



ScotlandMalawi
PARTNERSHIP

FAITH LINKS CONFERENCE

16th June 2018

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

REPORT



Talent Trust Consultants

ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation
Alan Laverock	Bananabox Trust
Beata Skobodzinska	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Ben Wilson	SMP Board Member/SCIAF
Carol Finlay	Church of Scotland
David Hope-Jones	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Fr. William Damah	St Bernadette's Malawi Partnership
Geraldine Fleming	St Bernadette's Malawi Partnership
Grace O'Donovan	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Heather Cubie	SMP Board Member
James May	St Bernadette's Malawi Partnership
Joel Chaney	Creative Energie
Jonathan Groves	The Kerusso Trust
Kathy Wright	Scotland Malawi Partnership
Lawrence Sum	Scottish Bible Society
Lesley-Ann Calvert	Church of Scotland
Margaret Merchant	Churches of God
Rachel Macleod	SMP Member
Rebecca McGonigle	Church of Scotland
Webster Siame Kameme	University of St Andrews



AGENDA

SATURDAY 16TH JUNE 2018

10.00 – 15.30

CITY OF EDINBURGH METHODIST CHURCH, NICOLSON SQUARE

Objectives

- 1) Update faith members on key developments from Malawi
- 2) Explore the role of faith groups and faith links in Malawi's continuing development
- 3) Promote and support information-sharing, communication and collaboration between members
- 4) Explore themes around good partnership working
- 5) Listen to the challenges and successes experienced by faith-based members
- 6) Offer practical support, advice and information for faith-based links

Agenda

The theme of the Conference was on partnership, narrative, and communication and collaboration.

10.00 – 10.30	Arrivals, tea and coffee	
10.30 – 10.45	Welcome & opening remarks	<i>Heather Cubie</i>
10.45 – 10.50	Opening prayer	<i>Carol Finlay</i>
10.50 – 11.15	Introductions	<i>David Hope-Jones</i>
11.15 – 12.30	Linking with Malawi	
12.30 – 13.15	Lunch	
13.15 – 13.40	Two discussion groups:	
	<i>Carol Finlay (Church of Scotland): Communications and Narrative</i>	
	<i>Ben Wilson (SCIAF): Collaboration and Partnership</i>	
13.40 – 14.40	SMP Support	<i>David Hope-Jones</i>
14.40 – 15.00	Closing remarks & reflections	<i>David Hope-Jones</i>

MINUTES

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

HEATHER CUBIE, SMP BOARD MEMBER

Heather welcomed all guests to the 2018 Faith Links Conference, and introduced herself as a Director on the SMP Board, as well as a committed member of her own faith link with Malawi through her church. Heather welcomed Kathy Wright, SMP Member Services Manager, who gave a brief overview of the latest SMP activity and achievements from the past year. Grace O'Donovan, SMP Member Services Officer, also introduced the meetings' sponsors, Talent Trust Consultants (TTC) as an SMP member-recommended company providing affordable medical and travel insurance for people of Christian faith as they travel to and from Malawi.

CAROL FINLAY, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

Carol opened the meeting with a reflection and prayer. She spoke about the impact of partnership over many generations built on friendship and the sharing of faith.

INTRODUCTIONS

DAVID HOPE-JONES, SCOTLAND MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

David gave a brief overview of his time at the SMP, with his 10-year anniversary that week. He spoke to the SMP's first official event (Independence Day), the importance of the Malawian diaspora, and the wider inter-faith links.

JONATHAN GROVES, THE KERUSSO TRUST

As the founder of The Kerusso Trust, Jonathan spoke to the need to train church leaders to run projects for themselves. He and his wife set up the Trust after first visiting Malawi in 2009 and 2011 and hearing about the 90%+ of church leaders that are untrained. He and a Malawian partner together developed an indigenously-led training programme, in which 1,000+ rural church leaders have participated so far. The training is taught by Malawians in Chichewa. They look ahead to the potential training of 10,000 church leaders over the next 10 years.

