

Basotho Educational Trust



Annual Report 2021

Dear Supporters

Welcome to our latest annual report and news of previous and current months. It has been a time of change – our Administrator, Motselisi Hlubi, retired; Durham Link formed a partnership to take on the administrative burden; the New Bishop of Lesotho agreed to become our Patron, and sadly Sister Marjorie Jean CHN, who helped to lay the foundations for BET, passed away just before this report was finalised. We are thankful to them all and ask for blessings upon them.

Other developments have included supporting students at a new school in a different part of the country and the launch of a Tools Fund to provide essential tools for leavers who otherwise would not be able to afford to ply their new trade.

Finally, a big thank you to our supporters – without you, we would not be able to operate. We are grateful to all the individuals, families, organisations and churches who help us to bring hope to the young Basotho people that benefit from the Trust.

As they say in Lesotho:

Khotso Pula Nala

[Peace Rain Prosperity]

Philippa Bird

Financial Accounts 2020-2021

Income

Covenants	£5,303.00
Gift Aid	£1,604.03
CAF	£1,340.00
Churches	£1,368.00
One-off Donors	£6,649.30
Trusts	£120.00
Inland Revenue [†]	£0.00
Total	£16,384.33

Expenditure

Bank Charges	£0.00
Admin.	£160.38
Lesotho Costs	£20,631.00
CC Payments	£449.38
Total	£21,240.76

Out-turn

Surplus/Deficit	£-4,856.43
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Policy on reserves:

All BET's income is unsecured. The Trustees therefore hold in reserves sufficient funds to support all sponsored students to the end of their course in the event that income from donors ceases.

Restricted funds:

All covenants and funds from one off donors were received for the purposes of sponsoring the selected students. The figures represent the independently examined accounts of the Basotho Educational Trust for the year ending March 31st 2021.

Note 1:

Timing of the gift aid submission has resulted in the receipt falling into the next financial year.

Balance Sheet

Previous Balance ending 31 st March 2020	£68,453.08
Surplus/Deficit on year ending 31 st March 2021	£-4,856.43
Balance at 31 st March 2021	£63,596.65
Represented by:	
Current Account	£63,596.65
Total	£63,596.65

Sister Majorie Jean - 1924-2022

Marjorie Jean was born in 1924 and spent her early years in East Finchley, London. She was an only child and moved with her parents to Evesham where they set up a market gardening business and she began her great love and plants and all things agricultural and horticultural.

She wanted to study and enrolled herself at Queen Mary College, London (where she found the cheapest course – Biology/science/math – we think). The college was evacuated to Cambridge during the war. She was called to do 'war work' in aircraft manufacturing and became adept with engineering plans – which proved useful in later years. She always loved diagrams and maps. She also trained as a teacher.

She joined CHN in the early 1950's and was professed in 1955. Initially her time at the convent in Malvern was spent working in the kitchen, looking after the hens and a brief spell at the Home of the Good Shepherd (where we cared for girls who were on probation).

MJ was always a bit of a pioneer - in 1959 CHN was invited to Liberia to work alongside the American Holy Cross Fathers and she was one of the first group to travel there. She spent most of her time teaching but also went 'on trek' to remote villages. After 2 years she returned to the UK and worked briefly at St Albans Retreat House. In 1962 CHN were invited to Basutoland (now Lesotho) initially to live alongside a small group of Basotho sisters and integrate with them. Again MJ was among the 1st group who went there and worked wonders in the garden, initiating an irrigation project. After 5 years she came back to England and taught at St James' School West Malvern until 1970.

Later that year MJ returned to Lesotho to begin what was to be her 'life's work'. At the Convent in Leribe she became the Bursar, responsible for finances and buildings. She pioneered the Leribe Craft Centre (which is still in existence today), encouraging local women weaving with mohair and selling their goods – involving and supporting handicapped workers in the project. She also travelled far and wide with Fr Brown (the community's chaplain) to find new outlets for their wares. This 'business enterprise' began to flourish.

Later MJ became the Principal of St Mary's Home Economics School in Leribe and continued there until 1995 when she came back to England. She was given a great send-off and a lovely hand-woven banner 'Farewell Lesotho - 33 years'.



By this time the convent had moved to Derby where she became the assistant bursar – spending a lot of her time fixing things, often in a rather Heath-Robinson way.

