



Partner plan letter from Dr Ruth Shakespeare serving as a mission partner of the Church of Scotland in Mulanje, Malawi. Ruth is the Medical Director of Mulanje Mission Hospital, a health facility of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre Synod

## ‘Mutu umodzi susenza denga’

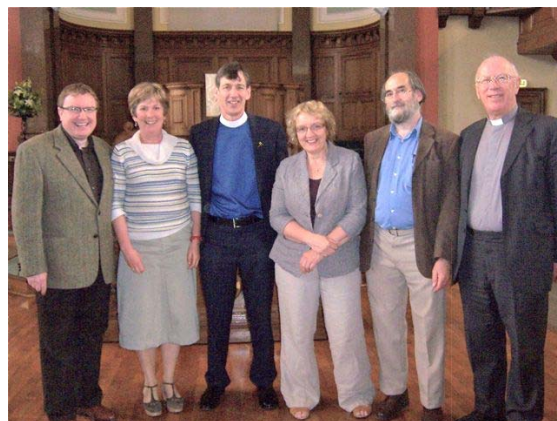
### ‘one head cannot hold up the whole roof’

... the Chichewa proverb painted above my kitchen door, and a useful daily reminder to approach the multitude of tasks for the Medical Director here with wisdom and humility. It has been a busy but very enjoyable three months, getting to know the hospital, our staff and wider partners at Mulanje Mission and Blantyre Synod.

My first impression has been of dedicated health care staff at the hospital and in outreach clinics, serving the local population and faithfully meeting the needs of the wider population of Mulanje and many from Mozambique, despite the problems posed by lack of fuel, frequent electricity cuts, a very tight budget and scarcity of drugs and clinical supplies.

*Over 400 mothers and babies attend Salamba clinic when the MMH team visits*

*Ruth’s commissioning service was at St George’s West in Edinburgh on May 15th*





*Blantyre Synod recently adopted new workplace guidelines on HIV and AIDS*

## Prayer and Praise

- Thank God for the daily work and witness of MMH and the commitment of our staff
- Pray for peace and justice in Malawi following the riots in July and continuing tension between government and the people
- Pray for wisdom for the senior management team at MMH as we grapple with our difficult financial position and make decisions on what can and cannot be afforded over the next year
- Pray especially for staff working in the very busy and demanding ART clinic, treating patients with AIDS and providing palliative care
- Thank God for the many generous donors who faithfully support our work throughout the year

Daily work here starts at 07.15 with a meeting of all the clinicians and a handover from the night to the day staff. By then, queues of patients are building up to visit the dentist, the under 5s clinic, family planning, antenatal care, general outpatients and the HIV and AIDS clinic. The whole hospital, staff, patients and guardians, gathers together outside the maternity wards for our morning service for 30 minutes. Then everyone disperses, clinics commence, there are ward rounds to be done and the community health staff get busy packing the equipment and vaccines needed for the day's outreach clinic.

Now is the season when everyone has plenty of maize - and so a popular season for celebrations. Our church held seven weddings last Saturday - the first at 7am! I am a member of the Partnership Committee for the mission station, sharing responsibility for decision making about school and likuni phala factory activities, as well as the hospital!

Thank you for the many messages of support that I have received since I arrived - they have been very much appreciated!

God bless you all.

Ruth



*Children busy with the pump at Salamba Clinic*

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