loan guarantees for construction projects
- The 50th anniversary appeal to build classroom blocks

Health

- We give thanks for the link between Birmingham Children's Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Blantyre. As an expression of this link nurses have gone in each direction to give or receive training.
- Medical equipment and supplies have been sent on Birmingham containers.

Ministries

- Malawian clergymen coming to colleges in Birmingham for further ministry training
- Clergy exchanges and sabbatical visits in each direction
- Youth exchange visits
- Motor bikes provided for clergy at the diocesan centenary in 2005
- Lorries given to the four dioceses
- Mothers' Union prayer and vehicles

Administration

- Regular budgetary support to the four dioceses
- Training and equipment for Malawian finance officers

Cross Cutting Issues

- Relief aid
- Advocacy with UK government departments and in Parliament

For its part, Birmingham benefits from the blessings of being able to give support and offer mutual prayer and thanksgiving for each other's needs and joys. We recognise the need to infect the next generation with the joy we have discovered in this Partnership.

We seek to operate the Partnership under certain core principles. These are:

Sustainability. The Malawian Church is seeking to move from reliance on outside benefactors towards generating its own income, leadership and resources, and Birmingham undertakes to play its part in these developments.

Trust and Accountability. We recognise trust as an essential foundation of any partnership. At the same time we acknowledge that where resources are transferred, accountability and transparency are essential both to comply with charity law and to maintain the willingness and confidence of donors.

Relationship. Face to face meetings, fellowship and joint activity are vital expressions of our partnership in the gospel. These need to be supported by regular email contact.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." *Philippians 1.4-5*

Signed by

Rt Rev David Urquhart
Bishop of Birmingham

Rt Rev Francis Kaulanda
Bishop of Lake Malawi

Rt Rev Fanuel Magangani
Bishop of Northern Malawi

Rt Rev Alinafe Kalemba
Bishop of Southern Malawi

Rt Rev Brighton Vita Malasa
Bishop of Upper Shire