

Matilda's Malawi

Resources for Schools

This is a resource developed by teachers and designed for use in schools with KS2-KS3 children. It is designed to go alongside the Matilda's Malawi film which was made to celebrate 50 years of the Malawi Birmingham Partnership in 2016.

You can download the [film](#) and [PowerPoint](#) resources from:
www.cofebirmingham.com/matilda

Timings are given in mins: secs. A few sample questions are added - you will be able to think of others. Themes that crop up throughout the film are schools and the importance of education, especially for girls; and the Birmingham Link and how Malawians benefit.

Malawi is on some measures the poorest country in the world – certainly the poorest country in Africa that has not suffered a civil war. The background to the film is poverty and the resulting lack of resources, intermittent threat of famine and early mortality. Set against this is the persistence of hope, supported by the Christian faith of most Malawians.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM



Timings and Discussion Starters

00:58, 01:31, 01:33

WOMEN AS LOAD-BEARERS

Women and girls traditionally have the task of fetching water from pumps or wells. They carry it on their head using a cloth ring to balance jars of earthenware or nowadays, plastic. They may also carry clothing or food on their head. Babies are carried on their back – or if very young, on their chest.

DISCUSS:

What are these women carrying on their heads? Where to? Why, do you think?

Do you ever carry anything on your head?
Would it be hard?

02:40-03:04

COOKING THE STAPLE FOOD, NSIMA

Nsima, maize meal porridge, is the staple food of Malawi as of much of East Africa. It is the same shape as naan bread but white. It is almost tasteless and is eaten with vegetable 'relish' and – for those living near the Lake – small fish. Note that most houses do not have cookers - they cook over open fires with wood, resting the pots on three flat stones.

DISCUSS:

Would you enjoy eating food like that?
What would it taste like?

03:38-04:07 (Run-down), 04:20-04:54 (Rebuilt)

TEACHERS' HOUSES

Birmingham has financed the renovation of two of a group of 7 teachers' houses in Nkhotakota (the one shown in a run-down state is now completed).

NOTE that the 50th anniversary appeal 'Supporting Education across Malawi' is not for this project, but to build classroom blocks and a girls' boarding hostel.

08:55-09:00, 09:25-28

NURSERY SCHOOL

The nurseries and schools shown are examples of best practice in Malawi, as that is what Bishop David and his party were shown in 2014. Many schools and nurseries, including those to benefit first from the Supporting Education appeal, are very basic indeed.

09:00-06

WATER PUMP

Most water comes from boreholes and may not be very safe or high quality. It may need boiling before using for drinking. Only some houses in towns have running water, and hardly any in villages.

Continued overleaf...

11:10-11:37

TEENAGE GIRLS, PREGNANCY AND THEIR FUTURE

Matilda Chirwa's words are very thought provoking for top juniors and secondary learners.

Primary education, which may run to age 14, is now free and notionally universal, though many drop out of it. But this has had little effect so far on the high rate of teenage pregnancies. This may reflect the lack of employment or alternative opportunities for girls.

15 year old Matilda is not a typical Malawian teenager. Secondary education in Malawi is selective and fee-paying; most children's education ends with primary school. Matilda is physically very small, possibly because malnutrition in her early years has left her 'stunted' like many Malawians. Her parents cannot afford to pay her school fees. But she is clever and highly motivated – she comes to classes seven days a week.

12:43-13:08

A MALAWI CONTAINER BEING LOADED IN BIRMINGHAM

Containers go each year, taking gifts of quality used items including school textbooks, stationery and school furniture. To find out more about containers, please look at www.cofebirmingham.com/malawi/malawi-containers

14:20-30 (Fruit picking)

14:50-16:03 ('Demonstration garden' - a small farm)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Malawi is a densely populated country by African standards. The population is 16m, rising rapidly. Agriculture is rain-fed and there is pressure on land and water resources, so the danger of hunger is always present. It is feeling the effects of climate change. The combination of severe flooding and drought in early 2015 means that many Malawians are likely to go hungry in 2015-16.

16:45-16:55 and 17:15-17:30

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

The Anglican Church runs five rural hospitals. The government also runs hospitals, including the one in Blantyre mentioned by Bishop David.

18:15-20:02

ORPHANS, THE NEED FOR ORPHANAGES AND THE CHURCH'S CARE

There are about 1 million orphans in Malawi. The orphan problem is caused largely by HIV/AIDS, mentioned twice in the film, which kills adults in their years of reproduction and child rearing; and also by malaria. Many families are enlarged by children from other branches of the family whose parents have died.

22:34-43

SMALL BOAT ON LAKE MALAWI

There is a lot of fishing from small boats on the lake, but over-fishing is leading to declining catches.

24:10-20

MATILDA ON THE VALUE OF THE BIRMINGHAM LINK

Find out more at: www.cofebirmingham.com/matilda

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