

Update on Malawi Safe House, March 2020

As everyone will no doubt remember the church very kindly made a generous donation towards the furnishings of a safe house in Malawi from the Harvest offering.

The progress in putting up the building was delayed by the annual rains which were still going on in mid-February. However the foundations are now laid and hopefully the walls will be going up soon. It is still likely to take two to three months before it is complete.

All the organisation, including the build, is being coordinated by a local organisation called Fisherman's Rest. They have worked in an area about twenty minutes drive south of the largest city in Malawi, Blantyre for more than twenty years. See map below. If you want to know more about their work go to: <https://www.fishermansrest.net/about>. The following is adapted from the website (with permission).

'Fisherman's Rest was purchased in 1997 by the Chichlowscy family. Since then it has changed from a family home to a family run lodge, which supports long standing community programmes. Fisherman's Rest is set within an enchanting 500 acre forest with breathtaking views over the Great Rift Valley and our very own nature reserve.

For twenty years Fisherman's Rest has been working alongside its communities in the surrounding schools and villages. It is a thriving not for profit Lodge and Nature Reserve, which employs more than one hundred people from the local community.'

Current projects include improving water supply through maintenance of bore holes and pumps, promoting education through school feeding programmes, building classrooms and equipping libraries, and improving the environment through for example tree planting.

(For more information Catherine and Neil Merrylees email at nm1000@btinternet.com subject: Malawi Safe House)



Fisherman's
Rest and Safe
House

The Build

Figure 1 shows the foundations in February 2020.

Trenches are dug to a depth of roughly one meter. Then the walls are built up with concrete blocks which are made at Fisherman's Rest.

The wall in the middle distance is part of the Police Post.



Figure 1 Foundations February 2020 (Photo NM)

Figure 2 is another view of the foundations with the Police Post to the left.

Figure 3 below shows progress by March 24th when the walls are up to gable height.

You will notice that sadly the tree on the left in Fig 2 had to be cut down as it was a danger to the new build.



Figure 2 15th Feb view of Foundations (Photo NM)



Figure 3 24th March View of Site with Wall to Gable Height (Photo WC)



Figure 4 24th March: Another view of the site (Photo WC)

In fig 4 the foundations in the foreground are for the surrounding wall that will form the perimeter of the safe house compound.

The reinforced concrete slab that forms the base of the build can be seen clearly in both Figs 4 and 5.

The door and window frames are clearly visible. They are made in the workshops at Fisherman's Rest



Figure 5 24th March Door and Window Frames in Place (Photo WC)

Fig 6 again shows the site but the Police Post is visible in the background on the right.

Again the perimeter wall can be clearly seen in the foreground.



Figure 6 24th March Another View of the Site (Photo WC)