



TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF  
JESUS CHRIST TO THE  
STREET CHILDREN  
OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO  
MEET THEIR NEEDS  
THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE  
LIFE IN ALL ITS  
GOODNESS

## Welcome to the Winter edition of FISCH Food!

Greetings, our dear Friends of FISCH! Happy New Year! We hope that you ended 2024 in good spirits and health, and we very much hope that 2025 has lots of joy and happiness in store for you. THANK YOU from everyone at FISCH for another year of your support. That's another year providing meals, clothes, counselling, education, opportunities and love to the Street Children of Iringa, in the name of Christ Jesus. We so love partnering with you in this Kingdom work. We very much look forward to continuing this great work in 2025, and we thank you for being part of this.

With love, the Tanzanian and UK FISCH Teams.



### Christmas & New Year Celebrations in Iringa

Each year the Drop-in-Centre hosts a **FISCH Church Christmas Day celebration**, and 2024 was no exception!

The Children, Team and other involved partners enjoyed a **group picnic** with talks and teaching, and they also enjoyed a special treat – bottles of soda!

Everyone celebrated New Years Day with another **community meal**, cooked at the Drop-in-Centre and shared with the **families and Children FISCH** supports. Sung worship and praise were shared, giving thanks for the **Hope** that the Children have in Christ.



# FISCH Celebration Day!



The Drop-in-Centre was a hive of activity and celebrations on FISCH Celebration Day on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

The day involved some of the FISCH Kids providing a **rapping performance**, several of the Sewing Club Students **graduated**, and other Children provided a **drama sketch**. Special guests included **Tiniel** from the **Iringa Social Welfare Department** and Rich Gercke, co-founder of FISCH, who all spoke to the assembled Children and Families.

Finally, like all good celebrations, there was a **huge meal** to cater for all the Children, Team, families and visitors, and to top it all off, a **huge celebration cake!**



## Food Parcels – What Are They About?

Each month we provide Food Parcels to **especially vulnerable Children** and their families, which consist of **maize flour, beans, rice, sugar and oil**. This means that each family and Child will be able to enjoy at least **one decent meal** a day, allowing them to focus on their studies or work.

Each Child is supported by a **Sponsor** somewhere in the world. Our Food Parcel Co-ordinator **Sarah** connects each new Sponsor with a Child from the waiting list (which sadly, we often have), and is able to provide a profile of the Child to the Sponsor, providing regular feedback twice a year. We have so many Children benefitting from the Food Parcels, and the gratitude from the parents is truly humbling when they come to collect their life-giving Parcel.

We would love to **welcome more Sponsors** into the FISCH Family, to provide for more Children and their relatives. If you would be interested in this, please check out <https://gofisch.org/food-parcel-sponsorship> for more details and information on how to sign up.



### FISCH Church at the DiC

Every Sunday FISCH Church is hosted in the courtyard at the Drop-in-Centre. As you can see from the photos, it is **well attended!** Not only do many of the FISCH Children join, but so do their **families** and people from the **surrounding homes and communities**. The Children are also provided a **lovely meal** after the teaching and time of worship – a real blessing for many Children who would otherwise struggle to get enough food for the day.



## Sewing Club Diversification

The Sewing Club is progressing well! Not only are the Students learning how to **design, measure up, cut** and **craft** clothes and school uniforms, but they are also now branching into **aprons and bags**! Here below you can see the Students **Innocent, Samwel, Irene, Alpha, Victoria** with their Sewing Club teacher **Eva**, showing off their new creations and skills.

As Rich Gercke was in Iringa recently, he purchased a stash of aprons and bags from the Sewing Club, bringing them back to the UK. These sold like hotcakes, with all proceeds going to FISCH. (You can see Liz, one of our UK FISCH Team, modelling her new apron!)

The Sewing Club are continuing to learn and produce these items, improving their skills and abilities as they learn and practice. These items are then **available for sale** at the local Maasai Market next to the FISCH Drop-in-Centre, so any sales provide funds **back into the Sewing Club**, to purchase further material, and so on.

This is an excellent way for the Sewing Students to learn about **business and trade**, and we are so pleased for them!



## **St Saviour's Craft Group Rallies Again!**

If you have been long-time readers of the FISCH Food, you will have heard us write about the amazing **Craft Group** at St Saviours Church, Guildford. St Saviours is a big support of FISCH, and their Craft Group steps up to the challenge each year of crafting something to sell at the yearly church **Christmas Craft Fair**. This year the wonderful ladies provided many many jars of homemade **marmalade** to sell, plus **sewn bags**, and alongside these items, some of the **aprons and bags** made by the Sewing Club in Iringa. They raised **over £800** for their efforts, and all of this has gone to FISCH.