JOEL CHANEY, CREATIVE ENERGIE

Creative Energie offers services to partnerships in Malawi as 'energy for life'. This includes training in renewable energy technologies – solar, bio-gas, and technology development. He works with universities, including the Universities of Strathclyde and Edinburgh, and ICT for energy (both software and hardware). He looks to bring people together in the renewable energy sector.

LESLEY-ANN CALVERT, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Lesley joined recently as a new employee of the Church of Scotland in her Outreach Officer role, so expressed her enthusiasm to absorb and learn from the meeting.

REBECCA MCGONIGLE, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Rebecca has been the Outreach Officer for the Church of Scotland for eight years. During that time, there has been a considerable amount of work in twinning, and she has seen first-hand how this has changed over the years, and how much Malawian and Scottish partnerships can learn from each other.

CAROL FINLAY, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Carol has worked with churches across Scotland in helping them develop their global interests. Previously working as a nurse teacher between 1991 – 2001 at Ekwendeni Hospital, Carol has been back to visit regularly, and has seen how much Ekwendeni College of Health Sciences has flourished over the years. The Church of Scotland has long-standing links with Malawi and many ways they link and gave just one example; Mission partner roles have evolved over time; there are now different needs and no longer limited to just being doctors, nurses or ministers and she shared the example of their new Mission partner who has gone to work as a lawyer with the Church and Society Department of the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia to work with human trafficking and gender justice issues.

BEN WILSON, SMP BOARD MEMBER/SCIAF

Ben is on the Board of the SMP, and originally joined as one of its youth members in 2007. Ben kept up his involvement throughout university. He also represents Bangwe Community Partners, a small organisation run by his family. Currently, Ben has been working as a Policy Officer for SCIAF since September 2017. He is particularly interested in the SCIAF perspective, theological differences, and what he can learn from the meeting to feed into SCIAF's direct partnership approach.

MARGARET MERCHANT, CHURCHES OF GOD

Margaret started working as a missionary ten years ago when she went to Malawi with a British group. They used chalk to map out on the floors of churches what people needed, where they were, where they wanted to be, how they pictured getting there, and how they could help. The project that emerged was a mobile clinic, which visited local villages and had great success. Some issues are that funding was erratic, after which they looked to getting involved with permaculture following years of disastrous harvests. They now look to invest in sustainable agriculture.

FR. WILLIAM DAMAH, ST BERNADETTE'S MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

Fr. William noted that there were three representatives from St Bernadette's Malawi Partnership present at the meeting, and that he was in attendance to observe and learn.

GERALDINE FLEMING, ST BERNADETTE'S MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

Geraldine is the Chairperson of St Bernadette's Malawi Partnership in the Mulanje District of Malawi. Their previous priest visited in 2013, and worked in Namulenga. There was a partnership team of ten, and they brought their Malawian partners over to Scotland, where they formally signed a partnership agreement with St Anne's. The partnership was formalised for proper planning, to share faith and culture, to share events, and to focus on education as a way out of poverty so that children could attend school. They set up a nursery feeding programme with Mary's Meals, and attained sponsorship for secondary schools, where girls who have been able to stay in education now have brighter prospects as a result. They also focus on children with disabilities, building new classrooms, promoting sewing machines and carpentry. There have been challenges, including crop devastation from drought and the army worm. They are currently working on a community project focusing on dairy farming.

JAMES MAY, ST BERNADETTE'S MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

James echoed Fr. William and Geraldine.

WEBSTER SIAME KAMEME, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Malawian-born, Webster is studying Divinity at the University of St Andrews, and works with Malawian and Nigerian mission churches in Scotland. Webster spoke to the lived experience of challenges in Malawi. He served in the Malawian Parliament in the 90's, and noted that *hope* is fundamental within partnerships. He noted how encouraging it was to hear wonderful stories from those sharing. Experience is also a key part of education. Webster was previously a teacher, and emphasised the importance of education as he is now doing his second PhD. He thanked the SMP for their support, as well as the Scottish Government.

