

As part of its' Development fund appeal St Nicholas has committed £15,000 towards the total cost of £30,000 for construction of a new church building for the congregation of St Simon & St Jude, Namacunde, Angola.

The other main funder of the building project is MANNA who are contributing £10,000 towards the total building cost and we ensure all our discussions include someone called Elizabeth Thomas who represents MANNA and John Tasker who represents ALMA and MANNA.

The additional remaining £5,000 is expected to be raised elsewhere -i.e. Angolan parishioners, other Christian Charities.

Our Church Building plan document has followed ALMA's guidelines on best practice for reporting.

We Require

- A Budget to see with a breakdown to agree. I Skype/meet with Fr Simon & John ALMA + MANNA to discuss/query and agree funding amount proposed.
- Once agreed I present to the PCC. If agreed, ALMA transfer funds once we release them to ensure they reach Angola safely on our behalf via ALMAs' Quarterly Diocesan Financial Transfer system.

For each budget reporting stage (once in work) we require evidence as follows:

- Photographic evidence showing progress (email) of materials purchased and construction itself.
- Receipts.
- Notes re receipts, process, images etc. to add context/detail.

3 stages of construction are planned. These are:

- Stage 1 Foundations and walls.
- Stage 2: Roof/ Plastering.
- Stage 3: Windows and internal refurbishment.
- There may possibly be a further 4th Stage.

It is anticipated the church will be completed in late Autumn 2018 /Early spring 2019.

Where are we up to?

Stage 1 Foundations and walls have been completed.

- Photographs (below) taken between December 2017 & June 2018 evidence the progression of stage 1 from purchase of key raw materials, labour & construction of water tank, foundations, walls.
- **Stage 2** is about to begin and to date we have transferred £10,000.00 of our £15,000 commitment over 2 £5,000 payments to facilitate purchase of materials and labour for stages 1 and 2.
- Our reporting, monitoring and communication levels are very good for stage 1, we have many photographs (below) evidencing the budget breakdown and 83% of spend in as receipts. We have also received responses to queries we

have raised, notes from visiting clergy/charity workers adding context/ clarification to queries or resolving pricing differences.

- ALMA considers our project reporting to be “excellent” and now exceeds their previous experience of what is possible from ALMA partner churches/ projects.

We have a budget for stage 2 with both English and Angolan, with headings for each budget amount and numbered.

We have been promised receipts will be sent with relevant budget number attached saving time and communication on what the receipt is for in reconciliation.

- This is an additional and unexpected bonus is our improved communications with our sister parish and working practices for stage 2 developed from working through together in the past year and secondly with visits from clergy/ charities & ALMA working in the region involved and speaking with Fr Elias on our behalf. This will shorten and simplify reporting and reconciliation on both sides as well as providing capacity building in the Angolan reporting and accounting for stages 2, 3 and their future projects.

Stage 3: Windows and internal refurbishment. This is due to start in Autumn 2018 and we now need to raise £5,000 to fund this stage of this project.

We would like to raise and transfer the funds by September 2018 and would like to ask all of St Nicholas congregation to consider whether they feel able to contribute an amount towards this sum so that the building can be completed. A group of parishioners is planning to the new church in early 2019 and it would be great to have a fully completed new church building up in time for this visit.