Once again, St Saviours Craft Group, **we thank you and salute you!**





## Eunice's Graduation Success



This young lady here in the photo to the right with Rich Gercke is **Eunice**, who has recently completed her diploma studies at the **Forestry Training Institute** in Arusha. Eunice is one of our Students who has been supported through **Higher Education** by the kindness of a **Sponsor** here in the UK.

Please do hold Eunice **in your prayers** as she starts looking for employment, and we do wish Eunice every success in her future career.



## Edson's Graduation Success



In November of 2024, a FISCH Vocational Educational Student graduated from his training in **Carpentry**. Edson has been enrolled at FISCH since 2021 and went on to be supported through **Carpentry Studies** at **VETA** (Vocational Education and Training Authority).

To celebrate his success, a **small celebration** was held at the Drop-in-Centre after his graduation ceremony, with Edson hanging out with his friends and sharing some special cake. Doesn't he look smart in his suit? What a wonderful **inspiration to the other Children** of FISCH, that with a bit of help and some effort and study, some dreams can become a reality.

We wish Edson all the best as he now looks to find a secure paid work and take another step closer to being a **self-sufficient member of the community!**



## A Happy Graduation

This (to the right) is Happy – so named because the arrival of a girl brought great joy and happiness to the family! Sadly, Happy became an orphan at 6 years old, and lived with her Grandmother, who struggled to support her alongside her other children and grandchildren. FISCH **provided support** so that Happy could continue at Primary School, and thereafter, through school to Higher Education. Happy's dream was to become a **social worker**, so she was sponsored and supported to study a Diploma in **Social Development**, and on to a Bachelor in Community Development at a university in Iringa. She recently graduated in December 2024, and is currently working to support herself whilst looking for her dream job. **Please do hold Happy in your prayers** as she seeks to embark on her career.



## Meet the Team!

This is our **fabulous FISCH Team** on the ground in Iringa. We are so **proud** of the amazing work they do, working with the Street Children of Iringa, to give them a **hope** and a **future**, in the name of Christ Jesus. We'd like to take this opportunity to share their roles with you.

*Left to right, back to front;*

**Emiliana** (Education Co-ordinator), **Gaspar** (Social Worker), **Paulina** (FISCH Trustee)

**Charles** (Financial Administrator), **Winny** (Administration Officer), **Daudi** (Child Protection & Safeguarding Officer), **Damien** (Programme Co-ordinator)

**Erasto** (Operations Manager), **Eva** (Sewing Teacher and Storekeeper), **Lazaro** (Live-in Patron)

*(Not in photo – Lucy, Live-in Matron)*





## Rich's Trip, 2024

*Rich Gercke, co-founder of FISCH, visited Iringa in November 24 to spend some time with the Team and Children there. Here he shares his thoughts and feelings about visiting FISCH...*



It was so good to be back in Iringa with the Team and Trustees of FISCH Tanzania. I can't believe that 17 years have passed since we started FISCH, beginning by just responding to a young street boy begging for money and settling for a cup of tea, breakfast and a chat with me in rather broken Kiswahili!

Every time I return to Iringa I am amazed by how much the city and country are developing. It remains a very special place filled with special people, sadly many of which are battling against poverty, and their focus is just to strive for a better life. I am always amazed at their kindness, warmth and joy in the face of these challenges.

It was wonderful to spend time together with our Tanzanian Trustees, who have really captured the vision and heart of FISCH to help these vulnerable Children. I am excited about how FISCH Trust in Tanzania will evolve over the coming years with this wonderful Team in place.

During my visit, I met with a number of members from the local community, as well as officials at various levels of local Government. Each of them was so thankful for the work FISCH is doing and wanted me to share with you, our Supporters, just how much they appreciate your support!

In Tanzania the District Commissioners have significant responsibility and local power in the community. It was great to meet with DC Kheri James, who asked me to deliver a message to you, our Supporters;

*"Please thank them for their wonderful support. We are so grateful. The need is great here. Please tell them to keep going and they are welcome to come and visit us here."*

The words of DC Kheri James were echoed by many officials I met. They really are so thankful for the work we have done over the years and encourage us to keep going to achieve even more for the vulnerable in this community.



*Rich and DC Kheri James*



*Rich and DC Kheri James, with FISCH Tz Trustees Erasto (L), Paulina and Daudi (R)*

*Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works... encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near – Hebrews 10:24-25*

