

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Our news

Rugby, we're open for business

October 2022



Nigel (Manager) and Caleb (Apprentice) outside their new building

Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

Welcome to TWAM News



Welcome to our October edition of TWAM News. Our focus is on our new Refurbishment Centre in Rugby and the huge impact it will have on so many lives. We'll explain what we've done, how we have done it and why we have

done it. We are so thankful to have fulfilled this incredibly ambitious plan for growth - which we started in a 'pandemic' and completed in a 'cost of living crisis'. It is amazing and we are very grateful to our supporters for staying with us through these days and enabling us to get things done. Thank you so much; please read on and be encouraged!

Mike Griffin, Chief Executive

Tools to donate?

To find your nearest collection centre or to contact a local collector check our website or contact Ipswich.

Time to donate?

We also need more local tools collectors working from home and volunteers in all our centres. Please go to timefortwam.uk or ring 01473 210220 to find out more or apply.

Financial support

TWAM operates three refurbishment centres and five vans across the UK, supported by a team of over 450 volunteers in the UK and over 100 in Africa. We send over half a million refurbished tools to Africa every year. We keep our costs very low but we still need a lot of support. We value all gifts whether one off or regular. You can send donations to our Ipswich postal address or request a Standing Order and Gift Aid form.

Prayer support

TWAM depends on prayer. If you don't currently receive our quarterly prayer diary and would like to, please contact the Ipswich office.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

About us:

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity enabling people to earn a living and support themselves and their families. In many countries people have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living. A switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. TWAM started over thirty years ago, and has since provided this help by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sending them overseas. Through collectors and centres across the UK, our team of dedicated volunteers and supporters help transform thousands of lives every year.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Tools with a Mission

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TWAM is grateful to the Aall Foundation for their long-term generous support of our work.



Our new refurbishment centre in Rugby.

We're open for business in Rugby!

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported the big fit-out appeal for our new Refurbishment Centre in Rugby. The building was handed over to us on 22nd August and we've been busy ever since.

The first two weeks involved staff from Ipswich and Rugby, along with some amazing volunteers, working flat out to equip the building for service. Everything from laying carpets to installing full building electrics; putting together office furniture to installing long runs of shelving and racking.

We then had an amazing weekend at the beginning of September with a Volunteers Open Day on Saturday

and a Commissioning and Dedication Service on Sunday. The hard work had started many months before and locally, when Nigel and the Coventry Centre volunteers held a week-long exhibition in the town's shopping centre. With the support of the local volunteer bureau, churches, community groups and local businesses, this created lots of interest in our Open Day. Posters were displayed on community notice boards and it promised to be a great success.



Mike Griffin (CEO) leading a tour of the building

Without the staff and volunteers it would remain just 'a building' and we are so grateful for the provision of two highly dedicated, passionate and skilled members of staff in Nigel Hyde (Manager) and Caleb Scotland (Apprentice). They make a great team and we are so pleased to have them. Several volunteers are coming with us from the former site in Coventry, that has closed, and many more will join us from Rugby.

We first visited the building nearly nine months ago and it is thrilling to be at this stage. We have used every

penny donated in the appeal to equip the building; along with some amazing donations of furniture, workbenches and equipment from Collecteco who work with companies closing down, or revamping, their premises.

We're now building up to full operations as more and more volunteers join us. We hope it won't be too long before the first container leaves for Africa. So, once again, thank you to everyone for your financial support, prayers and encouragement and to all our volunteers working in Rugby.

For updates, stories and photos please visit our special Rugby webpage: twam.uk/rugby

On the Saturday, we welcomed local dignitaries, business leaders, church leaders and members of the community into our building. We had film shows, tours, a cafe and a 'next steps area' for people thinking of volunteering with us. It was a fabulous day and really established us in Rugby.

On Sunday the Commissioning and Dedication Service was particularly moving. We recognised God's goodness, in supporting our small charity through the years of the pandemic and enabling us to grow; when many charities were, understandably, just surviving.

To grow during such difficult days and even now, as we all experience the cost of living crisis, is astounding. We do acknowledge God's provision and the faithfulness of our supporters in all circumstances.

