



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

Welcome to the Spring edition of FISCH Food!

Well, the daffodils may be pushing up through the cold earth and the lambs are shivering here in the soggy United Kingdom, but in Tanzania it's the hot rainy season and the land is in full greenery. School has started in January and lots of things are happening at FISCH. We have a new Team Member, a returning Team Member and many Children on their way to sustainable self-provision. We hope you enjoy reading this edition to find out more, and thank you as always for your support of the Children at FISCH, Iringa.

Advent Calendar Review

Do you remember in the Winter 2019 Food edition we shared with you the FISCH Giving Calendar? It's an Advent Calendar with a twist – instead of opening the window and receiving something, instead you get to learn about life in Iringa and at FISCH, and then you give something! Many participants in this kept a FISCH Jar to put their coppers and silvers in. An example from the Advent Calendar is this, on the 8th of December; “The FISCH Breakfast Club meets each morning to provide a basic breakfast and tea (*chai*) for the Kids who have not moved off the Streets yet. Put 10p in the Jar for every cup of tea or coffee you have today.”

We would like to thank the many supporters of FISCH who took part in this Giving Advent Calendar, and we really hope you enjoyed learning a bit more about what life is like for the Children in Iringa. We have raised about £200 from the Calendars, which is a fantastic amount! So thank you for taking part, and for Giving!

Basil's Driving Licence Success

At FISCH we try to encourage **vocational training** as well as academic studies. One of the ways we have been able to help is with **driving lessons**. We are pleased to share that **Basil** has **passed his driving test** successfully and will now be able to operate as a **motorcycle taximan** around Iringa. The usual way to get around Iringa is either by foot, by dala-dala (like a local bus, but think minivans with many people squashed inside!) or by the big coaches between cities along the main highways. However in recent years, the motorcycle taxi has really taken off. A motorcycle can be hired for a day, and then can be used to taxi people around for a fee, before returning the motorcycle at the end of the day. Now that Basil has got his licence, **he can hire a motorcycle and start to earn his own money and run a business. We congratulate him!**





Football Updates

2019 was a good year for FISCH Utd Football Club – the Team were **finally registered!** Here you can see a copy of the certificate, officially stating that FISCH Utd are registered with the **National Sports Council of Tanzania**, and also a photo of the lads in their new kit.

Not only that, but we have great news about an individual football player, who has been registered with FISCH way back since 2007, the year FISCH was founded. **Geno** has been selected to play with **Kigali Junior Football Team in Rwanda** this month! Funds have already been provided to cover the fees for his travel to Rwanda and back. **What an amazing opportunity!**



Sewing Club Graduates

Regular readers of the Food are probably aware that the **Sewing Club** has been in operation for several years now. The Sewing Club offers a **safe place for young women and girls** to meet together and enjoy **companionship and support**, and to **learn the trade and skills of a seamstress**. In Iringa many women use the foot-powered Singer sewing machines to make the beautiful garments from African fabric such as *kanga* and *kitenge*. Over the years the Sewing Club have **made items to sell and school uniforms for the Children** at FISCH. We are pleased to share that we have **three graduates** who are leaving the Sewing Club and are ready to start their own business in town. The Tanzanian Team will have a meeting with **Johari, Adelina and Lucy** to find a location to rent in town and agree on when to launch their business, hopefully some time in February. FISCH will **continue to support these ladies** by covering the rent for a few months, before reducing the support slowly as Johari, Adelina and Lucy are able to self-support.



Left: Adelina, Johari and Lucy (from L-R)

Right: the ladies happy to be at their sewing machines





FISCH Score & Video

Did you know, FISCH has it's own **musical score**???



Last autumn one of the UK Team Members put together an **introductory video to FISCH** – a video that someone can watch and in under 5 minutes would have a good idea of how FISCH came to exist and the ministries that FISCH runs (the Drop in Centre, Saturday Feeding Project, Breakfast Club, and so on). This Team Member then approached a very talented musician and composer at her church and asked if they wouldn't mind producing our **very own FISCH score**. And what a score! **Fiona Taylor** from the Forest Community Church surpassed expectation with a **super African-vibed, positive and engaging audio narrative** to go alongside the video, all hand composed by Fiona in her home studio. We were thrilled! **Thanks, Fiona!**

If you'd like to watch the video, check out <https://fionajtaylor.com/showreel/> or see our facebook page where we have shared the link to the video. Make sure your sound is up!



Uniform & Stationary Fund – Year 1 Update

At the beginning of this year FISCH was able to provide **uniforms** and **stationary** for **139 FISCH-**registered Children, who otherwise may have been **turned away from attending school**. All of these children were either **ex-Street Children**, or living in **desperate poverty** with no means of affording these compulsory items.

We are so grateful to those of you who have signed up to give regularly towards this fund!

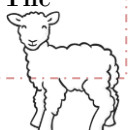


So far we have enough sponsors to continue to provide these items **annually for 60 Kids**. Thankfully due to the generosity of additional donors such as **Natalya's Fund** (see below), we were able to provide for all those Children in need support this year. However, we are seeking additional supporters to help us to reach **our target of 120 Kids for Jan 2021**. If you would like to support this fund, please contact **Carolyn** via office@gofisch.org. Even £10 a month could provide up to 26 primary school kids with a years supply of exercise books!