ALAN LAVEROCK, THE BANANABOX TRUST

Alan has been involved in Malawi since 2008, and he has visited 22 times. As part of The Bananabox Trust, Alan works to send goods mainly to Ekwendeni, and also works to reduce poverty through education and business. He supports schools for disadvantaged groups, where there are 51 children (including 15 albinos) at secondary level. He also supports a sports academy near Ekwendeni, and they are looking to increase school involvement and the number of sports available. Alan also works with a mental health unit. The Bananabox Trust's first container is being shipped in two weeks, where they just ask for donations of £10 per box. Alan looks at what is actually useful to be sent using the policy of 'if it doesn't work in Scotland,

don't send it'. Alan fully supports the SMP's website resource of advice for shipping ([read it here >>](#)), and reminds us that second-hand clothes can destroy a business, but sewing machines can support one. Alan looks to the day that we don't need feeding programmes. He also advises that those looking to ship goods should be respectful. It is very easy to give and people feel good about giving. It is a challenge for people to give useful things.

LAWRENCE SUM, THE SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

The Scottish Bible Society is part of a global organisation. Colleagues in Malawi rely on the sale of Bibles, and colleagues in Scotland raise funds to support projects in Malawi through the translation and distribution of Bibles. They also have a UNESCO-recognised literacy project using Bibles as methods of literacy learning. They are working on capacity building for staff to share skills there and here (vice versa). Challenges are visa-related, as it can be difficult to get visas for Malawians to visit Scotland so they are currently looking at training in Malawi or other neighbouring African countries in order to gain financial control and project management on the ground in Malawi.

RACHEL MACLEOD, SMP MEMBER

Working as a midwife, Rachel travelled to Malawi ten years ago with her son. She had small private funding to work in Lilongwe Hospital for six months, which turned into eight years. She supported the building of a new maternity unit, and after six years, was offered a position at a large organisation to run a mentorship programme. After leaving, Rachel returned to Scotland where she now feels the call to return to Malawi again. While in Malawi, she represented a number of small organisations and worked with volunteers on six-month bases (shorter-term volunteers could do more harm than good), however she noted that short-term volunteer placements could also have their benefits so this is something to look into. Rachel notes that this has nothing to do with voluntourism, but is looking to return to Malawi and work on these volunteer placements.



LINKING WITH MALAWI LIVE Q&A

We were privileged to be joined by a group of faith-based leaders in Malawi, via a WhatsApp group. The panel consisted of:

- Robert Phiri, Executive Director of PAC
- Anthony Ngwira, Country Manager for New Apostolic Church Relief Organisation in Malawi
- Sean Kampondeni, President of the Flood Church Association
- Boniface Chibwana, Coordinator of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Malawi
- Grey Makhole, Senior Pastor of the Presybyterian Church of Malawi

Guests first heard a pre-recorded video from **Robert Phiri, Executive Director of PAC** in Malawi who addressed the meeting and gave reflections. [You can watch the video here >>](#).

They were then encouraged to ask open questions directly to our live Malawian panel, which were fed back via WhatsApp. The questions and answers were all submitted anonymously.

The Q&A from this session are posted below:

Q: What is the best way to increase the capacity of partners and local staff, particularly in leadership, management and finance?

A: Capacity building is critical in achieving organisational objectives and in partner organisations it should include:

- a. Changing the orientation of leaders and staff from business as usual to being results-oriented and customer-focused.
- b. Acquisition of new knowledge and skills
- c. To have an attitudinal change component

It is also ideal to consider the following forms of capacity building:

- a. Technical capacity building which is related to equipment and machines
- b. People capacity building
- c. Systems and processes capacity building
- d. Institutional capacity building

A further analysis is required to determine whether the capacity building requirements are country specific, program related, organisational related or job/task related in order to design initiatives that will be effective and need based.

Areas of capacity building that are a challenge in most organisations include: strategic management, ethics of good governance, policy development and management, performance management, target setting, bench marking, managing and leading strategic change, total quality management's, and creative thinking.

Q: Can faith-based groups support good governance in Malawi?

