



Annual Report 2021-2022

www.nickwebbertrust.org

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 2021-2022

Achievements this year

The Covid pandemic continued to cast a long shadow over events in the financial year 2021-2022. However, the Chair of Trustees was able to make two visits to Malawi, in November/December 2021 and in March 2022, and was able to meet in person with all members of our Malawian Board of Advisers. We were able to hold one fund-raising event, an online concert of music and songs. We ran another Christmas fund-raising event online, and were able to sell our Christmas cards. 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. The schools were shut for part of the year, and academic terms rescheduled to fit in the available time, with shorter school holidays. We paid school fees for the time the schools were open, and because we built up a surplus through the closures, paid less in total than in previous years.

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.

We resolved that where students had been adversely affected by the school closures, we would fund retakes where the scheme organisers thought it appropriate. Three pupils had passed their Primary Leaving Exam but not been awarded secondary school places, so we agreed to fund them to repeat Standard Eight and take the exam again. As a result two of them did well enough to be awarded secondary school places. The third boy again passed but was not awarded a secondary place; he was sick during the school year, and bereaved of an aunt who had been his supporter, so is being considered for a further repeat if he wishes to 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), we funded her to repeat her examinations, and she passed them all. We continued to support the young man at Mzuzu University and he has successfully completed his course and is about to start the industrial attachment which is a course requirement. We look forward to continuing our support of this admirable care for some of the most vulnerable young people in Malawi.

We also continued with our project in partnership with **Temwa** to fund the schooling of students from disadvantaged backgrounds who show academic potential in Nkhata Bay North. The school year started later than usual as a consequence of the Covid pandemic and ran from January to November 2021. A new school year started in January 2022. During the 2021 school year we supported 24 students (68% of whom are girls) to attend Community Day Secondary Schools. We were very pleased that, due to the support provided by the bursary scheme, no students dropped out during the year. Temwa also believe that the scheme has helped to prevent further child marriages and teenage pregnancies in the wider community, both of which had increased when the schools were closed due to the pandemic. We will report on the 2022 academic year in the 2022-2023 annual report.

We retained close links with **Kochilira, Kainsa and Kasakanya Primary schools**, all of which we had previously completed to Full Primary status, 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.

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

When schools were open, full use was 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.



As the hostel is over-subscribed, we agreed to fund the purchase of bunk beds, with mattresses, to enable more young women to be accommodated, up to a total of 60. In addition the organisers, acceding to pressure from the young women themselves and their parents, requested funding to "kick-start" a programme of providing three meals a day for the students, who were finding cooking for themselves as well as completing their studies difficult to accomplish. We funded the purchase of the food for one term, after which it should be self-funding from the fees paid.

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 hope to extend our support of **Tidzuke Orphan Care** when funds allow, as it is making a difference to the local community in so many ways.

Our Christmas appeal this year invited supporters to purchase menstrual health kits for those young women whose secondary education we were already supporting in some way. The response was enthusiastic and overwhelming. So far one hundred kits have been purchased from the Malawian organisation, Grace Pads, and distributed to the young



women in Kochilira hostel, Tikondane Care of Street Children, and Ndimoyo Palliative Care clinic. Each kit contains five re-usable sanitary pads, three pairs of pants, soap for washing both the pads and the young people, all in a practical and distinctive bucket. Without such kits, adolescent girls very often miss one week in four of school, as they lack any kind of protection, so these vital supplies will have beneficial effect on their education as well as their sense of self-worth. We plan to extend the scheme to the female students we support through Temwa, and possibly other organisations. They are received very enthusiastically!

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. As the clinic has new management, we signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the management.

Access to the Law

Just before the pandemic hit and lockdown ensued, we had 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 survivors of domestic abuse, to include a basic refuge offering temporary shelter should it be needed. During this financial year, we funded the purchase of a plot of land in a newly developing area of the capital city, Lilongwe, and our Board



President was delighted to attend a "ground-breaking" ceremony as construction commenced in December.

Since then construction has proceeded at a fast pace, and we look forward to the project being completed and opened in the next financial year.



Challenges

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.

We were very disappointed to learn that approximately £1000 in cash was stolen from the offices of the lawyer overseeing the construction of the refuge referred to above. Despite the prompt referral to the police, and their extensive enquiries, the money was not recovered. We withheld all further funding until the **Women Lawyers' Association**, with whom we are working on this project, had put in place a robust policy for the safe storage of cash during the purchase of building materials.

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.

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, with only one organised event.

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 "Give a life-changing (bloody good) gift" scheme, which was very successful in raising funds for the menstrual health kits.

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" and real contact with NdiMoyo clinic, Tidzuke Orphan Care, Tikondane Care for Street Children 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, and in person.

Financial Review (01/04/2021-31/03/2022)

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

Total income for the year was: £47,588

of which:

Raised by supporters and regular donations	£38,140
Gift Aid	£ 5717
Online Concert	£1650
"Buy menstrual health kits for Christmas"	£1521
Sale of Christmas Cards	£396
Easy Fundraising	£164

Total Expenditure for the year was: £34,129

of which:

Construction of law centre "safe house"	£20,076
Purchase of menstrual health kits	£1019
Congoma subscriptions (2)	£538
Rates on Nick's Place	£140
Tikondane Care of Street Children	£5519
Tidzuke food for hostel:	£2319
Tidzuke, purchase of bunk beds:	£2419
Tidzuke, purchase of mattresses	£1919
Transport of beds	£160
Bank commission	£20

The Trust ended the year with a balance of £49,598

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 cursive script that reads "Pauline E. Webber".

Pauline Webber (Chair of Trustees)

A long, sweeping handwritten signature line, likely belonging to Pauline Webber.

NICK WEBBER MEMORIAL TRUST FOR MALAWI

Charity Number 1110483

Payments and Receipts accounts for the period 1/04/221 -31/03/2022

ALL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

RECEIPTS

Raised by supporters and regular donations	£38,140
Gift Aid	£ 5717
Online Concert	£1650
"Buy menstrual health kits for Christmas"	£1521
Sale of Christmas cards	£396
Easyfundraising	£164

Total receipts **£47,588**

PAYMENTS

Construction of Law Centre safe house	£20,076
Purchase of menstrual health kits	£1019
Congoma Subscriptions (2)	£538
Rates on Nick's Place	£140
Tikondane Care of Street Children	£5519
Tidzuke, food for hostel	£2319
Tidzuke, purchase of bunk beds	£2419
Tidzuke, purchase of mattresses	£1919
Transport of beds	£160
Bank Commission	£20

Total payments **£34,129**

CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END **£36,139**

Cash funds this year end ***£49598***

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

CASH FUNDS

Details of Unrestricted Funds

Community Directplus Account	£38,719
Business Select Account	£10,879
Total:	£49,598

Signed by Chair of Trustees on behalf of all Trustees

Pauline E Webber





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE NICK WEBBER MEMORIAL TRUST FOR MAWNI

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/2022

Charity no
(if any)

1110483

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

[Signature]

Date:

12th DEC 2022

Name:

MICHAEL HEYWOOD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

DIRECTOR (RETIRED)

(if any):

Address:

1 ALDINGBOURNE HOUSE, CROCKERHILL
ALDINGBOURNE DRIVE, ALDINGBOURNE
WEST SUSSEX PO18 0LG

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.