

**HOLY TRINITY NAMIBIA COMMITTEE**  
**REVIEW REPORT 2016**

**REPORT TO HOLY TRINITY PCC ON THE OUTCOME OF THE**  
**REVIEW GROUP WORKSHOPS**

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## **1. REMIT AND PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW:**

The Holy Trinity Namibia link is now 21 years old and during its 20<sup>th</sup> year Holy Trinity PCC (Parish Church Council) requested the Namibia Committee to carry out a review. The deadline for the review was to have the report completed and presented to the PCC by March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016. If the report is approved by the PCC it can be presented to Holy Trinity AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016 as a sub-committee report.

The remit of the review was to explore the following: what has been achieved in the past; methods of working; past, current and future projects; communication; visits; involving the wider community; finances; charity status; accountability and the aims and objectives of the link.

## **2. REVIEW GROUP MEMBERS:**

Pat Harrison (Committee Chair); Susan Kerr (Committee Vice Chair); Caroline Tracey (Namibia Link Lead); Margaret Broadfoot (Committee Secretary); David Tracey (Committee Member); Dorothy Shaw (Committee Member); Margaret Reveley (Committee Member); Sue Green-Townsend (Committee Member); Sue Ruaux (Committee Member); The Rev. Stephen Fletcher (Hon. Committee Member); INVITED REVIEW GROUP MEMBERS: Barry Taziker; Lesley Greenhalgh; Michael Williams; Cllr. Richard Silvester.

Note: The Review Group was open to all Namibia Committee members however some were unable to attend due to work/family commitments.

### **3. SHORT HISTORY OF THE NAMIBIA LINK:**

The Link started in 1996 with one Parish in Northern Namibia but this was split into two distinct Parishes 70 miles apart. We continue to support both Parishes – Okathitu which is rural and Ruacana which is a small town close to the border with Angola.

From being united during the Apartheid years, in the north they are returning to tribal prejudices and clashes of culture, though there are signs of gradual improvements in some areas.

There is one church in each Parish that we support and one school in Ruacana and two in Okathitu.

There have been ten visits from Horwich to Namibia including two main Youth visits and 9 visits from Namibia to Horwich. Visitors from Namibia have included priests, teachers and health workers.

Fundraising has provided funds for visits, educational projects and equipment for the three schools as well as start-up funds for projects such as the sewing project in Ruacana and the Okathitu bike project which has grown beyond expectations and has diversified into setting up a brick-making business. We have also provided a vehicle for the then Archdeacon, Fr Kashima, to allow him to cover the large geographical area in his charge. We have provided funds to support theological training to help fill the gap in clergy numbers. Recently we have provided much needed funds for food when there had been no rain and the harvest failed, with no seed to plant the following year.

A huge debt is owed to Shirley and David Turton who established the Link and worked hard to lay the foundations for the continuation of the Link before handing over to Richard and Margaret Fairclough who did such excellent work in the schools and kindergartens as well as other areas of the link communities.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The Review has been a valuable exercise identifying that there is a strong need for the Namibia Link to continue. The benefits are on both sides – we benefit from the link by learning how other people cope with difficulties and issues that we can't even imagine, while keeping their faith strong. The visits to Namibia have been humbling and have changed the mind-set of people who have visited. The Namibian visitors to Horwich learn how we do things, especially the teachers in schools, the clergy and the health workers. However, they also see the negative side of our way of life, the excesses, the noise and busyness for example. They are always keen to return home!

The outcome of looking at the aims and objectives are those put forward by the Link Review Group. It must be noted that opinions from Okathitu and Ruacana have not yet been sought. With hindsight it is regretted that no visit has been scheduled to Namibia in 2016 as this could have been used to ascertain the Namibian perspective on our thoughts and suggestions. They may have differing ideas, aims and objectives for the Link which we should take into consideration.