A: FBG's have historically played a vital role in supporting good governance in Malawi. From the preacher-led and church-mobilized uprising against what was seen by nationals as bad colonial governance in 1915 to the nation-wide pastoral letter of the catholic bishops highlighting matters of bad governance in 2018, FBG's support of good governance is over 100 years old. That support includes lobbying office bearers in governance institutions, sensitizing their faith constituents on matters of governance vis a vis elections, mobilizing demonstrations against gross governance abuses, etc.

A: Indeed Faith Based groups can support good governance in Malawi. The recent afrobarometer research in Malawi indicated that people have lost trust in political leaders and chiefs who at most times mobilise people in governance policy direction. Now the church can bridge that gap in engaging with people in governance processes. There is a lot of moral decadence in a country as a whole and at local governance structures in particular. The church needs to come in with ethical governance concepts in engaging with the people. Secondly Malawi goes for tripartite elections next year and people seem dis-interested to participate in elections looking at governance challenges yet we still have political leaders who are not truthfully saving the people. The church needs to come in and encourage people in participate in elections especially teaching people in principles/qualities of good leadership so they that they be part of putting in place good leaders. In short the church has a strong case to participate in governance in Malawi.

A: The missing link that I see in FBG's advocacy of good governance is that of modelling. Governance structures and processes within FBGs themselves tend to either be rigid to change or impervious to scrutiny or vulnerable to abuse, leaving FBGs open to the allegation that they preach what they themselves cannot practice. As such, the development and publicity of credible governance structures within FBGs is one area in which capacity building is greatly needed as envisaged by question number 1.

Q: How can faith-based links help to benefit the people of Scotland?

A: Faith based links can have the following benefits for the people of Scotland:

1. An opportunity to enrich their global perspective by engaging in the progress of a nation in another part of the globe
2. An opportunity to expand their cultural intelligence and sensitivity and enrich others with their own cultural distinctives through mutual cultural exposure
3. An opportunity to leverage their economic advantages for investment in transformative initiatives in a part of the world where small investments yield bigger impacts than they may at home
4. An opportunity to memorialize and celebrate Scotland's long and rich history of faith based interventions in Africa and the impact it has had with a view to

sustaining the same into the future as national heritage worth keeping and growing

5. An opportunity to build alliances and partnerships that may prove vital to establishing Scotland's credibility in other fora on the global stage.
6. An opportunity to grow in their appreciation of their own privileges and develop a perspective that sees those privileges as a call to serving humanity rather than a cause for self-indulgence.
7. An opportunity to deepen their appreciation of and learn from the resilience of people in the world who demonstrate a capacity to accomplish much with less and live meaningful lives with what may be considered nothing elsewhere.

Q: What does good sustainability look like in faith-based links?

A: It is seen through:

1. The prosperity and achievements to be shared across the links
2. Partnerships are based on mutual trust
3. Programs have investment benefits to all parties
4. Business lens are also put into the links

Q: Where partners have invested in building capacity in Malawi, there can sometimes be a brain drain of them leaving their roles or even the country. How could we try and mitigate this sensitively?

A: This can be mitigated by:

1. Providing better opportunities irrespective of tribe, creed, race or nationality.
2. Promoting people on merit
3. Providing attractive salaries to well qualified people based on qualifications and experience
4. Improving the quality of our organisations to bring them at par with similar organisations elsewhere.

For all this to happen there is need as a country to have conducive labour laws and related laws

Q: What is unique about faith-based links in the partnership-building context?

- Transparency and accountability means that there can be a lower level of bribery and corruption
- Joint-planning based on goals set by the Malawian partners
- Recognising that no dependency is created. The ownership is taken on by the local people and the partnership is driven by local needs.
- Sharing of faiths and cultures and looking for ways to come together based on those means
- There is no spiritual poverty despite actual poverty. This is something to learn from the Malawian people.
- An opportunity to witness cultural differences in celebrating a worship (through music and dance in Malawi)
- These links are not about building churches but sharing a prayer, service or hymn
- There is a unique bond based on faith
- A strong sense of social justice embedded in the church culture
- Churches remain the only organisations having access to areas of conflict where secular organisations are not allowed
- Churches are often recognised as potential negotiators between conflict parties
- 'All one in Jesus': gives a basis for building a new relationship where there are no differences between races and genders

Q: What are the challenges?

