

## A heartfelt thank you from Nachingwea

OUR friends, Robert and Liz returned from their visit to Nachingwea full of enthusiasm for our Link and with very useful information as we move into our 45th year.

They also brought with them a copy of a wonderful speech given by Dr Evelyne Mrumapili on behalf of Father Phares Lihewe, the priest in charge of St Andrew's, Nachingwea and Kevin Bushiri, the chair of the Link. Dr Evelyne heads the Women's Union and is

a Link committee member at St Andrew's, Nachingwea. Liz read the speech to the St Andrew's Stapleford congregation at a service to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Link and Trish Maude, chair of our Link, thanked Robert and Liz for travelling to Nachingwea on our behalf.

"Good afternoon beloved friends and our very special friends from our sister community, the Stapleford Link. We are gathered here with one simple, yet profound purpose, to say thank you.

"Thank you to every single person in Stapleford, who has thought of us, prayed for us, fundraised for us and supported us. Your friendship has crossed oceans and continents to touch our lives in the most meaningful ways.

"The support from Stapleford has not been a single drop of water but a steady, nourishing rain that has fallen on every corner of our community. You saw our needs not as separate problems, but as interconnected parts of whole life. And you responded with a whole heart.



*The Stapleford Link committee with Liz and Robert Claiborne-Dixon*

“In our schools, we see your handiwork every day. You have helped to build libraries, providing a safe and conducive environment for learning. You have supplied books, pens, insurance and uniforms, removing the barriers that often keep our brightest young minds from achieving their potential. For our pupils this is more than just material help; it is a message which says, ‘Your education matters. Your future is important to us even from thousands of miles away.’ Most touchingly, you have remembered our pupils with special needs. By providing specialised resources and inclusive support like school uniforms and wheelchairs, you have sent a powerful message that every child is valued, that every life has potential and that no one in Nachingwea is forgotten. For these children and their families your compassion has been a light.

“In our fields, your support has helped sow seeds of sustainability. Through projects that provide better seeds, training and resources, you have empowered our farmers. This is not just about a single harvest, it is about building food security and economic independence for generations to come. You have helped us till the spoil not just for crops but for prosperity.

“In our health clinic, your impact is measured in health and hope. The medical supplies, the support for our dedicated healthcare workers and the improvement to our facilities have saved lives and reduced sufferings. For a mother holding a healthy child, for an elder receiving treatment, your support is a lifeline. You have helped us care for our most vulnerable at their time of greatest need.

“And through our church, your love has found its way into the very heart of our community spirit. You have strengthened our faith and fellowship through books and the altar utensils you brought us. But most importantly



*Liz and Robert Claiborne-Dixon with Trish Maude, Chair of the Stapleford Link Committee and Simon Taylor*

you have targeted your care to those who need it most. To our Sunday School children, you have brought joy through financial support and books giving them the sense that they are part of a global family that cares for them.

“To our women, especially the Link Dare Women’s group, you have provided opportunities for skills: training such as making sanitary pads, tailoring and pig keeping, empowering them to become pillars of strength for their families and engines of growth for our community.

“So, to our friends in Stapleford, how do we say thank you for all of this?



*The service in progress*

“We say thank you not just with words but with the results of your generosity. We say thank you with the success of our students, the bounty of our harvests, the health of our people and the strengthened spirit of our community.

“Your support has been a true partnership, a hand of friendship held out in solidarity. You have not just given us resources, you have given us hope, dignity and the knowledge that we walk this path of development together.

“Thank you, Asanta sane. Our gratitude is as deep as the ocean and as endless as the sky.

“May the bond between Nachingwea and Stapleford continue to grow stronger with each passing year. Thank you.” **Dr Evelyne Mrumapili**

**St Andrew’s Stapleford Link Committee**

***The St Andrew’s Stapleford Link Committee  
wishes all their friends and supporters  
Season’s Greetings and a Happy New Year***