Natalya's Fund

Natalya's Fund is a charity that was set up to support underprivileged children and young people overseas. The Fund was set up in 1992 after the stillbirth of Natalya Leighton, daughter of Andrew and Chris. Donations were invited in lieu of flowers at the funeral and the money raised went towards **equipment for the maternity unit** at the Royal Gwent Hospital in South Wales. However it became clear that the hospital was well supplied with essentials, and so it was decided to look elsewhere to donate the money. After some networking a **Lithuanian hospital** was found to have a serious need for important equipment to help monitor oxygen levels in a patient's blood – **essential for premature babies**. It was soon decided that the money raised from Natalya's funeral would provide this equipment. Since then, the **Fund continued to receive money which the charity has channelled into various needs across the world**. Natalya's Fund actually supported FISCH back in 2017, where they raised money via a "Count Your Blessings" Lent calendar (similar to the FISCH Giving Advent Calendar!) plus many other fundraisers. The amazing amount raised went towards ... *continued* ...



... *Natalya's Fund Continued...* sewing machines for the Sewing Club, musical instruments for FISCH Church, 40 Bibles, washing powder and soap for the showers at the Drop-in-Centre, school stationary, socks and jumpers for the Kids, medicine and first aid supplies, and so, so much more.

Well, **Natalya's Fund** are back! This year they have fundraised towards multiple needs among the FISCH Kids in Iringa. These needs include dozens of sets of uniforms and stationary for the Kids who attend school (see page 3), 10 vocational training courses, business set-up costs for the three graduates of the Sewing Club (Johari, Adelina and Lucy see page 2), and football boots for the FISCH Utd Team!! **Wow!** This was a real surprise of provision – but we know **God is Good**, so really we shouldn't be surprised! We are really grateful for all the **Natalya's Fund** have done for FISCH in the past, and are doing again in the present. To find out more about the Fund and how you can get involved, check out <https://natalyafund.wixsite.com/main>.



Farewell Evie, Hellow \$ailutye, Welcome Back Mote!



Our **Education Co-Ordinator Evie** is sadly leaving the FISCH Team. She has spent many months in Iringa hanging out with the Kids at the Drop-in-Centre and helped many of them in their studies and vocational training, plus she provided a lot of updates to the Team in the UK. She is going on to pastures new, working with a charity in northern Tanzania. We wish her all the best!

We are pleased to share that the FISCH Drop-in-Centre has a **security guard. \$ailutye** has been watching over the DiC and it's resources for the last few months but we wanted to **honour his efforts and hard work**, and have been able to employ him permanently and provide him with a wage.

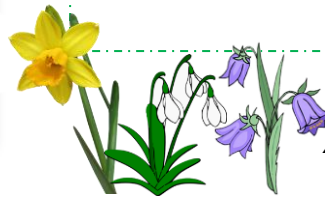
Mote, one of the **founders** of FISCH, has come back to join us! After a few years spent in South Africa focusing on his studies and overseeing FISCH Tanzanian from afar, Mote is back on the Team on the ground as **Operations Director** and **Pastor** of FISCH Church each Sunday. We are thrilled to have his wealth of experience and wisdom back with us.





Charity Checkout

Do you use **Amazon** regularly? If so, you can **generate donations** towards FISCH every time you shop! If you log on to **smile.amazon.co.uk**, you can tie FISCH to your Amazon account by searching for our name and selecting FISCH. Every time you log on using the Smile link, a small percentage of your purchase will go towards FISCH. **It may only be pennies, but it all adds up.**



Above: Promina
Below: Tibilius

Charity Quiz Fundraiser

Recently St Saviour's Church in Guildford held a **Charity Quiz Fundraiser**. The Quiz was a fun evening and a great success, with Lissie of the UK Team being able to talk a bit about FISCH. The monies raised from the Quiz were split between two charities, one of which was FISCH! A **whopping £1400** was donated to **each charity!** Not only that, but many people were interested in learning more about FISCH, and **several people volunteered sponsorship** for some of our FISCH Kids who are in **Higher Education** – for instance, **Happy**, who is studying Social Welfare Development at Certificate Level (the first year out of three) now has her financial fees covered for the rest of the academic year. What wonderful provision! This leads us on to....

Education Sponsorship – Did You Know?

We are thrilled to share with our regular readers that of the **six FISCH Students** mentioned in the Dec 2019 Edition (**Tibilius, Promina, Best, Aloyce, Happy and Maria**), **three of these Students have been sponsored** for the rest of their academic year; Promina is studying Human Resources Planning Management, Happy is studying Social Welfare Development and Maria is studying Law. We would love for the **other three students to be sponsored** in their educational endeavours, as although the Further Education fees are a big ask on our financial resources at FISCH, we feel that as we have supported these Children from Primary Education through to Further Education, **we are not willing to withdraw our support now!** If you are interested in **sponsoring a FISCH Student**, no matter how much or how little, please get in touch with **Rich** (rich@gofisch.org) or **Frances** (office@gofisch.org), our **Education Fund Overseer**.



We hope you have enjoyed these updates and finding out what's been going on at FISCH recently. If you would like to know more, please see our website at gofisch.org.



This is our reason to exist as FISCH;

To witness the love of Jesus to the vulnerable children of Iringa, by striving to meet their needs, so that they may experience life in all its goodness.



This is our mission;

To set the Street Children of Iringa free from poverty, crime, disease and educational ignorance, in the hope that they may become self-sufficient, healthy, upright and valuable members of the community.

If you feel like this is something you want to get involved with, please contact Rich on rich@gofisch.org.
Come and be part of the family!