There are difficulties with communication which have to be recognised – The Rev. Stephen Fletcher's letter sent to our Namibian contacts advising of the review, the changes to the Namibia Committee membership and saying that while no visit would take place in 2016 reassuring them of our continued love and support, has elicited very little response from Namibia which is concerning. Christmas greetings sent by Rev. Caroline Tracey also generated little response. Without good communication the Link will fail to flourish. As you will see in the Way Forward section this could possibly be resolved by using Skype alongside other forms of communication. Improving the link with the Namibian Diocesan office could be beneficial and The Rev. Stephen Fletcher may be able to liaise with the newly elected Bishop of Namibia, Dr Luke Pato.

The Committee has recognised that it needs to be focussed and conduct regular reviews to ensure that the Link is progressing successfully and achieving its aims and objectives in consultation with our friends in Namibia.

**N.B. Please note that where it says OUTCOMES after each of the workshops these are ideas for projects that will be discussed by the committee to decide in consultation with our link parishes which project/s are feasible for the Namibia Link.**

## **5. WORKSHOP 1 – OKATHITU**

Background: Okathitu is a large, rural, bushland Parish. The homesteads can be widely spread however some people have mobile phones. The downside is recharging and putting credit on them is costly and only available in the local town, Outapi, some kilometres away. Some employment is available in Outapi but transport is a problem. However, the bike project has enabled some local people to learn skills, as has the brick making business. There is no electricity and the water is carried from water stations many kilometres apart. Subsistence farming means people are malnourished and dependant on successful harvests. Over recent years there has been a series of droughts and floods meaning food and animal shortages. The majority of the children have to walk up to 8 km to and from school each day, often without having eaten. As it goes dark early the children have no means of light to help them do any homework. Kerosene lamps/candles are used if the family can afford them but they are unhealthy and extremely dangerous.

English is the official language, however not many speak it and if they do, very few speak it well. This makes communication difficult. The Ordinand who is currently at the church, The Church of the Good Shepherd, has no English so communication is through translators.

However, our friends in Okathitu have shown enthusiasm in setting up projects and taking them forward. This is demonstrated by the progress of the bike workshop from a container in the bush to currently building a new workshop in Outapi. From the profits they set up an orphan feeding programme and also the brick making business. Hilya the mainstay of the bike project has shared her skills with others.

### **OKATHITU OUTCOMES:**

#### **CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

- Develop a solar lamp project. The solar lamps not only give free light but also have a solar mobile phone charging option. This will allow children to do homework and families to gain income from receiving payment from others to charge their phones.
- Create a prayer link through better communications e.g. text, email, Skype. This will allow the Committee to keep the congregation well informed and

also the Namibians will have reassurance of our continued support and care for them.

- It has been recognised that the Committee need to improve links with the Okathitu Local Authority and its community.

## HEALTH

- The Committee needs to clarify the Home Based Care situation as conflicting information has been given.
- Work to support health education in the following areas: alcoholism; underage sex; lack of respect to women; HIV; orphans; Malaria.

## EDUCATION

- Facilitating improvement in English language and IT skills of teachers and pupils.
- School kitchens and boarding facilities need improving as they are not up to government standard.
- Helping to resolve the issue of children walking to school on empty stomachs.
- Kindergartens lack resources such as toys, educational aids – help to redress this.
- Kindergarten teachers lacking in skills – help to redress this.

## **6. WORKSHOP 2 – RUACANA**

Background: Ruacana parish contains the small town of Oshifa which is where our link is. It has a local council, a Town Hall and a new Health Centre which provides Anti-Retro Viral drugs to HIV patients. There is employment in the town with some businesses run by the Chinese, undercutting local traders with cheap, inferior goods. Properties have electricity and water but many of the occupiers can't afford to pay for them.

The church, which is called The Church of the Holy Family, has no water and the priest speaks no English. The congregation is small, predominantly female and elderly. The priest does not receive a stipend as the church hasn't been able to pay their Parish share. The rectory is in a poor state of repair and was in danger of immediate repossession. All official documents are in English and if the recipient doesn't speak English the documents get ignored which had happened

in this case. This problem was identified during the last visit whereupon the arrears were paid by ourselves. Arrangements were made by the Diocese to purchase the rectory which needed to be ratified by the submission of official documentation to complete the ownership. It is not known if this happened. There are churches of various denominations in the town, some of which are in much better condition than the church we support. One of the local kindergartens is a well-supported R.C. kindergarten run by German nuns.

