

ONCE again we have enjoyed the presence of the Nativity scene in St Andrew's Church. The collection of figures has been built up over a number of years, with each one being carved in Nachingwea.



*The Nativity scene in St Andrew's Church, Stapleford, is made up of figures carved in Nachingwea*

Kevin Bushiri has updated us with news of the successful completion of the 4th annual English Course, which he runs. 44 girls and 15 boys, who had graduated from primary education and were about to commence secondary education, followed a three month course in written and spoken English. Kevin tells us of significant benefits to the students of the following initiatives that he has introduced this year, including:

- The use of a voice recorder, which has proved to be invaluable for developing listening, speaking, pronunciation and peer mentoring.
- The arrival of the dictionaries, provided by the Messenger Fund, which have enhanced the skills of spelling, comprehension and vocabulary extension.

- The provision of reading books enabled students both to read aloud and silently with interest and to translate stories into Swahili.
- The giving of gifts of exercise books and pens as rewards for success in the two course tests served as a successful motivational tool, in addition to providing essential resources for the start of secondary education.
- The involvement of parents at both the start and the end of the course reinforced the benefits of parental support and provided parents with knowledge of the course content and student achievements.

As a significant part of the finance for the course was provided by the Stapleford and Nachingwea Link Committees, Kevin also includes in his report a financial statement of expenditure.

Congratulations from the whole Link Committee go both to Kevin for his expert leadership and teaching and to the students for their diligence and achievements. **Trish Maude**



*Left: Presentation to students on completion of Kevin's course and right: Parents meeting at Kevin's course*