

## Report on

### May 2014 visit to Masvingo diocese by members of the Southwark Cathedral link group<sup>1</sup>

A team of five people from Southwark Cathedral spent several days in Masvingo Diocese as the guests of Bishop Godfrey. We were constantly thrilled and inspired by the welcome, the worship, and the commitment to mission.

#### (2) Aims of the group

- To introduce the Dean to the Zimbabwean diocese and, in particular, to enable him to visit Masvingo Cathedral and meet the Rector
- For the all members of the party to strengthen relationships with our African partners and the people of the Diocese
- To look at projects which we have supported financially in order to establish progress (and how money raised by the congregation in Southwark has been spent)
- To consider how and in what direction the partnership can continue to grow and mature in the future

#### (3) Itinerary and findings

Full! In total, we probably covered between 900 and 1000 miles in 6 days

##### Tuesday 13 May

Arrived at Harare, a little before sunset. Over 4 hours drive to Masvingo. Supper *en route* at Chivhu Hotel, then on to Lee's Inn on the edge of Masvingo.

##### Wednesday 14 May

*Business meeting with +Godfrey at the Cathedral.*

We were given a no. of documents, reports – a very helpful introduction.

*Morning visit to Transfiguration Youth Skills Centre at Chidzikwe, west of Masvingo*

The bore hole situation. Surveys were done, and two bore-holes were drilled.

Of these, one located a good underground water supply where two streams meet but only at 100m depth (= deep) and the drilling stopped at 70m. It is very expensive to go the extra 30m. [Drilling is done by a Zimbabwean company whose base is in SA.] At 70m there is water on a daily basis ... but only a couple of ?buckets a day. The pump works, but is not on the grid; an electricity generator is in use.

The second bore-hole was drilled down to 50-60 m where there is some, but not much, water. A hand pump ('bush pump') is used for this. They have a storage tank. There is a second tank, in use, which has to be taken periodically to a local river; it takes 5 hours to fill, by hand.

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<sup>1</sup> Very Rev. Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral; Canon Dr. Stephen Hance, Canon Missioner; Sister Joyce Yarrow; Alison Shapton; Dr. Gardner Thompson

There are solar panels on the site, though these provide power only for the chicken house

An issue: the piggery is very successful and this project could be expanded – but pigs drink a lot and would demand more water....

The vegetables looked healthier than in 2011. We were told that there had at last been better rains, last rainy season, but water supply continues to remain inadequate.

*Afternoon visit to ruins of Great Zimbabwe, south-east of Masvingo*

Second night at Lee's Inn

### **Thursday 15 May**

*Morning visit to Maronda Mashanu, north-east of Chivhu*

Secondary school has 322 students and 12 teaching (+ 2 non-teaching) staff. Average length of walk to school = c 6 km.

Fees: \$US 27 per term per student = \$US 81 per annum

Relatively strong academic showing for the district with 47% recently gaining 5 O Levels at grades A-C. Only c. 5 out of 50 p.a. go on to A Levels (elsewhere). Nine academic subjects are taught plus two practical: Agriculture, and Fabrics and Fashion. Able to retain academic staff.

A mothers' group helps with food, school fee support, (AIDS) orphans, 'emotional' support (inc. attempts to prevent students dropping out). They paid the students' examination fees last year

The school has 2 laptops (presented by their MP); and 4 desktops 'in readiness for e-learning'....

Challenges:

- Staff accommodation inadequate
- Water supply inadequate: need a functioning bore-hole
- Shortage of classroom furniture, with increase in school roll

Development plans

- e-learning
- A Level status
- Curricular development (addition of Accountancy and Biology)

We left the primary school, after lunch

*Afternoon visit to nearby shrine of Arthur Shearly Cripps*

Key practical issue here: the bore-hole. This has been drilled and there is plenty of water there (at c. 55m.) BUT to access the water, the following are needed: a submersible pump; an electric generator to power it; and thereafter pipes to distribute it across the site as needed. They already have a tank (empty) with capacity of 5000 litres. [nb it costs \$US 50 each successive metre, to drill a bore-hole.]

There is some urgency to complete this project by August. Estimated remaining cost: \$US 3000

Night at Denise's Kitchen, small lodge 20km west of Chivhu

### **Friday 16 May**

*Morning visit to St. Bernard's Mission, Buhera, east of Chivhu in Manicaland*

After long journey, arrived just after 12 noon.

Bore-hole issue(s). The secondary school has one – but it doesn't work. Replace? Probably not, as the primary school – some distance away – does have a functioning bore-hole and lots of water. So, better (and cheaper) to get water distributed *from* where it is known to be and accessible *to* where it is needed

Challenges/needs

- School Science Laboratory: they have the space but no equipment. It seems that if the school can build a secure storage room, then the government will provide equipment (as it has elsewhere)
- Library
- Just the single, generator-powered, computer

We visited the clinic, formerly the priest's house, still in process of renovation.

*Afternoon visit to St. Anne's peanut butter project, still further east and north*

The plan: acquire peanuts; feed these into a series of machines for shelling, roasting, mincing; pack into tins and sell to Daramombe; distribute a share of profits to those involved while retaining sufficient funds for the next purchase of peanuts. Problem: no peanuts! They are not grown locally and it is difficult/?expensive to acquire them. And one of the 2 mincers doesn't work,

### **Saturday 17 May**

*Morning visit to Munyaradzi ('Holy Spirit') mission, east of Chivhu*

On our way out of Chivhu we visited Fr Douglas at St. Cyril's: a church which we had (as briefly) stopped at in 2011, which now has foundations laid, alongside, for a new and bigger building.

The Vicar-General Matsika welcomed us to/in the church – where Sr. Joyce's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday was announced and celebrated!

Then we focussed on the primary school: 22 teachers, 601 pupils. UNICEF provides textbooks, as throughout the country. Challenges include funding for furniture and for teachers' accommodation; and connecting up the electricity supply to buildings and computers (donated by governors) etc . The water supply is not bad, though a well rather than a borehole.

The chairman of the secondary school also mentioned shortage of funds for, eg, classrooms ... and the need for a boundary fence

*Afternoon visit to Daramombe mission, closer to Chivhu*

Welcomed by a marching band – and the (secondary) headmaster, Manzonda Kennedy, in his office. Tour of both schools, church and clinic. Plans for the primary school to be moved up the hill to a new site so as to accommodate boarders. Huge satellite dish – but not powered as yet/no internet access. nb Whole school assembly, at start, included a dance by primary school children.

### **Sunday 18 May**

*Mass, lunch and business meeting at the new St. Gabriel's church<sup>2</sup>, north and east of Chivhu*

### **(5)The last 24 hours**

### **Monday 19 May**

Drive back to Harare. Here we visited Silveira House, a Jesuit mission on the edge of Harare, where Fr Konrad welcomed us and introduced us to the artists whom he supports. We saw what they were doing; some of their work, through the mediation of Johnston Simpson, is displayed and sold in the Cathedral shop.

Then, before and after lunch, a visit to the Cathedral in central Harare.

Late afternoon flight home.

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<sup>2</sup> Built by a local 'farmer', who was present at the lunch. His father had acquired a cattle ranch from whites in 1980 and had hoped to build a church but had died before it could be done; this fine building was the fulfilment of the father's dream