



starfish malawi
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Newsletter

April Edition

from the Starfish UK & Malawi Teams.



Gillingham United Reformed Church.

Welcomed Chris Knott to speak during the morning worship on 26th March. Gillingham URC is a long-time supporter of Starfish Malawi. The service included a presentation to Chris of some hand knitted pencil cases, filled with pencils given by the church fellowship and members of the local community, to benefit children supported by Starfish Malawi.

Chris also presented Cleo Ward with a gift on behalf of Starfish Malawi, as a thank you to her for nominating Starfish Malawi as one of two beneficiaries following her achievement of The Lundie Memorial Award, when she was four years old. The Award is a special award offered by the United Reformed Church to children and young people. Cleo is a shining example of what it means to share the love of God. Hence her award of £100 to benefit others of her choice.



Starfish really appreciate this gift.



Cyclone Freddy

Following the information in our recent prayer focus we wanted to let you know how Starfish have responded to the devastation caused by the cyclone.

We were extremely fortunate to have received a container full of clothes last year, to be used for families in need. We have therefore sent a quarter of this container of clothes, in huge sacks to the flooding victims in Blantyre who are living in tent villages.

We will also be sharing some of the Care Packages of food and hygiene products that have been donated from our Christmas appeal, with families in the Blantyre region.



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The clothes were recently distributed in the Blantyre area, together with disposable sanitary pads, body lotion, bathing and washing soap.

The latest information we have from Relief Web is that two weeks after the passage of Cyclone Freddy, prices of grain have increased in multiple areas and many people do not have access to food due to damaged roads which have hampered supply.

Protection risks and poor water, sanitation and hygiene remain a serious concern in all the displacement sites.

The number of people displaced by the strong winds, floods and mudslides was 563,602 in 577 sites as of 25 March.

The death toll is currently at 676, with at least 533 still missing and 1,066 injured. Access to main markets is also still limited as most roads were damaged.

Cases of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases have been reported in some displacement camps, malaria cases have been reported in multiple camps, requiring medical attention and the provision of mosquito nets to prevent further spread of the disease. Skin disease such as scabies, and acute respiratory infections due to overcrowding and poor sanitation in camps have also been reported in displacement sites.

See the full report here - <https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-tropical-cyclone-freddy-flash-update-no-10-28-march-2023>

Maternity Wing

Construction of the roof is nearly completed and the walls are being plastered.

We are currently in the process of sourcing medical equipment for the maternity wing which will be sent out on our next container leaving the UK on 12th May.

We are in need of a lot of equipment to make sure that the maternity unit works well and mothers and babies will be safe and well cared for.

The equipment will include incubators, delivery beds, ultrasound unit, weighing scales and more.



News Updates

Cholera – The WHO have reported in early March that Malawi now has 51,568 cases and 1,612 deaths. The cholera outbreaks in the region are happening in the context of natural disasters such as cyclones (Mozambique, Malawi), Poor sanitation and unreliable water supplies with increased cross-border movements also serve as driving factors for the outbreak across the region.

Emmanuel Uwaezuoke – now has his visa for the UK and will arrive on 21st April.

Date for your diary – Starfish annual dinner at Sandhurst Baptist Church is on 7th October 2023

Join us on Saturday 17th June for the Bewl Water Walk



We would love to have 100 + people joining us to walk at Bewl this year.

It is always a great occasion as we enjoy the Kent countryside and each other's company as we walk to raise funds for our Glad Tidings project which provides nursery education, meals for hundreds of children and a place that is safe and caring to play and interact with each other.

Hope Clinic is also located on the site and provides an amazing free healthcare facility to over 2000 people each month.

<https://starfishmalawi.com/bewlwatersponsoredwalk> to go to our Bewl webpage

and sign up today to walk and download your registration form, sponsorship form and a flyer to share with family, friends, churches and workplaces.



See you there!

For more information about Starfish Malawi
please visit our webpage
starfishmalawi.com