- Colonial past is a barrier to building relationships with certain countries/organisations
- Some churches still maintain the same old approach towards aid programmes
- The dependence comes from those who created it and the change of attitude needs to come from those who created that dependence
- Being open about what is feasible and possible at the end of each partnership
- Personnel changes leads to obstacles in a relationship, ie. When Parish ministers move to a different location.
- We need to acknowledge corruption in the context of transparency. Partnerships are not oiling that machine, so the responsibility falls to the church
- Faith-based groups can be stronger the more they can act together, which is not reflected in Scotland nor in Malawi. In Scotland, we have Catholic vs Protestant conflicts, which are also experienced in Malawi. We need to look at how both countries can embed love and grace in their faith communities.

- Faith groups are often marginalised in Scotland or attacked in the media, whereas in Malawi it is accepted that faith groups can have a strong sense of impact
- When we talk about faith, we often assume we are talking about Christianity. In Ghana, when there is an election, the Christian and Muslim groups come together to plan through a joint voice. Voting doesn't become about which faith you are from. Building Christian and Muslim relations are so important. We need to work together and embrace each other.
- We need to practice what we preach in faith-based organisations, ie. We stand for gender equality but we can't have gender representative boards in Scotland.
- The word 'charity' has become secularized but the word means 'love'. It's about giving the whole self. We can't pretend that the legacy of colonialism isn't there, on which these religious links we're celebrating are built.
- It is also important to share of the poverty in Scotland. We pretend that we don't also have these problems, but as a part of governance, it is important to share the things that have gone wrong so that we can learn.

Q: What are the roles of religious institutions in building a wider partnership?

- Congregation-to-congregation relationships have been the focus of work in Malawi in the Church of Scotland
- Official Scottish representatives can contribute to building relationships with visited parishes in Malawi
- One of the organisations gave an example of their partnership structure where churches are linked with other churches via a partnership between a charity in Scotland and a charity in Malawi. It is a model which is separate from the Church institution

Q: What is the value of mutual exchange visits?

- Only if there is a good enough reason such mutual exchanges should be organised
- There is a high level of brain drain in Malawi, so you need to balance the needs of individuals and people
- You can have reverse culture shock. A visit can be very successful but what does it look like afterwards? What is the impact? Interpersonal politics in the local community can lead to an assumption that if you go to Scotland, you will come back rich and share that widely.

Q: How has our relationship with Malawi enriched our communities and churches?

- Relationships are bound to change, so you need to be outward-looking
- It is important to understand that transformation resulting from direct relations with the Malawian people do equally effect Scottish people
- Oral traditions of sharing faith that is still practiced in Malawi is an inspiration for the Bible-reading Christians
- Faith is not separate from any aspect of life in Malawi – it is an important angle to embrace by Scottish Christians
- The lifestyle in Malawi is closer to the Biblical depiction of life
- It gives us a better understanding of human issues
- Partnerships give legitimacy to talking about global issues
- Changing attitudes within the parish surrounding international aid as opposed to helping out people affected by poverty in the UK
- Personal relationships are key in sustaining positive partnerships. Representatives of bigger organisations are often not as driven by an organisation’s targets and projects but rather by building personal relationships
- New solutions help with maintaining better relations with other church members
- Church organisations need to adapt to the fact that partners in Malawi have embraced technology as well
- Church organisations are not good at sharing impact to Scottish partners
- It is a privilege to be able to visit Malawi and reflect on how a simpler life can make us happier
- We are not good at receiving benefits from other countries
- We are not doing well in acknowledging the impact of the Malawian partnership on their Scottish partners
- Online exchange groups can be used to ask for prayers via social media on both sides
- Clearer separation between church and outside-church lives
- Faith-sharing experience
- Mutuality
- ‘Refreshed feeling’

Q: How can we share with others what we’ve learned?

