



March 2024

TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF
JESUS CHRIST TO THE
STREET CHILDREN
OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO
MEET THEIR NEEDS
THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE
LIFE IN ALL ITS
GOODNESS



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Welcome to the Spring edition of FISCH Food!

Greetings, dear Friends of FISCH! Spring has sprung and we are drawing close to Good Friday and Easter.

The rainy season will be upon Tanzania soon, but the activities at the Drop-in-Centre in Iringa will continue. As usual, we have lots of great stories and news to share with you, from both Tanzania and the UK. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the FISCH Food, and as always, if you would like to share it with a friend, please do! Have a lovely Easter everyone.



Christmas at FISCH

Every year the Drop-in-Centre hosts the **FISCH Team, Children and their families** to celebrate Christmas and the birth of our Saviour, **Jesus**. A fabulous meal is served, including soup, fruit, rice, meat and potatoes, then everyone gathers together to sing songs of worship and praise to God.

This Christmas FISCH was able to bless each of the 16 Children in the Short-Term Accommodation with a **new set of clothes** as a small Christmas gift, which were enthusiastically received.

We'd like to take this opportunity to **thank every one** of our Supporters and Friends of FISCH who gave extra financial Christmas gifts over the festive season. **Thank you!**





Grace and Aloyce's Graduation

Two of our **university Students**, Aloyce and Grace, graduated at the end of last year. To celebrate, a **small party** was held at the DiC, with a shared meal, cake and a karaoke! Grace achieved a **Diploma in Community Development**, and Aloyce graduated from his Degree course with 2.1, also in Community Development



Aloyce's story

Aloyce is the youngest of seven children in his family, and his father passed away when he was a young boy. Life was hard, and his mother was unable to care for all her children, so Aloyce and his siblings were cared for by their grandparents. Sadly, a few years later his mother also passed away. Aloyce remained with his grandparents, who sold mousetraps and beer to support themselves. Unfortunately, within a few more years both his grandparents died, leaving the siblings alone and to fend for themselves.

FISCH began to support Aloyce when he was 14 whilst he was at Primary School, and this continued through Secondary School. His favourite subjects were **English, Biology and History**. He also took on various jobs around Iringa to help his sister in providing for his siblings.

Since 2011, Aloyce regularly attended the **Saturday Feeding Project** where he received a **good meal** once a week. He got involved with leading the Sunday Bible lessons at FISCH Church, and prior to starting college he took part in the **Youth Club** and the **After School Club**.

Losing his parents and grandparents within a several years of each other was a traumatic experience for Aloyce. Wonderfully he began to see the Team and Children at FISCH **as a new family to him**.

Aloyce **grabbed the opportunity** to better his life. He was accepted into university and FISCH was able to connect him with a **Sponsor** to support him through his Degree. He graduated with a **Bachelors** in Community Development achieving a **2:1** through his hard work, and as you can see from the photos, he looks rather pleased with himself! And so he should!

Aloyce is a joyful example to the Children as to what can be achieved with perseverance when the opportunity comes their way. Aloyce has gone from a Street Child to a Student to a Graduate who can now being to support himself and his family and become self-sufficient. **We thank God** for the opportunity to be part of his story, and we hope Aloyce will inspire other Street Children to dare for more in life.



FISCH United

Football is always popular in Tanzania, and at FISCH we have our own football team that plays in a local league.

After a hiatus, the FISCH Utd football team is back! Don't they look smart in their new footie strip?

Vocational Students Graduate from Tosamaganga

For a number of the individuals that FISCH support, the best route to **employment** and **self-sufficiency** is **vocational training**. As well as our own tailoring training which operates at the FISCH centre, we use a number of external training schools to **equip** these individuals **with a skill** that not only matches their interests, but also results in a **reasonable chance of employment**.

In November last year we celebrated with **four** of our Vocational Students as they graduated from their studies at Tosamaganga High School. **Congratulations!**

We are currently seeking to **increase the number** of Supporters for vocational training. If you feel able to contribute even a small amount monthly to this cause, please drop us an email at office@gofisch.org.



Three of our graduates showing off their certificates – with a bonus thumbs up!

Government Relationships

In early December the Team were **surprised** with a visit from the **government**.

The Iringa District Councillor Hon. **Veronica Kessy** and her team visited the Drop-in-Centre to greet the Children and spend time with the Team, **recognising the great work** that FISCH was achieving in the local area and the **values that we present** to the community. This was a **welcome surprise**, but what caused even more delight was that the DC Kessy also promised to contribute towards the FISCH Christmas meal, **by providing a goat, rice, fruit and sodas for the Children** – amazing!

DC Kessy took a **tour of the Drop-in-Centre** and was able to witness the work of the Sewing Club first hand, plus interact with many of the Children.

Since this visit, the local government has been very keen to **help** promote the work we are doing and **work together** with us to tackle the challenges these Children face. They are also keen to assist individuals FISCH have trained or sponsored through University and Vocational Training into employment, which we hope will open up a number of opportunities!

This is a **wonderful testament** to the developing relationship between FISCH and the local authorities.





Building TLC

The Drop-in-Centre is the **central hub** for the goings on at FISCH in Iringa, and it's recently been given some love and TLC. Doesn't it look smart?

School Uniforms

Did you know, a pupil **cannot attend school** unless they have a correct uniform as well as all the appropriate equipment? **Providing uniforms** is an important part of supporting Children through education. Here are the latest batch of school uniforms, produced by the **Sewing Club**.



