

Report on visit to Irundu, 17th January - 26th February 2010

The **St Matia Malumba Health Centre III** was opened on 17th February in the converted hall/ward. The Centre has 5 qualified medical staff – 2 registered midwives, a comprehensive nurse, a laboratory assistant and a nursing assistant – plus a cashier, cook and cleaner. The Centre is open from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm currently offering only an Out-Patients Department.

On 1st February 42 **micro-credit** ox-plough loans and 4 business loans were made. There is the possibility of establishing an arrangement with Agro Ways, an organisation which dries, mills and stores maize on behalf of farmers which means that they don't have to sell their crop immediately it is harvested. There will be a meeting with the farmers in April to discuss whether this would be a helpful arrangement for them.

Recent visits to the **Friendship House** include Joe O'Dwyer, an anaesthetist and Francis Nichols, a GP, who visited a clinic and the hospital operating theatres. Both are keen to maintain their interest in Irundu with further visits. Sue and Jane, both physiotherapists, and Kath, an experienced nurse and midwife, helped to set up the clinic and also gave advice and treatment.

The new **Carpentry Workshop** is almost finished.

Contact between the Irundu and Worth House Groups needs to be maintained on a regular basis.