

Minchinhampton Nkokoto News

News from the Folk Development College in Urambo: Six new students from Nkokoto have started this year. Monica is studying Tailoring and Erasto wants to be a Motor Vehicle Mechanic. For the first time we have four students (Justine, Phikiri, Abdulsalami and Claudio) who will study Domestic Electrical Installation, a very important and required skill now that more and more villages in the Urambo area are being connected to the Tanzanian national grid. Technology that we take for granted, including IT, is now becoming more widely available, especially in the towns such as Urambo. Most families in Nkokoto have access to mobile phones (even if they don't own one), which they can use to pay bills, order foodstuffs and keep in contact with families afar. When the Link established the microfinance scheme some years ago, giving loans to villagers in Nkokoto, one enterprising villager bought himself a television and satellite dish, and set up a very successful business in his house by charging people to come to watch the live UK Premier league football on the screen!



We are pleased to report that all 6 students that started in 2021 have returned to the FDC to complete Year 2 of their studies. Students live-in at the FDC so it is a real commitment from them and their families for the students to leave Nkokoto to learn a trade. The FDC also provides lessons in additional languages, finance management, computers, health care, team sports and general life skills to allow them to make the most of all their opportunities once they graduate, and, we understand, offers evening classes to Urambo folks too.



The road to Nkokoto

Communication : In addition to the monthly summaries in this helpful Parish magazine, we are exploring new ways to share more details about our latest projects. The website is live, please search for : <http://www.minchinhamptonkokotolink.co.uk> You can also try searching for Minch

NK Link in Facebook. Please tell us if there is anything else on these pages that you would like us to add. Communication within our own local community is always, and is going to be even more important in the future. Much like the spring bulbs, we feel like we are coming out of hibernation. In 2021 we updated our Articles held by the Charity Commission so that we did not have to risk holding an AGM during Covid but.....we look forward to seeing you all later this year when a date for the AGM is fixed. We are also restarting fundraising. Alison and Christian have entered the Eddystone Pursuit again, sailing from Plymouth Sound round the 26 mile course to the lighthouse and back in June; last year they raised £2021 of much needed funds, all of which were immediately spent on the education of Nkokoto children. We will keep you informed about the event nearer the date. Fund raising is so important for the Link as it means we can do those little extras for the children and students. Covid put a hefty brake on all our fundraising events which we really miss. So this year, amongst other ideas, we hope to have a local concert and are really looking forward to meeting all our Link friends, supporters and sponsors again soon.

With best wishes to all our readers,

Rod Harris, Chair.

Contact details : 01453 872317 / 07775652379 email : rodharriswoodchester@gmail.com