

Report Year Ending December 2021

of the

Barrhead Churches Kibera Project

As a result of the ongoing impact of Covid19 it was thought impractical to hold a public AGM in 2022. This Report, along with the audited accounts for year ending 31/12/21 will be published on the Project's website and distributed to the members of the other Churches in Barrhead.

Chair's Report:

Jim Mitchell reports that during the last year we had 11 trustees, a co-opted member and Bourock's minister, Rev Pamela Gordon, on our committee. Our members come from different churches in the town. Sadly, we have lost some very enthusiastic and regular supporters; we extend our condolences to their families as well as our gratitude for their support over the years.

Last year we continued to sponsor 11 pupils – these are pupils who without our sponsorship would not be able to attend secondary school. This aspect of our project is vitally important for these pupils to get the opportunity to attend school and then to have the opportunity to access the job market or further education. Members of the committee continue to regard sponsorship as our primary focus.

Last year, their education was again severely negatively impacted by Covid 19. The school re-opened on 4th January 2021 with 75 pupils, however, it was then closed again, opening only for pupils sitting their final exams in March, as the examination period had been postponed from the previous November. They are not able to offer E-learning. The school re-opened on 10th May 2021 in line with Kenyan Government's restrictions.

£4000 was forwarded to the Parish for the continuing sponsorship of 11 students last year and included a donation towards extra-curricular clubs and crafts. This donation also allows for fluctuations in the Kenyan, US and UK currencies and bank charges. The donation covers the costs of tuition fees and a school meal every day that the pupil was allowed to attend school.

Florence advised that the Government drilled a borehole on the Silanga site, to provide water for the whole community to improve hygiene and sanitation needs during the pandemic. This means that the school and the Church have constant access to fresh water, which enables them to provide lunches without having to fetch and carry water for the kitchen. The Church cannot charge members of the community for the water; however, the use of the toilet block generated an income of around £148 a month.

In May, Jim and Debbie held a Zoom meeting with Dr Florence, Session Clerk, Rev Wilson, Parish Minister PCEA Kibera, and Harry Collins, Principal Silanga High School. This was a very positive meeting, with all attendees agreeing on the importance of education. They also advised that the Church re-opened on 2nd May, with only a third capacity allowed in the building.

Our only fundraiser of 2021 was Bourock's Christmas Greetings' Leaflet. This raised £765. Our thanks go those who supported this.

Our committee had agreed to continue sponsoring pupils who have already been accepted onto our sponsorship program; note, some of these pupils are still First years because their first year was in 2020!

As previously reported, we are incredibly grateful for the support and donations that we have received from our supporters over the past year. Without your help the school would not be able to function, and the students would not be able to receive an education. So, our committee and the Session in Kibera would like to thank everyone who has supported the project in any way.

Treasurer's Report

David Miller reports "During 2021 we were able to provide £4,000 to sponsor 11 Students and provide a donation towards extra-curricular clubs and crafts. In 2020 we were able to provide £6,000.

Our income in 2021 was similar to that achieved in 2020 at £3,722 (£3,840). The small reduction was largely caused by the loss of one of our regular sponsorship donors. We are grateful to those who continue to support the project through regular donations totalling £1,980 (£2,100 in 2021) and Bourock Church's Christmas appeal which raised £765 (£715 in 2020). In addition, other donors provided £425 (£395 in 2020). Recovery of gift aid from HMRC produced £552 against £630 during 2020. There is a lag of one year in gift aid claims and recoveries during 2020 were based on donations during tax year 2019/20 before the pandemic reduced the project's fund-raising options.

At the end of 2021 the bank balance was £6,759 against £7,077 in 2020 as expenditure exceeded income by £318. The equivalent reduction in bank balance in 2020 was £2,200 ".

If anyone has any questions on this report, they are invited to forward them to the Secretary via email deb.mitchell@ntlworld.com