We are grateful to Andrew Scotland (Pastor of New Life Church) and Alan Hulm (Vicar of St Matthew's and St Oswald's) who spoke and led prayers of dedication. The service was held simultaneously in Ipswich, linked via Zoom and a big screen. In Ipswich, Archdeacon Rhianon King led prayers. New Life Church provided a music group in Rugby and in Ipswich it was Battsford Free Church. Once again, an amazing way to start the many years of service for this very special building.



The signing of the lease by Simon Danks (Chair) and Keith Hulborn and Pauline Parker (Trustees)

A great project, requires great planning

The opening of our new Centre in Rugby has been a year in the making, with an immense amount of planning and preparatory work. This is just as true for the hundreds of amazing community projects we support within Africa.

Great things don't just happen; they start with somebody seeing a need, having the compassion to meet it, and crucially the vision to find a solution with the courage to step out in faith and begin.

One such group is the **Kapesha Church** in Mansa, Zambia, who recently wrote us a letter of appreciation, which highlights this point. We hope you find it interesting, as it explains a little of the thought and work that needs to be done before the tools arrive.

"We are the Kapesha Christian Brethren Church, situated on the outskirts of Mansa and we have just received tools and equipment from TWAM. We are very grateful, as they will go a long way to alleviate the challenges which the youths, women and the physically challenged are facing. They have no chance of accessing meaningful skills training as they have no money. The Church

had no money to support them, but we knew we had to do something to help this desperate need. This made the Church Board start to think 'outside of the box' and when we came across TWAM - we saw it as our only hope."

We hear this all the time as groups recognise that a small one-off grant offers no long-term security or sustainable future; whereas tools that last for years, and create income, almost certainly do. Equally, groups and churches don't

want to be dependent on financial handouts, but be able to generate their own income.

"Arising from finding out about TWAM, the secretariat was tasked to start the application process and in 2022 we received our tools. Our vision is to start a Skills Training Centre to offer survival skills"

Often, skills training is described as 'survival skills'. This graphically shows that they are seen as the difference between a long-term life of unemployment leading to hopelessness and despair; and the life-transforming ability of tools to provide a lifetime of employment.

"Those who will be trained can start their own small business ventures and in time employ other youths and women."



George is determined to help build the security wall, with just one leg to stand on.

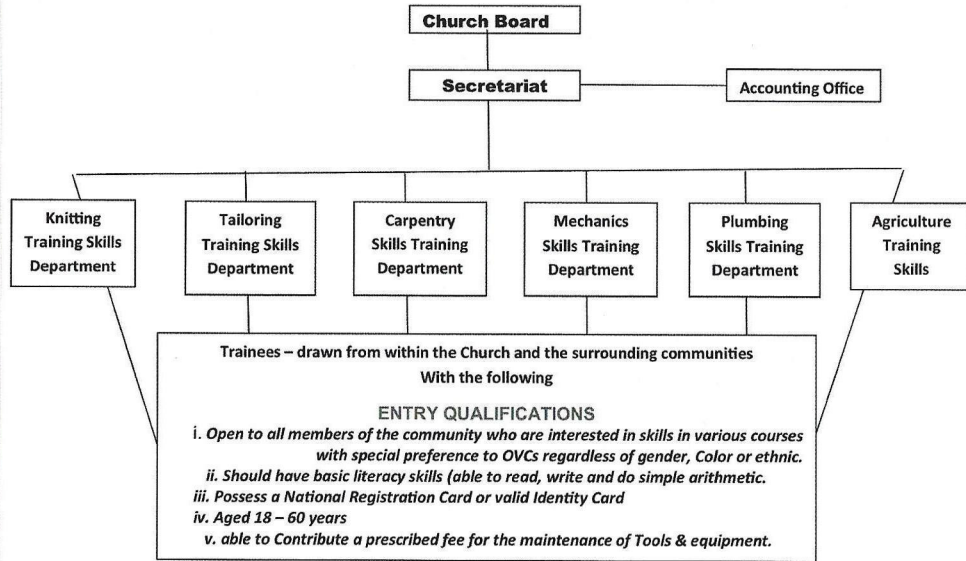


Collecting all of their tools

It is important to realise that to help one is to help many; for one graduating trainee goes on to train others and even share their tools.

