



## Karuri School Project

[www.karurisch.org](http://www.karurisch.org)

U.K. Registered Charity Number 1139387



### News Update — May 2014

#### News from the school

It was lovely to see Wangari again. I was working in Nairobi, so was able to visit just for a couple of days. I caught the bus to Naivasha and met Wangari in the grounds of St. Francis Xavier Church. The school is amazing. Wangari has achieved so much and everyone looks well and happy.

There are now 110 children attending Sacred Heart School, including 39 boarders. One head teacher and 8 teachers ensure that classes continue to be small, unlike government schools where it is not unusual to have 60 students in a class. New houses for the teachers have been built using money from Hebe's Fund. This means that teachers no longer have a long journey to school and are available to help with evening classes. Some live there with their families, enabling their children to attend the school.

As well as providing housing for teachers, money from Hebe's Fund has been used for recreational purposes, and the school now proudly possesses netball and goal posts, and a volley ball net. I was able to buy balls and other equipment, thanks to the generosity of parents, staff and pupils from Fairfield's School, Northampton.

The latest project at the school is to fit a pump to the underground water storage tank. Manual pumping is hard, time-consuming and relentless, and we thank the Kitchen Table Trust for the grant which enabled so much of the work on water management to be carried out. Whilst I was there, it was amazing to hear news of a £1000 donation from the sales of a CD, produced by a singing group affiliated to Northampton Cathedral. Perfect timing, and grateful thanks go to everyone involved in this project. The donation will cover most of the expense of this latest initiative. A new platform for the water tank is needed and Karuri School project has sent money, so we are hoping the work will be completed shortly.

On a personal note, Wangari's home is almost complete. She has funded this herself and hopes to move in soon. She is looking forward to welcoming visitors from the UK.

Patricia Moore, February 2014



Teachers' homes



Playing netball



Carrying water

#### Message from Wangari

I thank all of you for your concern and for being friends who care. God bless you all, you are always in my heart. My house is almost completed; kitchen fittings, fridge and gas cooker, furniture and beds are still remaining. After living a life of a nomad I can't wait to have a house, I am very excited. Thank you so much for all the support you have given me.

### Fundraising and donations

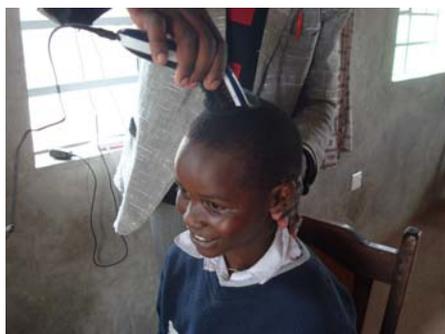
A CD, 'Endless Mercy' has been produced by the Northampton Cathedral Folk Group. Copies are available from the Cathedral and St Gregory's Church at a cost of £5. Already a generous £1000 has been donated to Karuri School Project. Our thanks go to everyone involved, including Catherine Kirby for first contacting Karuri School Project, David Donaghue for recording and arranging the production of the CD as well as being part of the music group, and Frances Hooper who describes how she first met Wangari.

*I remember first meeting Wangari in the car park at the Cathedral after a Holy Hour – probably around 10 years ago now – and she started to share with me the vision she had for the Karuri School. I was deeply struck by the strength of faith and conviction that she radiated, that God had put this intention in her heart, and that she knew it would happen some day, although at the time it was unclear how and when. Her example and the wonderful fruits of her faith and everyone's efforts, which have made it a reality, have been an ongoing inspiration. Our music group which came together at the Cathedral first formed through a shared desire to deepen our own and others' faith through music and the songs on the CD that we recorded speak particularly of God's enduring love and mercy, which was so evident in the Karuri school project. We were also very grateful for the generous sponsorship provided by Bernie and Eugene Mc Taggart which enabled all proceeds raised to go to our chosen charities.*

### WI update

On April 13th we finally took a second consignment of four huge parcels containing the collection of beautiful quilts for the dormitory beds and walls, about 50 hand knitted red V necked sweaters, some knitted toys and stationery for staff and pupils to Josphat Nkuki to send to Wangari by sea. All we can do is hope and pray they arrive safely, especially after some of the latest atrocities in Mombassa and Nairobi. Wangari had previously asked for hairdryers and clippers for cutting the pupils' hair at school, being more hygienic. These finally arrived in February. At the WI Federation Day in St. Ives on April 16th, I was so shocked to be greeted by several ladies bringing in yet more red V-necked sweaters, another 48 in total. WI ladies continue to be so supportive of the project, they are still buying handbags, giving donations and knitting like mad! Many thanks to them for their continued support.

Jill Wadsworth.



New hair clippers



Wall hanging



Weather station, Fairfields School

### Sponsorship

Of course, as the numbers at the school increase, so do the costs and we desperately need more sponsors (individuals or companies) who are able to commit a regular monthly amount to pay for the ongoing costs of running the school. Any amount from £2 a month upwards is always gratefully accepted. It costs £35 per month to keep a child at the school. Please check out our sponsorship page on the website if you feel you can help.

### Forthcoming event

An evening of varied music for you to enjoy will be performed by the Hunsbury Harmonettes Choir, on Saturday June 21st 2014, at 7.30pm at The Sacred Heart Church, Weston Favell, Northampton. Tickets cost £5 and are available from John Sleet (01604 786077) or Sheila Dowling (01604 633150). All proceeds will go to the Karuri School Project.

