

Issue 3  
September 2022

# Welcome to Let Them Shine

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*Welcome to our  
NEWSLETTER*

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We understand that not everybody uses Facebook or Instagram or looks at our website ([letthemshine.org](http://letthemshine.org)) and it is important to keep our sponsors and supporters updated. Hopefully this newsletter will fill any gaps. This may mean you read our news twice, but better twice than not at all.

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*UPDATES*

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## London to Brighton Cycle Ride

Finally (!), the bike ride went ahead on 12 June. Blessed with a sunny day with light winds five riders set off from Clapham Common at 9am and arrived in Brighton about 6 hours later. Exiting London using the cycle routes was lovely. The South of England Show meant that Turners Hill and Ardingly were very busy and not that enjoyable. And by the afternoon it was quite hot! Nevertheless, everyone pedaled on, encouraged by the prospect of a 99 ice cream at the end. Over £2000 was raised (some from 2021 before the ride was postponed) which is a brilliant achievement. Our sincere thanks to all riders for their effort & support.



## The Perfect Storm....

Along with much of the world, Tanzania is not immune from climate change. Whilst countries like Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia are suffering from a very severe drought, rainfall in the Kilimanjaro region has been much less than usual. The short rains were very short, and the long rains were inadequate to ensure a good harvest.

Tanzania doesn't have much food set aside and the poor harvest has fueled price rises in local staples such as maize, beans and so on. Global

commodities such as sugar, cooking oil and building materials have all seen significant increases. This affects everyone at every level. The cost of food for the Children's Centre has shot up and with further price rises expected we have bought and stored about 400 kgs of maize and beans. Also, the Tanzanian Shilling follows the US Dollar, so the weak GB Pound is costing the charity about £1200 a year more just to send the same amount of Shillings. It's a challenging time.

### The Lukani Children's Centre – Update

It's not all doom and gloom! The number of children registered at the Centre has increased to 31 and we are expecting one more child any time now.

We have just fourteen sponsors for children at the Centre, with the majority supporting children



at primary schools. Things are tight but day to day the Centre is a very happy place, with lots of smiling faces, singing, playing, and learning.

We have modest cash reserves but have decided to spend some money on replacing worn mattresses and bedding and replenishing classroom supplies. The common areas take a battering, especially during the rains, so walls will be decorated with 'welcome paint', that's super tough gloss in the UK.

We have also installed some pathways to connect various buildings together, principally the classrooms and dining room. These will be very useful during the wet season when everywhere is awash with mud.



Finally, congratulations to our teacher Rebecca who gave birth to a healthy girl, named Noella, on 19 September.

### Next Visit

Anthony will visit Tanzania next month and will, amongst other things, report back on all the sponsored children both at the Children's Centre and primary schools. A large amount of donated clothing will

accompany him and will be distributed to those most in need. As usual all travel and subsistence expenses are met personally.

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**UPDATES FROM  
OUR MANAGER  
AND DEPUTY**

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Our deputy manager Ester has sent the following:

*The Centre now has 31 registered children, 17 girls and 14 boys. The number sleeping overnight varies day to day. The children are doing well with their health and academic achievements. During the holidays we managed to visit the poor and provide them with some necessities. The Centre is now registered as a business. The Management of the Lukani Children's Centre thanks and congratulates the sponsors for their commitment to help the children in Tanzania and we wish them good luck.*

And from Mr Natai, our manager:

*Dear Let Them Shine Charity - from the bottom of my heart, first of all, I am sorry for the loss of your beloved Queen Elizabeth II, may she rest in peace. I also want to thank you very much for the compassionate heart you have in helping children. Indeed, what you are doing is very beneficial for the future. I have nothing to pay these children, but I repeat thank you very much. May God grant you long life so that you can see the fruits of your work while you are here on earth. You have really invested love in the hearts of children, I wish you success and good luck in your life.*

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**COVID in Tanzania**

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Thankfully there are no travel restrictions or tests required to visit Tanzania as long as you are fully vaccinated.

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**YOUR MONEY**

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All our administration, travel and other costs are met personally. Just a reminder that all sponsorship income received is sent in full around the middle of the month. Just over half is spent on salaries with the remainder on food, water & electricity, primary school expenses (lunch, books, pens, uniforms etc.) We are running a tight ship and to repeat the phrase 'we share the bread'.

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## YOUR FEEDBACK

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We never know whether you receive the right amount of information, too little or too much. Please feel free to let us know. In fact, please get in touch with any feedback, thoughts, or suggestions. Thank you.

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