"In order to realise this dream, the Church Board put in place a working programme as shown in our organisational chart. We are in discussion with the local Community Development Office so that they can also add their input. This is because the programme is going to be run at the community level, where they are also present."

**KAPESHA CHRISTIAN BRETHREN SKILL INTEGRATED SCHOOL
ORGANISATION CHART**



Why is Rugby and the rest of TWAM so important?

We've been very busy opening our new Centre in Rugby, because we know it will have a huge impact on the people of Africa.

But what is the answer? Well, put very simply, it is to help people lift themselves out of ultra-poverty. This, in turn, gives families the income to send their children to school; to feed themselves every day; to buy medicine; drink clean water; keep a roof over their heads; and empower women in abusive or submissive relationships.

Africa has been hit very hard by the economic fall-out of the pandemic, with no furlough scheme for businesses or the self-employed and few people with any savings to help them through. Combined with the catastrophic effects of climate change, resulting in devastating floods and the failure of harvests, are the soaring grain prices due to the war in Ukraine. This is not a good time to live in the developing world which suffers greatly without proper food.

"This project is going to be conducted in the premises of the Church since we have already constructed classrooms. We will start with knitting and sewing in September (2022) with 10 people per course for the period of 6 months. Everyone is anxious to start training so, whenever there are works, like construction, to be done, even the physically challenged can join the working team.

We once more salute you at TWAM for the wonderful job you have done with this gift of tools. It has given us impetus to be a force to be reckoned with, in the quest for bringing skill training to the doorstep of the marginalised. This is the first project of its kind within the surrounding communities to be run by our Church."

Furthermore, our intention is to run a 'pass-on programme'; so, when trainees finish their course, they are encouraged to join together to set up businesses and offer training and tools to other people in need. Trainees who want a recognised trade qualification will be supported by the Church to enrol in a trade school so they can be assessed and examined.

We hope you find this encouraging and a great example of the vision, planning and work that goes into setting up a great project. But all of this is only possible, because behind everything we do - are our kind and generous supporters.



A container leaving for Uganda in 2022

This is the sole mission of TWAM and it is achieved when we provide tools to equip skills training centres and the tools for graduating trainees.

Most of the women, who learn a skill, do so to raise the income to send their children to school. This, in turn, gives the children the opportunity to break free from a life of low skill and unemployment. It also gives women vital economic independence from abusive relationships. It fulfils the human right of gender equality, women's empowerment and the right to an education.

Many of the people we serve come from subsistence economies, where they live on the vegetables they can grow. Climate change has made this a perilous way to live. The provision of carpentry, mechanics or tailoring skills etc, gives people 'climate resilience' and a more stable, reliable way to support their families.

Many communities recognise the support of orphans and vulnerable children as a priority and so most of the skills centres we equip are set up to meet this need. We hear inspiring stories of children rescued from street gangs, sex-work and homelessness through the offer of skills training and a future. Crucially, churches and community groups recognise it is not enough to tell people they should not be living like this; they also have to offer an alternative to survive and improve.

Why is TWAM so important with the doubling of our impact with our new Rugby Centre?

Here is the answer in numbers. In the first six months of the year, TWAM supported skills centres and community groups by meeting the following needs:

- 87 **Vulnerable women/widows**
- 66 **Young people/school dropouts**
- 18 **Vulnerable people of all ages**
- 13 **Schools**
- 28 **Sustainable community development projects**
- 8 **Agricultural improvement projects**
- 54 **Orphanages and child-headed families**
- 40 **Men suffering from long-term unemployment**
- 5 **Street Children**
- 13 **Disabled people**
- 13 **People living with HIV/Aids**
- 5 **Sex-workers**
- 8 **Elderly folk**
- 8 **Ex-offenders rehabilitation**
- 4 **Refugees**
- 1 **Environmental Issues**



Tools being collected in Zimbabwe

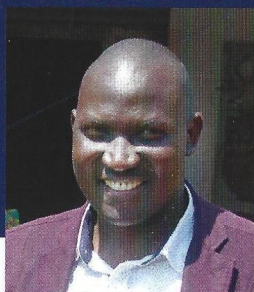


A container arriving in Zambia

Thank you for your support through these ever more challenging times.