By now MJ was in her 70's but the pioneering spirit had not left her and she and Sister Judith were the first sisters to set up house on the Welland estate in Peterborough – where they were involved in the local church and in the local community. In addition MJ gardened and grew a lot of vegetables. After 5 years there she moved to the community's house in Keswick where she endeared herself to the locals and joined an art group where yet another talent was able to flourish.

The Keswick house closed in 2009 and the sisters returned to Derby. MJ, now well in her 80's, hosted the meetings of the Julian group which met at the convent. She joined several art groups in nearby villages

and had a weekly session teaching an elderly lady to draw and paint. She also went to Keep Fit classes and was an intrepid traveller round Derbyshire with her bus pass as she was around the Lake District when in Keswick.

Last year CHN moved to Hesse. Like most of us, MJ was excited, though maybe slightly apprehensive about the move and she would exercise, walking round the perimeter of the house on her 'pusher', several times a day, viewing the garden with her critical eye as she went. Gradually her health began to fail – angina, loss of hearing and sight, then mobility – she began to say 'All I can do now is to pray' which of course she did. I hope she could also look back over her life and ministry



with great thanksgiving. She has touched the lives of so many people, both in this country and in Africa – we have had many letters in appreciation of her – even in her 90's people enjoyed her conversations, her encouraging words her 'wicked' sense of humour and her lively personality, her extensive breadth of knowledge and awareness of the world around her. Hers was a full and rewarding life.

May she rest in Peace – and rise in Glory.

All Change at BET Lesotho



Almost since its inception, administrator Motselisi Hlubi has organised the work of the Trust single handed dealing with student recruitment, banking arrangements and reporting to the UK on Lesotho activity. Motselisi has now reached retirement age and is stepping down from this role. We shall greatly miss her and thank her for her great contribution to the success of BET. At her final Lesotho Committee meeting there was a presentation of a Long Service Certificate and a gift from the UK. We wish her well in her retirement.

The administration is now being provided by Lesotho Durham Link, a well-established charity, set up by the UK Diocese of Durham, which provides these services to several small charities working in the educational field in Lesotho. They will handle financial administration under the supervision of our Treasurer as before, administer the recruitment process so that the Lesotho Committee has everything they need for their decision-making

and liaise with schools on the number and progress of funded students. The work will be led by their Executive Officer, Father Joseph Morenammele. (See the profile in this newsletter). He already knows the arrangements involving the Community of the Holy Name as he is Warden to the Community.

The UK Trustees believe that this development will enable the Trust in Lesotho to develop its work further and to respond more rapidly to the needs of Basotho young people. An early development is the short interviews with students embedded in this e-newsletter and the website. Watch this space for further initiatives!

Meet the Students

"Shall we Zoom?" – a nonsensical question pre-lockdown days, now universally understood as a remote teleconference. We're all now used to seeing the inside of our colleagues kitchens, have random pets and children wander past as we discuss business matters with the boss we are hoping to impress!

Zoom gave us an idea. At BET we have regularly gone to visit our sponsored students in Lesotho and are always delighted to hear news about them. But what if we could interview them over Zoom, and then have them introduce themselves to our trustees and donors? Last year we were able to work with Fr Joseph, who is doing an excellent job acting as our liaison with BET in Lesotho, to set up a series of interviews with BET sponsored students. It was wonderful to meet these enthusiastic young people, so full of energy and hope for the future of themselves and their community. It was clear that without our support they would not have been able to pursue their studies and they gave us useful information too about how they had heard of us, and what other hurdles they face that we may be able to help them with.

The video interviews will be posted onto the BET website one by one – please do check out the first interview with Keketso Hanyane, who is studying for his international computer driving licence.

Rebecca Chandler-Wilde

P.S. New interviews will be shared on the website each month.



BET to launch Tools Appeal

BET has received a range of feedback from BET funded students that they encounter serious problems taking up employment/self-employment after completion of their course because they cannot afford to buy the requisite tools. This negates the impact of their training and limits their opportunities. BET is therefore launching an appeal to enable the Lesotho Committee to make good this deficit.

The following criteria apply for a student to receive a grant:

- Currently BET funded
- Completed/passed course in current academic year or about to complete/pass their course
- Application endorsed by Lesotho Committee
- Signed undertaking not to sell on the tools
- Submit progress report after one year.