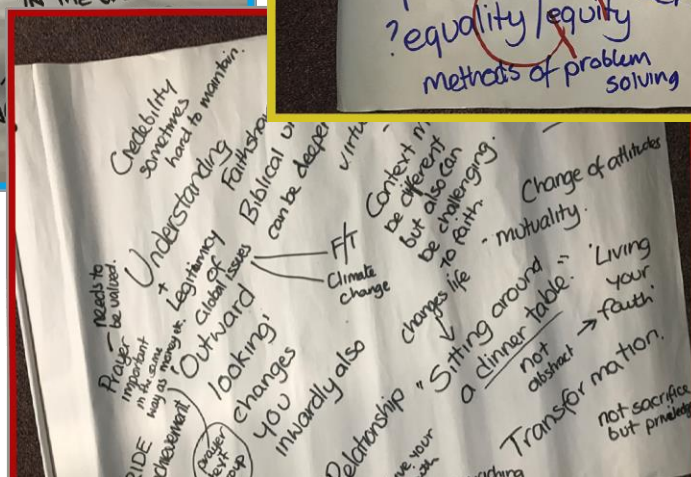
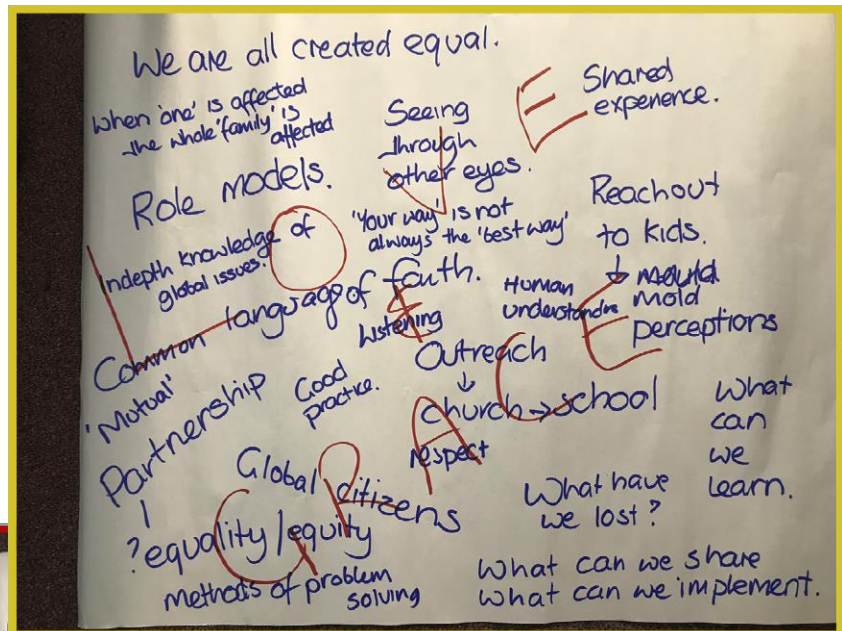
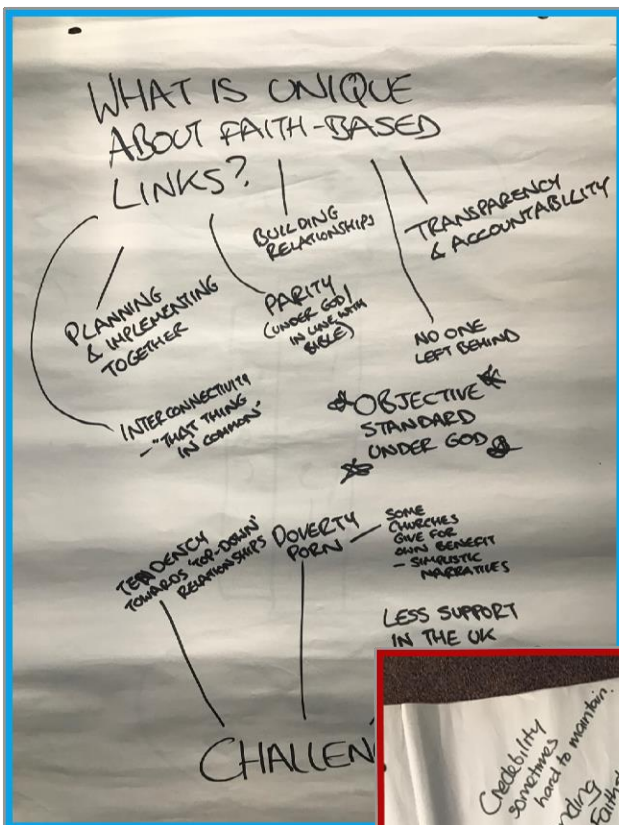
- Photos sent from Malawi and shared with groups in Scotland (and vice versa) allow each other to celebrate with each other. It is important to find out how things are celebrated and to highlight the varieties in culture between the countries, especially in *how* others celebrate their Christian faith. Students who visit Malawi come back with a different outlook that they share with their peers.
- Faith is a common language. We are all equal in God’s eyes, and it is important in being a human being. In Malawi, you can struggle to realise

