

## About the Trust

The Trust is a registered charity no. SC 040482

Originally registered as The St Mary's Hospice Malawi Trust, was a long-term project set up to raise awareness, co-ordinate fund-raising events and act as a link for the work being carried out in and around Mzuzu in northern Malawi. However, the project was renamed Highland Malawi Trust when it became clear creating a hospice was subordinate to many other areas of need, such as orphan care and assisting widows' groups.

The principal objectives of the Trust are to raise awareness of this work, co-ordinate fund-raising events and act as a link for the project in Scotland.

It all began when Reay Macgill (now a Trustee) met Brother Michael when he worked for some months at Cameron House, Inverness (a Church of Scotland residential care home). Michael belongs to a small ecumenical religious community, the Community of Jesus of Nazareth (CJN), living out a simple life of prayer, work and hospitality. As a contemplative community, its duty and mission of hospitality has been expressed by nursing and care of the poor and the sick.

Reay and her husband Brian held an open evening at their house in December 2008 and a number of friends were invited to meet Brother Michael informally and to learn about his work. Everyone was so deeply impressed by his quiet but resolute determination to live out the calling of CJN to help the poor and the sick that an encouraging measure of financial support was pledged. This was the spur formally to establish a Trust.

Within six weeks the Trust Deed setting out the purposes, powers etc. of the Trust was drawn up. Trustees were appointed and the Deed was signed on 8th February 2009.

Reay works on projects with close friend Chrisanne MacLeod, a teacher in Drakies Primary School in Inverness. Together they have organised a range of events covering a fairly broad selection of activities such as car treasure-hunts, open-house gatherings and pampering evenings to name but a few along with various other fund-raising activities. It all adds up to effective fund-raising.

The Trust is indebted to the minister and congregation of Inverness Crown Church. The congregation has continued to offer the Trust a most generous level of support. The Trust itself remains an independent body but three current trustees are members of Inverness Crown Church.

The Guilds of Crown and other local churches have also been kind enough, despite their other project commitments, to give a welcome that has been both warm and keenly supportive. Inverness Rotary Club, Senior Citizens Clubs and Lunch Clubs have also extended enthusiastic invitations to find out what is going on. Reay and Chrisanne, the self-styled "Malawi Maidens", have presented audio-visual presentations of their visits to Malawi. Their photographs give rise to a gamut of emotions ranging from despair and pity to hope and joy.

Successive trips to Malawi by Reay and Chrisanne - at their own expense - have enabled them to monitor the progress made by the different groups they support. A record has been kept and the pictures can be seen in various parts of the site.

After four tireless years on the committee, Iain McDiarmid retired in 2013. The Trustees have formally thanked him for his support in getting the Trust up and running and for his management of the website and numerous Trust presentations in the course of his service.



Information about the current trustees can be found on the website.