The combined Primary/Secondary school has benefited from a very proactive Head Teacher who has added building extensions to the school to accommodate extra classes. She has good English. However, the school kitchen is in a hut and in a poor state and there is a lack of IT for the use of staff and pupils. There is a water tap in the school grounds which the pupils are allowed to drink from. There are also proper working toilets.

The community is not as motivated as Okathitu and needs constant encouragement and support in projects. A sewing project was established during the 2014 visit. Arrangements were made for this to be monitored by the Head Teacher. Unfortunately, she has been unable to do this due to work commitments. We are therefore unaware of the progress of this project.

## RUACANA OUTCOMES:

### CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

- Create a prayer link through better communications e.g. text, email, Skype. This will allow the Committee to keep the congregation well informed and also the Namibians will have reassurance of our continued support and care for them.
- Potential to link Horwich churches including other denominations with churches in Ruacana.
- Ascertain status of rectory.
- Explore options to provide Bibles.
- Identify a responsible, English speaking contact who can monitor/ help set up projects.
- Explore the need for a solar lamp project.
- Explore the possibility of a bike workshop.
- Follow up sewing project. Is it still viable and if so identify any support needs.

- It has been recognised that the Committee need to improve links with the Ruacana Local Authority and its community.

## HEALTH

- Some of the congregation are still HIV positive and may be willing to help with sexual health education (see below).
- Work to support health education in the following areas: alcoholism; underage sex; lack of respect to women; HIV; orphans; Malaria.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a link between Ruacana Health Centre and the new Horwich Health Centre (to be built by 2018).

## EDUCATION

- Facilitating improvement in English language and IT skills of teachers and pupils.
- Improvement of kitchen facilities.
- There are no dormitories – explore the need for these.
- Link an individual school in Horwich with Tjihozu School.
- There is a second school in Ruacana that we haven't had contact with. Investigate possibility of link with a Horwich school.
- Help to resolve the issue of children walking to school on empty stomachs.
- Identify Kindergartens that lack resources such as toys, educational aids – help to redress this.
- Identify Kindergarten teachers lacking in skills – help to redress this.
- Strengthen links with the Scout Groups in Horwich and Ruacana – however will need to overcome Ruacana's English language and IT issues.

## **7. WORKSHOP 4 – FINANCES**

Background: The link has funded several projects (see Short History of the Namibia Link section) with the monies coming from a variety of sources e.g. fundraising events, donations and regular giving. The Namibia Fund is included in the Holy Trinity Church accounts and therefore donations qualify for Gift Aid where applicable.

Unfortunately, recent fundraising events have met with reduced support, presumably due to urgent funding requests for the Parish Hall refurbishment, replacement boiler, Parish School extension as well as people's personal charitable giving. 'Charity Fatigue' is a well-known phrase and is justifiable in today's society.

The visits to Namibia have been partly self-funded but other expenses incurred during visits are covered by the Namibia Fund. The Fund pays for the visits from Namibia. Usually those visits, apart from the flight costs, are low as hosts accommodate, feed and transport the visitors at their own expense. Expenses incurred are usually for parking fees and entrance to places of interest, excess baggage etc.

Funds donated or loaned to our links in Namibia have been for a combination of major projects, e.g. the bike project, Father Kashima's vehicle, equipment for schools, and in response to emergency situations such as the failed harvests. The major projects have enabled people to become self-sufficient, learning new skills or to do their job better; the responses to emergency situations have been humanitarian and equally important.

## FINANCES OUTCOMES

### a) Expenses

- Calculate actual cost of visits – flights, transport, fuel, food, accommodation etc., to give a target for specific fundraising.
- Calculate cost of meetings – Friends of Namibia in London (held quarterly but agreement by Committee to only attend annually at Fund's expense); International Links (Manchester); Diocesan (Rochdale).
- During the course of normal committee business members generously don't usually claim day-to-day expenses for items such as stationery, stamps, petrol etc. However, these should not be ignored as the situation may arise where someone has to claim these expenses.
- The cost of certain items that will benefit/increase fundraising should be justifiable as eventually the fundraising should outweigh the initial cost.