what you can do for yourself. Even the Government is looking for outside help from the West.

Q: How has this helped us re-think the ways in which we relate to global issues?

- We can't make others 'realise' things, they have to come to those conclusions themselves. If students come back feeling that they have 'saved' Malawi, have they been sufficiently prepared before they go? Adults must take responsibility for this. This is the role of the SMP, the Church of Scotland, and others – to prepare these students better.
- If something affects a particular group, it is not just them being affected. We are a global family and it affects all of us. It can be a thousand miles away but we are all affected.
- Interaction improves best practice in your field. When exposed to different environments, it helps others to see solutions differently and apply them to our own context.
- Key words: equality, shared experience, methods of resolving problems, respect, human understanding, listening, mutuality.

Mind-mapping the Discussions...



SMP SUPPORT

Guests were signposted to our 'Lake Malawi' Board. This provided an opportunity for attendees to write on their 'fishes', and offer suggestions to the question: **what more can we do?** They could also write on their 'stars': **things we are proud of.**



What We Are Proud Of

- Great to see how church groups are starting to realize the value of relationships that can come from links with Malawi
- The communication now passing between the young people of our two communities
- Faith groups in resolving deforestation
- Working with churches to provide Bible-based literacy courses
- The relational partnership, not donor-recipient
- Supplying thousands of Bibles in English and Chichewa to Sunday schools in four major towns and cities in Malawi
- Partnership has grown through forming real relationships with our Malawi community
- Learning how to do things more simply!
- Wonderful friendships
- I have lifelong friendships in Malawi
- Mobile clinic fulfilling a great need
- Our school sponsorship programme is keeping young girls in education, giving them a future
- Girls' rural education bursaries
- Helping develop training now trained by Malawi-only team

What More Can We Do?

- Helping without hurting in short-term mission
- Sustainable agriculture – away from maize dependency and starvation!
- How can we help staff from local partners to obtain professional training to aid capacity building and sustainability?
- The role of faith groups in preventing pollution in the lake
- Sustainability of all we are working towards
- Finding out what's going on already
- Voices! How can we encourage Scottish churches to react like Malawians with song and dance? Can we have more hymns shared between us in English and Chichewa?
- GDPR and safeguarding
- Develop effective short-term volunteer programme: "Do no harm"
- Continual need to prevent 'dependency syndrome'
- Further integration/provision for those with disabilities and additional support needs
- Capacity building training in Malawi

David Hope-Jones took this opportunity to highlight key areas of SMP support in response to a few of the "What More Can We Do?" questions.

- Banners – there are two sets that are available for members to borrow, one set on Partnership Principles and one on Sustainable Development Goals
- Grant application support
- Visas – we continue to have a 100% success rate when supporting members' visas for their Malawian partners visiting Scotland
- Representation in Parliament, both Holyrood and Westminster, Cross Party Group on Malawi meeting every quarter, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malawi
- Practical support and signposting – keep an eye on our website, bulletin and social media
- Discount with STA travel – group travel and 20% off insurance
- Faith newsletter – keep us updated with your news and we can add to the faith newsletter
- Buy Malawian work – our campaign ran again in March but we continue to promote and support Malawian products right through the year
- Bananabox trust – look to them for support with shipping to Malawi
- Talent Trust Consultants for insurance when Malawian visitors come to Scotland
- Member profiles – keep these up to date and use as a resource for finding out what other faith-based members are doing
- Share news through our weekly member bulletin
- Support with getting positive stories about your work with Malawi in the local media – let us know, we can work with you and help you package this up.