Please read on to meet the people who need us the most and who will survive because of their skills training and TWAM tools.

“There was an outcry in the community because of youth unemployment.”



Mululo

The Iganga Multipurpose Vocational Institute is another great example of why TWAM Ipswich and Rugby are so important; because good tools are vital and the more we send, the more communities and lives are transformed.

The Institute is run by Musulo and teaches the skills that lead to employment. It opened when their tools arrived and is still in its first year. He writes:

“The day we heard that the TWAM tools had arrived in Entebbe - there was a big celebration.”

They have courses in tailoring, mechanics, electrical and computing, plus one day courses including communication, public speaking and business skills. The short courses are important to build confidence to start a business and build relationships with customers. They already have over 70 students.

When this first intake completes their six month course, they will be offered an apprenticeship. This builds confidence and develops business skills. Musulo writes:

“Most of our students are girls, as the most vulnerable, because many are orphans or school dropouts. They are desperate and are often forced into early marriage with an older man and become teenage mothers in and out of marriage. They do this, as they do not see they have any choices. Girls have few rights and cannot inherit and are seen as second-rate and personal property. We want to help them get a skill and work that will enable them to protect themselves.”



Iganga tailoring group



Kevin at her sewing machine

One of the students is Kevin, who says:

“I have a friend and she encouraged me to come here. I visited the workshop and saw it was doing good work and also teaching business skills. I completed primary school but then lost my dad and could not complete secondary education. My mother could not afford school fees. It was very hard for me and I did nothing but sit at home for two years. I had no plans, as there was nothing I thought I could do.

*Everything has changed for me now, for, when I finish my course, I would love to own my own business. When I get my results, I can start a workshop. My life changed when I came here as the teachers encouraged me and helped me to see that I could achieve something in my life. **Now - I have dreams!**”*

Kevin is a wonderful example of why our Rugby Centre is needed so much. So many visionary people like Musulo come to us every day asking for tools to change lives. So many, from countries we can't currently support, plead with us to come and help them. As we strive towards the 'million tool challenge', the greatest joy will be to say 'yes' to hundreds more like Musulo and help transform thousands more lives - just like Kevins.

Thank you for being a part of this amazing work.

When your country is in crisis: tools can bring you hope.



Trainees graduating from the carpentry course

Zimbabwe is a country in crisis with devastating economic fall-out from Covid, soaring fuel prices, crippling levels of unemployment and widespread hunger due to the lack of basic food crops and the war in Ukraine. And without the Government support that has been promised.

So what do you do - to survive? Gideon, the director of Fountain of Hope, wrote:

“There is high unemployment among the young men in our community, which has resulted in some of them engaging in substance abuse and violence. There are a number of young people without parents who have turned to criminal street gangs. Many young girls are being forced into prostitution as the only source of income for their families.

Our youth engage in all these illicit practices of prostitution, drug abuse, burglary, property vandalism and juvenile delinquency.

It is to this backdrop that we decided to come up with a project that provides skills to young people of our community, so that they may either be employed or create employment for themselves.”

But this is very hard work, with many heartbreaks and endless setbacks. Working with teenagers so damaged by their life’s experiences is incredibly hard. So why does Gideon and his team do it? He shares with us:

“Youth are the future of each and every community and without them, communities are doomed. This is one

of our small ways of preserving the future. The other reason we do this is because our trainers are skilled people from within the community, who are then mandated to pass on their skills to the next generation.”