### b) Income

- Identify specific projects in order to target fundraise alongside general fundraising. E.g. possible solar lamp project.

- Offer and encourage regular giving for ongoing projects.
- Promote Gift Aid.
- Run fundraising events on a sound financial basis. Debrief after each event for viability of event.
- ‘Piggy-back’ on other events – civic and community e.g. Horwich Carnival, table top sales, coffee mornings etc.

### c) General

- Accountability – by the committee and in Namibia.
- It was agreed that charitable status was not an option. The required amount for us to qualify would not be achievable and we are covered by the Holy Trinity charitable status as a sub-committee of the PCC.
- Fix a calendar of fundraising/awareness raising events in January each year.
- Look for variety of fundraising events to keep people interested.
- Raise awareness of the Link within the Holy Trinity congregation and elsewhere – awareness will encourage people to support the link.

## **7.WORKSHOP 4 – INVOLVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Background: Historically the link has been supported by the congregation of Holy Trinity Church and a few interested persons from outside the Church. It was felt that this could be a financial burden for the congregation added to the other recent demands on their giving e.g. Parish Hall refurbishment, replacement boiler, Parish School extension as well as their personal charitable giving. The Review Group wanted to explore how the support could be extended into the community including opening up the committee to members of the community and perhaps registering as a separate charity (see FINANCES section).

Having had a long and varied history, Horwich now has a Town Council, many charity and community organisations including uniformed organisations, Rotary, Inner Wheel and the new Horwich Business Alliance among many. There are two High Schools and five Primary Schools. There are four Anglican churches, one R.C. church, two Methodist churches, one Evangelical church, one Liberty Christian Centre, one Independent Methodist and one United Reformed Methodist Church.

As well as three dental surgeries serving the community there are three doctors’ surgeries and a clinic which will be incorporated into the proposed Health Centre

to be built alongside the rebuilt Leisure Centre (2017/18). Various major housing developments are at the planning stages. Horwich has the Middlebrook Retail Park on its doorstep as well as the Bolton Wanderers football team's Macron Stadium and the Bolton Arena. There are good public transport links including a railway station.

## **INVOLVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OUTCOMES**

- It is recognised that the link could have benefits for the local community.
- Church links – pair denomination for denomination e.g. Evangelical, Roman Catholic.
- School links –pairing individual schools but also raise awareness in schools even if not paired.
- Rotary – explore whether Rotary operate in northern Namibia but also involve Horwich Rotary.
- Raise awareness in the community and with other organisations by getting involved in other churches, organisations' and civic events.
- Approach Horwich Town Council to raise awareness and discuss how they can benefit from supporting the link.
- Explore environmental projects.
- Explore IT projects.

## **8. PROPOSED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LINK**

### **AIM:**

To share the love of Christ with our Christian brothers and sisters in Okathitu and Ruacana, to share experiences and to learn from one another.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

Providing help and resources to improve education and to overcome sickness, hunger and poverty.

This can be done through the three Es:

**Education + Enablement = Empowerment**

## **9. THE WAY FORWARD**

Should the outcomes of the Review be accepted by the PCC, it has been agreed to take the Link forward as follows:

- Raise awareness in Holy Trinity and elsewhere – perhaps having a Namibia Sunday morning in church, a school event etc.
- Improve communication with both Okathitu and Ruacana. Further email correspondence, followed up by using Skype to talk to key persons in our link parishes to keep us informed so that the information can be shared with our congregation and supporters.
- Specify identified project/s – keep it simple and not have too many at one time.
- Raise finances sufficient to support the link.
- Identify appropriate people in Namibia who can oversee/monitor projects and communicate with us for accountability.
- Feedback on both sides of all elements of projects, visits etc. including expenditure, success, accounts, progression etc.
- Evaluation of visits to and from Namibia.
- Most importantly obtain the Namibians' thoughts on the aims and objectives of the link.

**HOLY TRINITY NAMIBIA LINK REVIEW: NOV 2015- MAR 2016**