Revolution Day Hospital Clean Up

Zanzibar Revolution Day is a public holiday in Tanzania celebrated on the 12th of January each year. This year, FISCH were invited to participate in some of the **community activities** taking place. After helping to **tidy the grounds of the local hospital** together with other organisations and groups, the Children were treated to enjoy a breakfast chicken soup with goat meat provided by the government.



Voluntary Walk Against Gender-Related Violence

In December some of the Children and Team from FISCH took part in a **voluntary walk** through the Streets of Iringa in support of the prevention of gender-based violence. They crafted a **banner** and they joined the procession which ended up at the Samora football stadium, where talks were given to the crowds. The Kids banner reads; **“Invest in preventing gender-based violence”**.



Jerry's Story*

Jerry is a FISCH Kid whom we managed to **successfully reunite** with his grandmother last year.

Jerry's mother sadly abandoned him and his siblings with his grandmother, and his father had a new life with a new wife where Jerry was not welcome. His elderly grandmother **struggled to provide** for the grandchildren and herself, scratching a living from washing clothes in the village for **little money** every few days, as her health complications prevent her from other work. **Meals were irregular**, and some days didn't occur at all. His bed was a small old mat that he shared with his siblings. The situation was pretty dire. Jerry came to Iringa in search of a better life, but **ended up on the streets**, hardly better off.

Jerry **registered with FISCH** and in time the Team set about trying to reunite him with his grandmother and to arrange support for her and the other children. Contact was made with the District Social Welfare Officer and Jerry and a FISCH Team member set off for a two day trip back to Jerry's village. On the first leg of the trip, the bus was so full Jerry wasn't able to gain a seat, and so sat on an upturned bucket for most of the journey! However, **the journey was a success**, with Jerry and the FISCH Team member arriving safely at his grandmother's house late in the evening. However, before counselling and family resolutions could occur, it was discovered that Jerry's siblings and grandmother had **not eaten anything that day**, so food was obtained from the village and a meal was prepared first. A new mattress for the bed was also purchased.

The District Social Welfare Officer met with them at their home and arranged for Jerry's grandmother to be enrolled in a programme to help support her and the family, and also started the process of getting Jerry in to some sort of **vocational training**.

Since then the FISCH Team have continued to monitor Jerry's situation, along with the District Social Welfare Officer, and **fantastically he has settled back** in to life with his grandmother well. He has also been offered a place on a **training course** which FISCH is funding, and we are so glad to be able to offer Jerry the chance of a **better life**, and that for his family too. Please do keep Jerry, his siblings and his grandmother in your prayers.



**Names have been changed for privacy*



More News in Numbers

- 81 – the number of **school uniforms** provided to Children in January, when the academic year started. Without uniforms, Children would be unable to attend school, so they are an essential provision for any Child aspiring to continue their education.
- 3 – the number of Kids who have moved out from the Short-Term Accommodation at the DiC and are **now living safely and independently**. Their beds have been filled with three Children previously living on the Streets.
- 16 – the number of Children **resident in the Short-Term Accommodation**; 6 are in vocational training, one has begun an apprenticeship and 1 an internship.
- 12 – the length in hours of the bus ride that took Atuswile and a FISCH Team member to a centre in another city that will provide **education, accommodation and food**. Atuswile was initially supported at FISCH over the last few years due to her family situation and has now moved on to a new start in life.



The Annual Christmas Craft Stall at St Saviours



Every year St Saviours Church in Guildford host the Christmas Market, and over the last few years the Craft group at the church come together to create dozens and dozens of **homemade items** suitable for Christmas gifts.

Last year was no exception! The Group made **lavender jam, chutneys, keyrings, marmalades** and more, and raised over **£600** towards the work at FISCH! The Group also had **leaflets** about FISCH to hand, to share the great news about where the funds raised was going, and what impact it would have.

Once again we'd love to sincerely thank the St Saviours Craft Group for their efforts and generosity. **Thank you!**

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

Another fundraiser from St Saviours last year was the Wreath-Making stall. Here, church member **Louise and friends** provided all the material needed to make a wreath – **willow, greenery, decorations** such as dried oranges and cinnamon sticks – and for a donation visitors could have a go at making their wreath to take home. Some people were complete newbies and had never made a wreath before, others were old hands who build a wreath year on year. **What a great idea!** The stall raised over **£400**, which was kindly donated to FISCH. **Thank you, Louise and co!**



Advent Calendar Fundraiser

Did you take part in the Advent Giving Calendar last year?

This was an advent calendar with a **twist** – instead of receiving a chocolate each day of advent, this calendar shared a fact about FISCH, Iringa or Tanzania, and then challenged you to **give a few pennies** to your dedicated Giving Jar, depending on the theme of the day. For instance, on December 1st, the Calendar challenged you to gift 10p into the Giving Jar for every item of clothing in the colours green, yellow, blue or black – because there are the colours of the Tanzanian flag, and also the FISCH Logo.

Here you can see one family having fun, dressing up for dinner to increase their tally of hats, scarves and gloves!

Lots of families and individuals took part in the Advent Calendar fundraiser in December, and through the many pennies donated to many jars, we raised **over £185** for FISCH! If you took part in this, **Thank You!!**



If you want to find more about the work we do or how you can get involved, please check out; **Gofisch.org**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. – John 11:25

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