

Stonehouse

Better World

2006

Forming a
Community Link with Malawi!

Stonehouse Community Christmas Card
(St Ninian's Parish Church Link magazine)

*A very big thank you for supporting this venture
for the passed couple of years. Out of little
acorns oak trees grow...*



Without your encouragement we would not be in the position of where we are now in regards to becoming a community that works together for the benefit of the wider world.

Under guidance from Rev. Paul Grant, inspired by local business owner Bobby Brown and encouraged by St Ninian's Parish Church Link Magazine. We have merged together ideas and **Stonehouse Better World** has been formed. With the support of the Church of Scotland, the group have set up a link with a project in Mulanje in Malawi. Not unlike us, here in Stonehouse, it has a hospital, a primary and a secondary school, a church and a factory that makes a type of porridge from locally grown crops.

The children in our primary schools in Stonehouse are going to begin an Internet link with children in Mulanje. The "link" with Malawi is to be one of mutual understanding, how global issues affect us all. What little things can we do to support others? It is not merely a fund raising charity. It is our intention that local businesses large and small are also involved.

The vision is that we truly have a community link with Mulanje.

With your support we have now passed the starting line and are on our way to developing something positive, something good, something to cherish our own relationship with a little bit of Malawi. This is what dreams are made of at this time of year, thank you for playing your part by supporting the community Christmas card and building firm foundations for a Better World Team to develop.

In the New Year, look out for posters in our local shops to keep you informed of Stonehouse Better World Developments. Meanwhile on behalf of the Stonehouse Better World team, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Margaret McMeekin



In the footsteps of David Livingstone, we continue to form links with Malawi in Africa. Today there are thousands of Scots working with their friends and colleagues to try to help build a better future for the people of Malawi. Stonehouse is now part of this movement recognised by Scottish Executive and the Church of Scotland Edinburgh.

*Festive Fun, Seasons Greetings too
From Kenneth Greener, Solicitors
And his happy helpful crew
Full of festive cheer (as usual)
Best Wishes for Xmas and the coming
year.*



David Livingstone was brought up in Blantyre, not far from us here in Stonehouse. Why not visit the Heritage Centre there one day?
It is truly worth a visit.



Merry Christmas and happy New Year.
Hope the season finds you in good
cheer!

Best Wishes from Avon Turf

In the 1870s two groups of volunteers from Scotland arrived in Malawi, one to start the work of the Livingstonia Mission and the other to start work at Blantyre. The work at Blantyre expanded and moved outwards to Mulanje. **This is where we pause to support the people of the Mulanje Mission.**

Margaret McQuade,
20 Caledonian Ave,
Sends Seasons Greetings
to one and all.



Malawi is known as the **'Warm heart of Africa'** because of its friendliness and generosity of its people to strangers and visitors. In many cases the generosity is a demonstration of real Christian love, which evidences itself in the sharing of the resources God has provided, however small these may be.



We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
we wish you a Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.
From the staff, parents and pupils
of Stonehouse Primary

Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Recent famines, the onslaught of HIV/AIDS, trade injustice and corruption have all combined to make life ever more difficult especially for the poor in Malawi.

Merry Christmas
And a peaceful New Year
From Gordon, Allison,
Gary and Jamie.



Corruption is by no means peculiar to Africa. There are many incidences of it in the Western world and these evils are adopted by those in power and authority in Africa making countries already poor even poorer. The withdrawal of aid to poor countries seldom has a major effect on those who are corrupt but has a devastating effect on those who are poor.



CHARITY.
HARVESTS
REWARDS
IF
SHOWN
TO
MANKIND
ALL
SEASONS

THE "SUNDAY WALKERS"

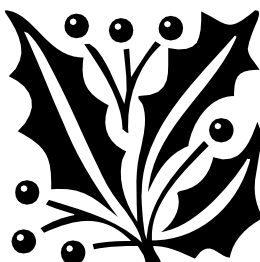


Malawi like many countries has a mountain to climb to get out of the poverty trap and become self-sufficient.

Best wishes to everyone for a
Happy Christmas and a good 2007
Morag Maclean



Despite major obstacles to national development, **Malawians are a resourceful and ingenious people.** Their ability to create copy or repair with next to nothing in the way of resources is amazing. There is little or no waste with everything being recycled or made into something useful.



Margaret and Alfie
would like to wish all our friends
a Happy Christmas and may
the Peace of God be with you all in 2007

A major weakness in the economy of Malawi is its dependence on a single crop for the survival of its people. Maize is the staple food crop for most of the country and with drought and flooding in recent years Malawi has found itself in the same plight as Ireland in the mid nineteenth century when the potato crop failed with devastating results.

JOHN CAMBELL
PLASTERER

Wishes you all a Merry Christmas
And a peaceful New Year!



Mulanje Mission, A Haven of Hope

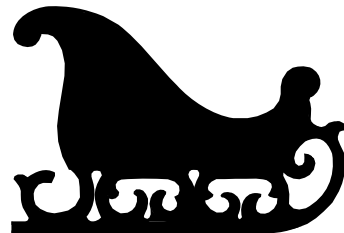
Out of the work of Scottish Missionaries came the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, which has had a major influence in the development of Malawi.



