



# **Annual Report 2020-2021**

[www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk](http://www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk)

**1 Apple Tree Walk, Climping, West Sussex, BN17 5QN**

The Trust was set up in 2004 in memory of Nick Webber, who died tragically in a car accident at the age of 28 while working in Malawi as a volunteer Legal Aid solicitor. Had Nick lived longer, we know that he would have done much more good in the world. Our aim is to do some of that good in his name. Following the spirit of the work he was doing, our aim is to support some of Malawi's poorest and most marginalised people by funding projects in education, healthcare and community support, and access to justice.

The Trust became recognised as a charity in England and Wales on 30 May 2005, which would have been Nick's 29th birthday.

This document contains the Trustees' financial report for the financial year 2020-2021.

## Achievements this year

As with nearly all aspects of life, because of the Covid pandemic, the year 2020/21 has been a very different experience for the Trust. The Chair of Trustees was no longer able to make her regular visits to Malawi, although she was in frequent contact with our Malawian Board of Advisers and other partners via Zoom and WhatsApp. We were not able to hold any fund-raising or publicity events. We did run another Christmas fund-raising event online, and were able to sell our Christmas cards despite the closure of many of our usual sales outlets. As in UK, Malawi schools were shut for long periods, which affected payment of fees as well as progress of students. Under these circumstances, we are more grateful than ever for the continued support, loyalty and understanding of our many donors, which has enabled us to persevere with our projects and feel able to plan hopefully for the future.

## School support

We continued with our project to support homeless children who could not be re-integrated into their families to go to boarding school, through the **Tikondane Centre for the Care of Street Children** in Lilongwe. Normally, we pay for school fees and other expenses such as uniforms, bedding, transport, daily necessities, classroom equipment, and a small amount of pocket money. When the schools were shut for the third term of the academic year 2019/20, we made sure that the fees were available in Malawi so that there would be no delay once students were permitted to return. We also made funds available for the required masks and sanitising gel. The third term eventually operated, with some disruptions, from September to Christmas 2020, and the new academic year is planned to run from February to September 2021. We were not required to pay any further fees before the end of the financial year and expect to pay more in the next financial year.



We were very impressed by the way our partner, the **Tikondane Centre**, handled the situation, continuing its work when all other similar organisations had closed down, engaging in extensive outreach to those children who had drifted back to the streets, and running re-orientation courses before the young people returned to school. As a result, all but five primary school boys were able to be re-integrated into their various schools, despite all the disruption to their already challenging lives.

In the now completed academic year 2019/2020, four students completed their final MSCE exams. Not surprisingly, the national pass rate was low at only 41% so the fact that three of our four candidates did pass is encouraging, though they are unlikely to have done well enough to win a place in Higher Education. Two boys passed their Primary Leaving Exams well, but were not awarded secondary places so will probably repeat their final primary year and try again. Following the disruption to one Further Education course on which we were supporting a young woman (whose secondary education we had previously supported), she passed only two out of the five final papers; we are exploring the possibility of her re-writing the rest. We are continuing to support the young man at Mzuzu University as his course resumes. At the start of the new academic year in February, three new primary school pupils were admitted to the support programme. We look forward to continuing our support of this admirable care for some of the most vulnerable young people in Malawi.

The same lockdown situation affected our support of the secondary school students in the Nkhata Bay North district, administered on the ground by the UK charity **Temwa**. In the academic year which finally finished in December 2020, we funded 25 students, four of them in boarding schools, the remainder in Community Day Secondary Schools, with two-thirds of them female students. This year saw the full implementation of our earlier decision to phase out funding boarding school places in favour of CDSS places. Eight students sat their delayed MSCE final exams in February 2021 and we are awaiting results. Two students dropped out of school. Ten new students joined the scheme in Form One for the current Feb-Sept 2021 academic year.

### Other School projects

We were able to fulfil our earlier promise to **Kasakanya Primary School**, to fund the building of a school office and staffroom. Our trusted friend, Theresa Moyo, founder and Chief Executive of nearby Tidzuke Orphan Care, offered to oversee the process on our behalf, given that our own Chair could not exercise her usual due diligence over the project. We are





delighted that the project was completed within budget and on time. It should greatly assist the efficiency of this improving school.

We retained close links with **Kochilira , Kainsa and Kasakanya Primary schools**, all of which we had previously completed to Full Primary status, with brick-built classrooms accommodating all classes up to Standard Eight, the top class in primary schools, and in all of which we have now provided desks for the top three classes. We are pleased to see that the retention rate of girl students has risen to equal, and occasionally exceed, that of the boys, which is unusual for Malawi. In Kasakanya primary we know that all Standard Eight pupils passed their Primary Leaving Certificate, although they were not awarded secondary school places.