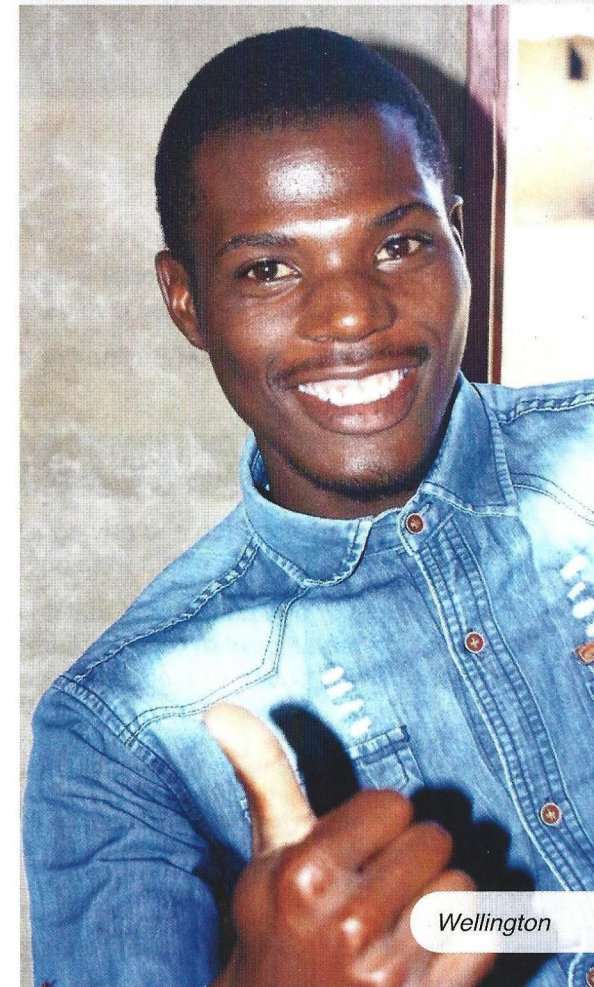
Gideon does not underestimate the impact this training will have and goes on to tell us:

*“We are impacting the youth **now** who will have a positive impact on the youth of **tomorrow**. If these young people are trained and equipped with skills, they will send their own children to school, work for their families, promote peace in the community and encourage other young people to shun deadly activities. We cannot meet all the needs at once, but this small way will go on to meet future needs.”*

One example is Wellington. He grew up in an orphanage with little education and no life skills. He tells us his story:

“I always desired to have a skill in life that would help me to start a new path in life. I failed to learn skills at school because I didn’t have all the requirements to stay there. I am completely positive that this Carpentry skill is going to transform my life and make me a better person. I don’t want to join other young boys who have nothing to do and I take this as a platform for my success. Thank you so much for allowing me to do this training; I can now be asked by schools to make wooden tables and chairs. Thank you.”

Gideon and Wellington share the great truth of the ripple effect. If you throw a pebble into a pond, the ripples just keep spreading out, reaching all over the water. Gideon’s small work will send out ripples that, over many years, will have a greater and greater impact. But it is only possible with the gift of tools. Tools make such a difference, as they have the power to bring hope into a hopeless situation. It is not theory, it is not ‘maybe’ or ‘if’ - it is a tangible proof that tools they can see, use, and believe in, will have an impact and that, through them, their life really can be better.



Wellington

We welcome Rugby to the TWAM family! Together with Ipswich, we know our amazing volunteers will work tirelessly to send hundreds of thousands of tools to Africa. Tools saved from landfill, carefully refurbished and packed with detailed dedication, into trade kits. **Together, what an incredible impact we will have!**

My Response: I would like to send quality tools to the most vulnerable people of Africa. Please accept my gift of:

- £15 £25 £50 £100
 £150 £250 Other £ _____

Or you could donate online at: twam.uk/donate; by phone to 01473 210220; using our bank details. Please include your surname and postcode as a reference.
Barclays Bank - Account: 33190994 Sort code: 20-44-51

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Would you like to receive our **Supporter e-news** once a month? It's packed with up to date news and great stories. If so please give us your email address and tick the box below.

Please send me the TWAM **Supporter e-news**

My Email is: _____

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years, to Tools with a Mission.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please notify the charity if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Tools with a Mission,

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