Thanks all customers for their continued patronage, wishing them a joyful Christmas and happy days in the year 2007. J Murdoch. High Class Groceries & Provisions, 20 Violet Crescent

At present the women's organisations are developing chicken rearing projects, which will eventually give an income to individual families.

The Cross Garage wish
all their customers a
very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year in 2007!



Mulanje Mission Hospital

A general hospital of just under 200 beds. There can be anything up to 60,000 out patients in a year as its primary health care covers over 70 villages in the area and because of its reputation many patients come from outside this area.

Being a rural hospital it is necessary to supply housing for as many staff as possible but this puts a strain on the finances. Plans have been drawn up for more staff housing.



Best wishes for Christmas and the
New Year to all our customers.
From Stonehouse Newsagents
18 Violet Crescent.

Beside the hospital there is a nursing college, which trains nurses, both female and male for health programmes throughout Malawi.

MOBILITY MATTERS and THE WATERPOINT



Helps the health and failing joint
We aim to please in any way
Brighten up someone's day
Our wish this Christmas and New Year
Health, Happiness and Good Cheer
To family, friends, patrons and more
Whether at home or on distant shore
Best Wishes from the **Law Family**



A dental clinic has also been established at the hospital with the help of different aid organisations. It is staffed by a Malawian trained dental therapist and offers a variety of services to the people of the district.

*Wishing everyone a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
and Healthy 2007!*

*From Everyone At
Whitelaws Coaches*



Our primary schools in Stonehouse are going to be communicating with the children in the primary school in Mulanje in 2007. We look forward to learning more about each other's cultures.



Christmas Blessings
from the
Willows Boarding kennel and Cattery



Global warming

Our relationship will raise our awareness of each situation in relation to global warming in order that we can create methods to support each other as this century unfolds.



May the spirit of Christmas fill your home
Long after the tree and the wrappings are gone.

Merry Christmas

R&G Hamilton

1 Trongate

Stonehouse.

The Mulanje mission also has a secondary school. There are gradual improvements one being a computer and a science lab.

David Baxter & Sons Ltd
Would like to thank all customers for
their business throughout the year
And very happy Christmas
and a peaceful New year is
extended to everyone.



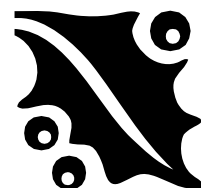
Likuna Phala Factory

Likuna pala is a porridge made from soya and maize flour and fortified with nutrients. The factory is run very efficiently mainly by women, but some of the machinery and the small truck need replacing. In 2006 the first crop of the soya beans was grown on land beside the factory.



Nanette hairstylist thanks all customers for their patronage and wishes them a very Happy Christmas followed by a prosperous New Year!

Hope the season finds you in good cheer
with best wishes from Kenny and Kay
K Kars



Mulanje Mission has become an important centre for the surrounding villages. A small local market has developed on Mission land. There is an urgent need for a more permanent solution and the provision of sanitation otherwise it will become a health hazard.



*May you be filled with
joy this Christmas
from all the staff at Split ends*

Lorna Greenslade,
Stonehouse Post Office,
sends Best Wishes
for Christmas and the New Year.



*The Staff, parents and pupils
of Newfield Primary send
Christmas greetings to
everyone in Stonehouse*

Peace and Blessings
to all my friends
in Stonehouse,
Bill Love
21 Dunlop Street
Strathaven



It is important that the development of the Mission is controlled by having a clear vision for the future translated into a plan, which can be implemented gradually. The Mulanje mission partnership Committee is committed to achieving, with the help of others a thriving community. The task is immense but the people of Mulanje have the ability to climb the mountain one step at a time.

Scotland and Malawi



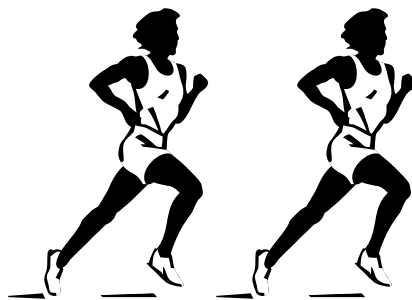
‘But it is ordinary Scots that will make a difference. Whether it is schools linking with each other to share their daily news, musicians and photographers learning about each other’s culture or local churches raising a few pounds for much needed textbooks.

The size of the contribution does not matter. What does matter is that the people of Scotland and Malawi will work together to make our two countries – and the world – a better place.’

The right Honourable Jack McConnell MSP.

¹First Minister of Scotland. (Scotland and Malawi Newsletter Issue 1)

At the time of going to print we have already had further interest from other local businesses willing to support the project. We are looking for anyone willing to run in marathons and also others with business connections and ICT skills.



If you would like to join us in our link with Mulanje in Malawi please contact:
Margaret McMeekin Tel: 01698 793 489.

¹ Extracts taken from: The Scottish Executive Scotland and Malawi
Newsletter Issue 1

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Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Mulanje Mission One Step At a Time brochure



Ecc 4: 9-10.

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up.

To all our readers and
supporters

Have a Very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year for
2007!



STONEHOUSE BETTER WORLD CHRISTMAS CARD 2006