There was also a brief Q&A:

Q: How can we help local staff build capacity?

MaSP will be delivering free training across the country. Let us know your needs.

Q: How can we address the protection and pollution of Lake Malawi?

The price of oil has lowered so it is less of an issue but we will keep our eye on it and signpost members to this issue. MaSP will also shed light on this.

Q: Can we have the hymns shared in English and Chitumbuka, as well as Chichewa?

Yes, please contact [Member Services Officer, Grace O'Donovan](#) for a copy of The Lord's Prayer in both Chichewa and Chitumbuka.

Q: Will there be more opportunities to talk about agriculture and maize dependency?

The Minister for Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development will be visiting Edinburgh on Wednesday 11th July for a Roundtable Discussion. All are welcome, so please register your interest [here >>](#).

A bit about our sponsor:



TTC is a Christian organisation providing affordable and effective medical and travel insurance to Christian missionaries abroad. Starting in 1991 as a small family-run company, they now provide services to +13,000 individuals from +1,200 churches and missions across 180 countries.

The SMP has received **excellent** feedback from members who have used their services. If you would like to know more, you can visit their [website >>](#) or contact our [Member Services Officer, Grace O'Donovan >>](#) for more information on their available packages.

The SMP also takes this opportunity to remind faith-based members of the different means of support that we provide as a network and what we ask to improve your membership experience:

Information for Groups and Individuals Travelling to Malawi



The Bananabox Trust works with people and organisations in Malawi, to bring expertise and support. They transport a variety of items via containers.

For more information, please contact Alan Laverock at info@bananaboxtrust.org.

SMP members get great discounts with STA Travel! STA Travel offers fantastic value, great service and invaluable support for those travelling to Malawi, especially groups. **And it's not just for students; it's open to all members.**



As an SMP member, you will now be able to book travel through STA, with: **20% off insurance, 10% off transfers & accommodation, free ISIC/IYTC card.**

Simply use the code **STAMALAWI2018** when you get in touch. For more information, please contact Jamie Ferguson at Jamie.Ferguson@statravel.com

SMP Asks

- ✓ Update your **Member Profile** on the SMP website. [Contact our Media and Communications Officer, Jackie Farr >>](#) , for any assistance.
- ✓ **Let us know when you go to Malawi** and what you're doing! [Jackie >>](#) can also help get you positive news coverage of your Malawi link.
- ✓ Contribute to our annual **Faith Newsletter** by submitting your Malawi updates to our [Member Services Officer, Grace O'Donovan >>](#).
- ✓ Just because our Buy Malawian 2018 campaign is over, doesn't mean it ends there! Keep supporting Malawi by **buying Malawian products** where possible, or take part in the [JTS 90K Rice Challenge >>](#).
- ✓ **Borrow our Banners!** [Contact Grace >>](#) to borrow our 17 Sustainable Development Goals banners and our 11 Partnership Principles banners, for events and meetings.
- ✓ Applying for a **grant**? WE CAN HELP! [Contact our Member Services Manager, Kathy Wright >>](#) for advice.
- ✓ **VISA SUPPORT.** The SMP can support visa applications with a letter of support. [Contact our Chief Executive, David Hope-Jones >>](#) for help.

Thank You

In celebration of the success of our 2018 Faith Links Conference, we would like to especially thank:

Talent Trust Consultants (TTC)

Heather Cubie, SMP Board Member

Carol Finlay, Church of Scotland World Mission Council

Ben Wilson, SMP Board Member/SCIAF

Robert Phiri, PAC

Anthony Ngwira, New Apostolic Church Relief Organisation in Malawi

Sean Kampondeni, Flood Church Association

Boniface Chibwana, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Malawi

Grey Makhole, Presbyterian Church of Malawi

The Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP)

Davie Luhanga

The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

and all of our guests

Please visit our [Faith Links Conference event page on the SMP website](#) to see photos, videos and highlights from the day!

