

Issue 40

July 2022



We are one body in Christ Re 'mele o le mong ho Kreste

We are one body in Christ

emoho

LESOTHO LINK APPOINTS NEW CHILDREN AND YOUTH OFFICER

An unexpected benefit of the Covid years (2020-2021) has been the opportunity to reflect on what the Lesotho Durham LINK stands for in terms of its ministry. In a recent comprehensive review of their ministry the Lesotho Durham LINK realised that things, other than its core work with children, have become the centre of their activities in recent years. During this period of lockdowns and no activities they realised that their attention should be redirected to vulnerable children.



Together they identified the key groups of children they should engage with, namely Sunday Schools, pre-schools, primary school teachers, and street kids' volunteers. To this end the Management Board agreed that a Children and Youth Officer (CYO) should be appointed.

We are delighted to report that the appointment has been made! Lindiwe Nameko (32) is a single young woman, a committed Christian who is a member of the Apostolic Faith Mission Church. Her special love for children became obvious during her time when she worked for Scripture Union Lesotho. In pursuit of her vision for youth, Lindiwe later founded a Christian Sports Ministry which works to equip young people for reaching out to their peers through sports.

Lindiwe is currently winding down her contract with an organization called LIREC and she will be working for Lesotho Durham LINK from the middle of August 2022. She is well trained in Youth Ministry and in addition she holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the National University of Lesotho.

Please pray for Lindiwe as she begins her work with the LINK in Lesotho, that she would be an effective team member, helping to drive forward the LINK's rediscovered vision for its ministry amongst children and young people.

Encouraging news from Ha Mohatlane Community Education Centre

It is good to report that the clinic at Ha Mohatlane is now finally fully operational, after several years of inactivity and a few false starts. It is taking time for local people to get accustomed to having a clinic available once again on their doorstep but the rent which is being charged is low so that in turn the clinicians can deliver consultation at a fee which is reasonable and affordable by the villagers.

The Mohatlane Agricultural Project (MAPI) is now thriving with the vegetable garden doing particularly well. The Mohatlane Centre is currently providing 3 local schools with vegetables for the school dinners on an ongoing basis. Plans are being discussed to put MAPI in the hands of some of the villagers who have formed a cooperative. The LINK / Mohatlane Community Education Centre will get a percentage of the produce.

Rev. Dr. Ntšiuoa Rathabaneng – a tribute to a truly remarkable person

Following the sad news of the death of Rev Dr Rathabaneng, we asked our EO in Lesotho, Joseph Morenamelle to share with us a little of her history.

I have only known and interacted with her in the last 30 years.

She was a Medical Doctor specializing with vision (eyes).
She worked in government and parastatal hospitals for many years.
She was the first Mosotho national woman to be ordained into priesthood in Lesotho.
She served as a non-stipendiary priest in Lesotho until retirement.

A committed Mothers Union member who held different positions including in ACSA (Anglican Church in South Africa)

She got deeply involved in Church Renewal Movements and Initiatives like Rooted in Jesus, Anglicans Ablaze, etc...

Together we served in the Diocesan Theological Training Department as facilitators- Lay Ministers, Clergy, APB, Conferences, Retreats, Workshops, Church Guilds...

She was also heavily involved in Christian Evangelical Organisations beyond the Anglican Church – Scripture Union, Bible Society, Langham Preaching where she dies as Chairperson, Haggai Institute, etc...

Lately as Chair of Langham Preaching Lesotho and also as a Facilitator, Rev. Dr. Rathabaneng – Hoohlo made a huge impact in many lives of both Clergy and Laity. She was deeply in love with Langham. This was now her focus till her death. She voluntarily travelled around conducting training seminars for Langham Preaching Lesotho.



Rev. Dr. Rathabaneng was a close friend and colleague of Joseph and asked him to preach at her funeral. She was an exceptional person in many ways and will be greatly missed in the diocese of Lesotho.

A LAPA? What's this about?



Accommodating ever growing group sizes for conferences, workshops, and events such as weddings has proved an increasing challenge for the LINK in Lesotho. The need for an upgraded kitchen had also become glaringly obvious as the LINK had the very real potential to be shut down without improvements.

Imagine then how delighted the staff at the LINK are by the new building development, a lapa and new kitchen. A lapa is a traditional southern African structure made from poles with roof, is open sided with the option of canvas side panels in the event of wind or rain. The word lapa comes from the Sesotho word for homestead or courtyard. These are very popular structures as they are ideally suited to the climate and the one currently being constructed on the LINK site at Maseru will be capable of seating 100+ people. The addition of the lapa should be an enormous asset to the LINK. It is hoped that construction of the lapa and the kitchen will be completed in the next month or so.

DURHAM EXECUTIVE OFFICERS TO RETIRE

After 19 years in the job, and having reached retirement age, Rob and Margaret Bianchi will be hanging up their hats and retiring from their post as joint executive officers of the Durham Lesotho LINK at the end of this year. Details about their replacement, contact information and plans for the next stage of the LINK's development will be in the next edition of e-MOHO

Contact:- Rob & Margaret Bianchi
Tel 0191 4170852 email margaretbianchi56@gmail.com
Website <http://www.durham-lesotholink.org.uk/>
Registered charity 702809