

Tanga in Touch

Spring 2009

Supporting Tanzanian organisations:

- Taking computing skills to young people (and the not-so-young)
- Misufini Leprosy Care Centre
- St. Francis Parish, Mapinduzi, Tanga

PATRONS:

- The Rt. Rev. Michael Hooper, Bishop of Ludlow,
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Philip Baji, Bishop of Tanga
- The Rt. Rev. John Ramadhani

Registered Charity No. 1099877

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY?



Our visit to St. Mark's College. From left, Rev. Stanley Lichinga from St. Mark's, Sue Morris from Bromyard,, Christine Lyimo and Jasper Mallya,

*Phew, it's hot! For the first few minutes at the airport it is nice – but it is 7.30 a.m., and it soon gets even hotter ... and hotter. Mind you, the locals say it is much cooler than it was last month, so we were glad we did not arrive in March.

In Dar es Salaam we meet some old friends at the Ministry (of Livestock Development). I suspect that what they really want is more computers. Our next stop is St. Mark's Theological College – there are computers on the high seas for them, Somalian pirates permitting. They say they want 200. They are getting seven.

Another call, at TaTEDO, a technology organisation which encourages the use of solar power, fuel-efficient stoves and other green technologies.

Finally, some shopping for a friend who wants Tanzanian necklaces. Then time for food—a rather late business lunch with our Tanzanian friends. At last some time to relax and get an early night after not very much sleep on the overnight flight last night.

... and that is just the first day. No, it's not a holiday, but it is a nice change of scenery.

MUD AT MISUFINI!

This time, because of the rain, we did not manage to get to Misufini, the leprosy village. A car carrying food had got stuck the previous day. We had transport problems anyway and no chance of a 4WD, so did not try. Although friends are very kind and do find cars, we do not want to trespass on their good nature too much. The road to Misufini is bad. However, we do visit the Social Welfare office – officially in charge of the Leprosy Village. We have heard that there is to be a new person in charge at Misufini when Blandina retires. I would like to meet this man. If he is the right sort of person it could be a real step forward in the management of this underprivileged community.

Some of the goats, which were doing so well last year, apparently died of pneumonia during the winter.

A FRIEND IN AMBONI PARISH

We visited Fr. Henry Sheshe in his new parish of Amboni. This is another poor parish, but in what could well be a future tourist area. They have bought ten acres of land around a very scenic waterfall. There are also caves and sulphur springs in the parish.

Of course, if you get in a car to go somewhere, you have



ten passengers before you can say 'Jack Robinson'.

We heard about the parish's need for computers, sewing machines, a clinic and some means of providing work for women so that they can earn money to send the children to

*this was one of our bi-annual visits, in May 2009. Please see over.

... and ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM MAPINDUZI

THIS IS THE PARISH linked with Whitbourne. We have been supporting their projects since 2003, and have a Christmas Appeal each year to help their needy parishioners (see next page).

PROSPEROUS BUSINESSWOMEN—a result of our micro-finance scheme. In 2003 we sat with the women under the tree outside the church and they told us their problems. Not enough money to send children to school; children dying of AIDS; no 'voice'. In 2009 we sat under the same tree and we discussed the micro-finance scheme. Around seventy have taken out loans. Around fifty now have prosperous businesses. Having their own businesses has given the women a new confidence. They can hold up their heads, and their men respect them. AIDS in Tanzania is very slowly being conquered, by discussion—bringing it out into the open—and by education. I asked them what their problems are now. They could not think of any!

Below: some of the women who have taken out loans. Paulina makes clothes, Anna keeps pigs, Beatrice now has a fabric shop and Veronica's vegetable stall has paid for improvements to her house.



There have been some defaulters. One woman has cancer and cannot work. In any group of people there will be some who are naturally good business-women and some who are not. There are some who are so poor that any spare money goes to feed the grand-children (their parents having succumbed to AIDS) instead of repaying the loan. We have not yet solved the problem of how to deal with this.

The success of this scheme is largely due to having people there who can administer it—in this case the Church Council and our friend Pauline Mathias who does a lot of the donkey-work.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2008—THANK YOU!

Last Year's Appeal, in aid of orphans and other needy people in Mapinduzi, raised £800, which provided:

- Books for 25 secondary school children
- Uniform, pens, pencils, exercise books and soap for 62 primary school children.
- Money for medications for 25 elderly people (no social security for them in Tanzania) – and they also had gifts of sugar and maize flour.

I have been asked to pass on their sincere thanks for this relief to everybody who contributed.



EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION ...

In Tanzania in 2001 only 5% of children were able to progress to secondary school. Now the figure is something like 85%. But many of the new secondary schools are not yet equipped with sufficient books, computers, science apparatus or even tables and chairs. Providing enough teachers is another challenge for the government.

Moving on, there are now around eleven universities in Tanzania. Many adults, having missed out on higher education when they were young, now want to upgrade their qualifications. There is the problem of funding, and the allied problem of filling their jobs while they are away. Many inexperienced teachers are being used before they are really ready—but being taught by an inexperienced teacher is preferable to not being taught at all. Tanzania is pulling itself up by its bootstraps, and it will progress.

We are helping a little with funding for Education. Since 2005 we have helped:

- A lecturer at LITI Buhuri to get computer qualifications
- A priest to get a degree in Public Administration
- A social worker to take a postgraduate course in Co-operate Management
- A teacher to take a Masters degree in Project Planning
- A teenager to take a vocational course in Catering
- Two teenagers to attend secondary school
- ... and many other Mapinduzi orphans to attend both primary and secondary school through our Christmas Appeals.

AND .. of course, we are also sending computers to schools and colleges, and helping to get science apparatus from Labaid into Tanga schools. Transport is a continual problem and we are very grateful to the Hereford-Muheza Hospital link which lets us buy space on its containers.



We visited 'our' student at VETA in Tanga. From left: Pauline Mathias (without whom life would be much harder), Charles Peter (student), Sue Morris (Trustee) and Ester Kadallah (teacher).

*Two of us try to visit Tanga twice a year (paying all our own expenses) to keep an eye on our projects. Sue is Secretary of the Bromyard-Buhuri Community link and a trustee of Tanga in Touch. I am secretary of Tanga in Touch and on the BBCL committee, so we both have feet in both camps.

A QUICK LOOK AT BUHURI ...

LITI Buhuri is one of six Livestock Training Institutes in Tanzania. It is situated some 10 km from Tanga. In 1995 a link was formed between Bromyard Church and Buhuri, resulting in exchange visits every year and the sponsoring of a tree nursery. Funding from Holland had provided Buhuri with an enormous cowshed and milking parlour (but until recently they could not afford the electricity to run it!), with the aim of running courses for local farmers and improving livestock management in Tanga region. Now a lot more small farmers (and larger ones!) keep cows and sell milk. The environment has improved enormously with many trees having been planted, and Buhuri are now harvesting their first crop of teak. Tanzania in the 1990s was almost the poorest country in the world, by World Bank standards. Now, with some third world debt relief, it is beginning to find its feet again. Money has been found to enable Buhuri to offer a Diploma course in Livestock Management, and they now have projects involving goats, poultry and bees. Fish farming and pig-keeping are also on the agenda for the future.



Left: One of the traditional beehives at Buhuri. Bee-keeping is a useful income-generating activity and Buhuri would like to include it in their courses. However, African beekeeping is rather different from English beekeeping. Our hives have moveable frames and several storeys—honey being stored upstairs. This does not work well in Africa. The Kenya top bar hive is a system which incorporates the best of both. We just need to demonstrate it and persuade them to use it!

Below left: The Goat Palace, funded by the Britain-Tanzania Society. Buhuri are experimenting with different breeds of goat to find the best cross with local goats for milk production and ability to survive the local conditions.



'The farmers at the dam' call themselves Tujikomboe. They are a group of sixteen local villagers who use eight acres of land below the dam to grow vegetable, and take water from the dam for irrigation in return for jobs like fencing and policing against poachers. Last year we sent them some broken garden tools, which they mended and were highly delighted with. They eat some of their vegetables and sell others. Now there are sixteen families benefiting from better food and a bit more money to spend on necessities.

WHY TANZANIA NEEDS HELP:

	TANZANIA	U.K.
Population:	39.5m.	59.7 m.
Under 15:	45%	18%
Adult literacy:	79%	99%
Pupil-teacher rate:	56:1	28:1
Life expectancy M.	48 yrs.	77 yrs.
GNI/head	\$730	\$32,690
Living on <\$1/day	50%	0%
Health expenditure per head	\$12	\$2899

WE have been asked to look out for:

- An incubator for Buhuri's poultry project (500—1000 egg size)
- A petrol-driven pump to irrigate 8 acres—for the farmers at the dam.
- A bulk milk storage tank holding 800 litres, for a small milk processing business.
- A vacuum packing machine for cheese for the same business.