As a result, BET is launching an Appeal for Tools to tackle this need. Students benefitting will need to have finished a BET sponsored place

An initial donation of £500 has started off the Appeal and we hope other BET supporters will follow suit with an extra contribution for this purpose. Please label any donations "Tools Appeal".

BET to take on New School for 2021/22

The Lesotho Committee have identified a new need for support at an established vocational school. The **Mohatlane Community Education Centre (MCEC)** is situated in Berea District (TY). It is a vocational school supporting very poor children who did not manage to finish Primary School or have not gone on to Secondary School. It offers Carpentry, Home Science (sewing and cookery), building and welding. These are just the basic skills that Lesotho needs. It takes ONE YEAR to finish the Course. We will watch with interest the progress of the students BET sponsors and their next steps.



Bishop of Lesotho



We were delighted when the recently consecrated Bishop of Lesotho agreed to be our Patron. The new bishop is the Right Reverend Vicentia Kgabe. She has a vast experience of ministry and is known for her pastoral care. She was born and grew up in Soweto. She became a deacon in the Anglican Church in 2002 and a priest in 2003. After working in various parishes she became the Archdeacon of Johannesburg. Most recently her ministry has been as Rector of the College of the Transfiguration where men and women are trained for the ordained ministry. We pray that she will love the people of Lesotho and that her time there will be much blessed.

(Thank you Bishop Vicentia for agreeing to be a patron of BET)



Rev. Dr. Joseph Morenammele

A Family Man

Joseph Morenammele is a Mosotho man, married to Lineo Morenammele. Together, they have been blessed with two grown up daughters Rorisang (23) and Khothatso (20) and they live in Maseru, the Capital City of Lesotho.

Serving as a Parish Rector and in the Diocese at Large

Joseph is a Non-Stipendiary (Self Supporting) priest in the Anglican Diocese of Lesotho and a Rector of the Church of Resurrection Parish in Maseru. He is a Member of the Bishop's Senate and Director of

Christian Education Department in the Diocese which job involves lots of traveling and training events throughout the Diocese all year round. Joseph works with a team of clergy called Diocesan Theological Education Team (DTET). The team is very resourceful and members have different specialisations in theology and leadership background.

Serving in Lesotho Durham Link

Joseph's full-time occupation is with Lesotho Durham Link (LDL) where he is the Executive Officer (EO). LDL supports the most vulnerable children and youth in Berea District and runs a Conference Centre with accommodation in Maseru. LDL also specialises with outdoor and adventure activities including canoeing, abseiling, archery, ball games, camping and several water activities. Most of the Diocesan Christian Education training events take place at LDL Conference Centre – workshops on Discipleship, Leadership, Children's Ministry, etc.

Serving in CHN

Joseph is currently serving as the Warden of the Anglican nuns called Community of the Holy Name (CHN) in Lesotho. In this voluntary occupancy, he visits the Head Quarters of the Community at least 4 times a year for various activities including special annual feasts, trainings, chapter meetings, etc. He loves the Community and its objectives.

Serving in BET Committee Lesotho

Recently Joseph has volunteered to help the Basotho Educational Trust (BET) Community in Lesotho in its great Ministry to help educate the needy youth in their Vocational Training, working in partnership with BET UK. Joseph's involvement with BET takes care of receiving and disbursing funds in the Institutions BET is supporting. This is all done through LDL Finance and Administration Office. Beyond this, Joseph sits in the BET Committee meetings, visits schools supported by BET for support, etc. Another important support Joseph gives is to support the Committee which is very committed to its purpose. He tries hard to bring them up to speed in terms of modern technology and how it can be used to advance their work as a Committee. Joseph is committed to ensure that BET Lesotho books are done according to the universal best practices including quarterly reports and annual audit of books.

Email: morenammelej@gmail.com or +266 58/62868242

Help a Basotho student complete their course

The average cost of an individual student's fees, including examinations, books and/or tools is £350 a year.

With a regular donation, you can help ensure stability in these young peoples' lives and make it easier for them to plan for the future. You can set up a standing order or make a one-off donation using the credit card facility on our website - www.basothoeducationaltrust.org. Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer, which will save on credit card fees:

Account Number: **28746783**, Sort Code: **60-10-07**

Trustees

Ms Philippa Bird
Dr Rebecca Chandler-Wilde
Ms Wendy Edwards
Sr Monica CHN
Mr Graeme Shaw
Ms Sue Claydon

Contact

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www.BasothoEducationalTrust.org

www.facebook.com/BETstudents

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