We continue to maintain regular contact with **Kochilira Community Day Secondary School**, in Mchinji District, where our hostel for female students makes a significant contribution to the retention of female students. We are delighted that in this school female students now outnumber male students in the final two years, a reversal of the national trend, which senior staff attribute to the safer atmosphere our buildings have created for young women, and that results in national exams continue to improve. We have funded several projects at this school in a relationship that began in 2010, and has included the construction of a science and a computer laboratory, the construction of two more classrooms, and the construction of a teacher's house, to aid staff recruitment and retention at this much improved school. We were able to continue to link the school with a charity promoting female hygiene and sanitary protection, thus further enabling young women to remain in the classroom.

## **Community and Health**

In this financial year, full use has begun to be made of the hostel for female students under the auspices of **Tidzuke Orphan Care**, in Kochilira village, which we funded in the previous year. The hostel offers accommodation for female students who have won a place at the nearby **Kochilira Community Day Secondary School**, (itself largely constructed by the Nick Webber Trust) but are unable to afford the boarding fees. Until now, these students have been practising what is known locally as "self-boarding", which involves renting a space in a hut in the local villages in which to live. Fears over the safety and propriety of these arrangements led the local chiefs and counsellors to request our help in providing this new hostel, where the students still pay the same low sum but are safely housed in secure buildings which include washrooms, toilets and a kitchen area. Their "fee" provides a salary for a resident matron and a watchman. When the school re-opened after lockdown, there were 52 students in the hostel, and many more seeking a place. At present the occupants sleep on the floor (as is the local custom) but we have been asked in future to provide bunk beds which would double the spaces available.



This project is part of our ongoing relationship with this fantastic community organisation. In 2011 we funded the building of a children's centre for the project, from which they run a feeding programme for orphans and vulnerable children, a nursery school, a library, to which we are able to donate more books every year, and which is extensively used by local teachers and secondary school students, and provide other facilities for use by the wider community. In 2013 we funded the construction of indoor and outdoor toilets at the centre, and in 2014 we funded the construction of a kitchen to assist with the feeding programme. In 2016, we funded the construction of the Vocational Skills Training Block in which two courses in carpentry and two in tailoring have taken place. We are delighted to see the growing contribution that this centre is making to the local community and several villages around, and especially in



the support for girls and young women through its "Girls Club" which in many practical ways is involved in raising esteem and widening horizons for the female population. We have been pleased to support Tidzuke **Orphan Care** in these various ways as and when funds allow, as it is making a difference to the local community in so many ways.

We continued our support of the Malawian health care charity **Ndi Moyo** by continuing to make the house known as "Nick's Place" available rent-free for use by the Ndi Moyo clinic. It continues to be used extensively to house volunteers and trainees at the clinic, and our land is used for a model vegetable garden and to grow medicinal herbs. A training centre has also been built on our land, for use by the clinic staff.

## Access to the Law

Just before the pandemic hit and lockdown ensued, we accepted a proposal from the Women Lawyers of Malawi Association to fund an ambitious project: the construction of a law centre offering pro bono advice to women and children suffering from domestic abuse, to include a basic refuge offering temporary shelter should it be needed. Our Board President visited the limited and inadequate accommodation where the women lawyers are currently operating this much needed service, and interviewed some of the inspiring young

women determined to tackle what is a very serious problem in Malawi, and one which the lockdowns can only have exacerbated. The current property offers no security of tenure, and has no space for a refuge. A purpose-built property in a safe part of the capital, Lilongwe, is clearly needed, and we look forward to progressing this exciting project in the next financial year.

## Challenges

We were disappointed that one female student who we had been supporting to complete her secondary education, through Tidzuke Orphan Care, became pregnant during lockdown and could not be persuaded to sit for her final MSCE exams.

Our efforts to complete the unfinished classrooms at **Chadabwe Community Day Secondary School** have met with no response so far from the relevant education authorities.

We are still unable to continue our **Bursary scheme for law undergraduates** at the University of Malawi due to complications involving the reorganisation of both Legal Aid provision and the training of lawyers in Malawi. We continue to maintain contact with the new Legal Aid Bureau and remain hopeful of supporting the provision of Legal Aid services when this becomes practical and is requested.

## How we work

The Trust makes no expenditure for travel, communication, staffing, office overheads, or other running costs. The costs incurred are met by the Trustees personally. This enables us to ensure that every penny donated is spent directly on our projects in Malawi.

## Structure, Governance, and Management

Six Trustees continued in post: Pauline Webber (chair), Jane Abood, Timothy de Sousa-Ingle, Mary Marvel, Judith Scott, and Timothy Webber (vice-chair).

Trustees are appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees of which there cannot be fewer than three. There is a Board of Advisers, to which appointments are made by the Trustees. There are four active members, all Malawian lawyers who are friends of the Trust, and whose advice is highly valued.



Decisions are made by a majority of Trustees, with the Chair of Trustees having the casting vote in the case of an even split. Decisions are usually made at meetings, which may also be attended by members of our Board of Advisers. There were two meetings in this financial year. Minutes of all meetings are circulated to all Trustees and Advisers.

