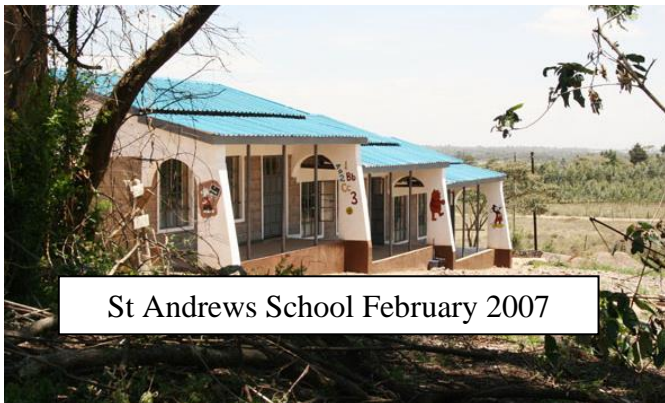




# The Boys' Brigade

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.



St Andrews School February 2007



## Project Stedfast:

It is now just over seventeen years since our first visit to meet with the people of Ololua Kenya. Our first venture into what was completely unknown territory took place in November 2006. The purpose of the visit quite simply to ensure that we were dealing with the right people for such a venture and to answer any doubts or concerns we had and finalise plans for the building of St Andrews School. The trip was a resounding success in every way possible.

We experienced the most sincere and heartfelt hospitality I have ever come across leaving my colleagues and I deeply humbled.

Our Target here at home was to raise £33,629.00 to facilitate the building of three classrooms with electrical distribution, toilet facility and water sanitation. A heady task by anyone's standards. Our target to achieve this was October 2008 to coincide with Founders day during the 125 Anniversary of The Boys Brigade. We reached our target in March 2007, the first pupils taking to the School in January 2008. We then made the decision to press on. Plans were drawn for the next three classes and also for the building of a Unit for Children with a Disability.

To give us all a reminder of the importance of this simple part of the Project, difficult to comprehend when we live in a Country that has recognised its responsibility to all of its Children, and, has worked very hard to ensure legislation protects the rights of all Children. I have included an excerpt from the original proposal document received from The Boys' Brigade at Kerarapon:

*"Life for a disabled person is very hard, difficult, and expensive, especially in Africa. Here disability is associated with a curse or bad omen that befalls a community or family. Some even think that to have a disabled Child is shameful and a punishment for a wrong done to an ancestor. For this reason most Communities would not wish to make the plight of their disabled Children public. They therefore confine them secretly indoors never to see the light of day. Thus subjecting them to live lives in extreme poverty, frustration, discrimination, stigmatization and denial."*

This was written by Mr Richard Lenana, Church Elder, local Councillor, and representative of the Disabled of the Eastern Region of Kenya.



Scott of Africa?

In order to bring everyone up to date as best as possible this is a rough timeline surrounding the main group visits to date.

- 2008 3 Classrooms built along with toilet blocks and sanitation.
- 2011 6 Classrooms completed, Centre for Children with Disabilities completed. The original Church of Scotland building refurbished to provide additional space and dining along with a charcoal cooker installed and kitchen extension.
- 2015 Borehole works completed. Shambas planted. Sports field created.



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The installation of solar panels and battery backup system commenced just as the 2015 trip came to an end, funded and completed in 2016. The Centre for Children with Disabilities now has a constant free supply of electricity with the capacity to run all of the lighting, fridge, washing machine and small appliances. As well as lighting the classrooms.

2021 Group visit cancelled due to technical difficulties with the world.  
3 Classrooms built thanks to the groups fundraising and the 125 club.

These are just the main items, each one a story in its own right, Sports field creation, sounds easy. In reality you take a BB group from Scotland, add in a Brigade group from Ooloolua, shift 750 tons of soil and make it flat. Then you have a sports field!

Our young people have enjoyed a hospitality impossible to give justice in words, they have been closer to their counterparts 4500 miles away than any tourist could ever be. Many others have benefited on the way such as the Children of Suswa Orphanage, Oleshobor Orphanage, the rescue girls at AIC Kadjiado, the disabled centre at AIC Kadjiado to name a few. Not directly from the Project, but from the gifts and equipment sent to them by the People of Scotland and delivered during our progress visits to the Project as well as the personal gift packs given by each group member.

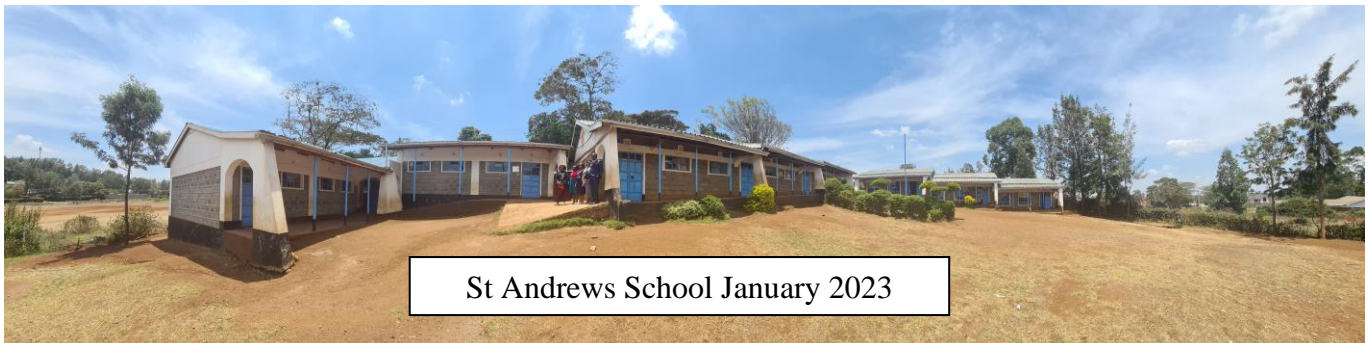


In October 2024 a Boys' Brigade Group, made up from 5<sup>th</sup> Livingston, 51<sup>st</sup> Bonnyrigg, 1<sup>st</sup> Loanhead and 41<sup>st</sup> Edinburgh Companies will make the journey to Ooloolua as we mark our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Boys' Brigade in Scotland.



Their targets are every bit as challenging as all who have travelled before them. Their achievements have already begun with the commencement of building a workshop for vocational studies. The foundations laid this month and building underway. Only 3 classrooms and a lot of hard graft on the ground to go!

Over the coming months, update flyers will concentrate on the 2024 group and the Project in Their hands. They may not yet deserve all of the help they need, however, by the time they return home they will have earned every bit of support they receive. Who knows, the final passage may even make sense to them!



In 2006 the then Minister of Ooloolua Church, Rev Jane Kashorda (PCEA) sent the very first correspondence to us. At the end of the letter she finished with a quote, *'Whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.'* Matthew 25:45