No project is adopted without first being thoroughly researched by Trustees and Advisers.

The operation of the Trust is governed by the Trust deed, (to which two Supplementals have been made), an Ethos document, a policy on the selection of partner organisations, and a policy governing the adoption of education projects. These can all be downloaded from the Trust website, along with our annual reports.

## **Fundraising**

Most of the funds this year were raised through personal donations, as no organised events were possible.

We sold our own Christmas cards again, with the initial outlay covered and recouped from sales by one of the Trustees, and all profits going to the Trust.

This year we trialled a "Buy some Cement for Christmas" scheme, which was very successful in raising funds for the proposed Law Centre and Women's Refuge.

We made a Gift Aid claim for the previous tax year.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation of all who have supported it by making donations or by using their time and talents to help us.

## **Risk Management**

The Nick Webber Trust is aware that aid and development projects can have inadvertent negative side effects. To minimise this risk in the area of our education projects, we have adopted a policy on sourcing and assessing such projects, which must derive from the democratic structure of Malawi or have beneficiaries within the government of Malawi's stated priority groups, and will be assessed along our general project selection guidelines of democratic accountability, community contribution, demonstrable impact, and long-term

sustainability. This policy operates alongside our existing policy on the selection of partner organisations.

Our strategy of retaining sufficient reserves to ensure that projects can be completed means that we are able to absorb cost increases resulting from currency fluctuation. To protect against any future such alterations in the financial landscape, we cost all of our projects, both new and existing, directly in Malawi Kwacha and make all agreements in that currency. We also ensure that our reserves can cover all of our commitments for three years into the future before making any new commitments, taking account of our basic income from standing orders on the assumption that this will not decrease by more than 10% per year, and that our other income will not decrease by more than 25% per year.

Representatives of the Trust kept in regular "virtual" contact with NdiMoyo clinic, Temwa, Tidzuke Orphan Care, Tikondane Care for Street and the Women Lawyers Association of Malawi, as well as other contacts able to keep us up to date with the situation in Malawi. The Chair of the Trustees also regularly met with the Malawian members of the Board of Advisers via Zoom.

## **Financial Review** (1/04/2020-31/03/2021)

The Trust started the year with £10,338 in hand.

<b>Total income for the year was:</b>	<b>£42,746</b>
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Of which:

Raised by supporters and regular donations:	£33,409
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Sale of Christmas Cards:	£525
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Gift Aid:	£4954
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"Buy Cement for Christmas"	£3855
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Bank Interest:	£3
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<b>Total expenditure for the year was:</b>	<b>£16945</b>
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Of which:

Girls' Hostel, Tidzuke (Covid expenses)	£210
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Tikondane Care of Street Children	£5619
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Temwa School Fees	£3074
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The Town Rates for Nick's Place and the Congoma Subscription will be paid when visits are possible.

The Trust ended the year with £36,139 in hand.

The currency fluctuations of the Malawi Kwacha make it difficult to know for sure the future cost of our commitments for the next three years, but we currently estimate them to be in the region of £60,000. Assuming a decline year on year of 10% on our regular Standing Order donations and a decline year on year of 25% on our other income, we expect to receive a further £80,000 in the next three years. This is a conservative assessment, as our annual income has actually never experienced such a decline.

## Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report set out above.

Signed on their behalf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pauline Webber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pauline Webber (Chair of Trustees)

# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

NICK WEBBER MEMORIAL TRUST FOR MALAWI

On accounts for the year ended

310321

Charity no (if any)

1110483

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and  
examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below\*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

*Michael Heywood*

Date

24 June 2021

Name

MICHAEL HEYWOOD

Relevant professional qualification(s)  
or body (if any)

Director (retired)  
Hedingbourne Management Co Ltd.

Address

Hedingbourne House,  
Croxall Hill,  
Chichester, West Sussex  
PO18 0LG



**NICK WEBBER MEMORIAL TRUST FOR MALAWI**  
**Charity Number: 1110483**

**Receipts and Payment Accounts for the period 01/04/20 - 31/03/21**

**ALL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

**RECEIPTS**

Raised by supporters and regular donations	£33,409
Sale of Christmas cards	£525
Gift Aid	£4954
"Buy cement for Christmas"	£3855
Bank Interest	£3
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£42,746</b>

**PAYMENTS**

Girls' Hostel, Tidzuke (Covid expenses)	£210
Tikondane Care of Street Children	£5619
Temwa School Fees	£3074
Kasakanya School office and staffroom	£8042
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£16945</b>

<b>CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END</b>	<b>£10338</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>£36139</b>

**SECTION B Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period**

**CASH FUNDS**

**Details of unrestricted funds**

Community Direct Plus Account	£35,241
Business Select Account	£878
Cash equivalent in Malawi Kwacha	£20
<b>Total Cash funds</b>	<b>£36139</b>

Signed by Chair of Trustees on behalf of all Trustees

*Rachael E. Webber*