

# Friends of St James Mission and School

UK Registered Charity: No 1017217

## New Year Newsletter

January 2018

### News Hot off the Press!

In the month of November Alan, Alison, Lydia Butler and Charlie Martin made a short, action packed trip to Zimbabwe to visit the Bishop and of course spend time at the school. And what a worthwhile visit it was. They came back full of enthusiasm for the work being done at the school and submitted a packed report, which is summarised below.

**In general terms, be assured, your support has been, and is, invaluable to the school**

and at this exciting time in Zimbabwe's history, it is crucial we continue to work alongside our friends at St James.

### The Clinic

- This five-bed clinic supports the school and local community. It is run by Sister Dorcas, a state registered nurse and her co-worker and nurse assistant, Sister Catherine Itayi.
- In a country where 85% of the country is HIV-positive, less than 2% of births at the clinic are HIV-positive. In large part this is because each patient is counselled and encouraged to take up a free blood test for HIV. 270 local people, who have tested positive, receive anti-retroviral drugs through the clinic.
- All children in the locality are immunised for measles, etc.
- And the clinic is engaged in a successful anti-malarial programme.

**Friends of St James Mission and School has for many years helped to fund medicines for the clinic. With your help we can continue to support this crucial work.**



## The Primary School

- The Primary School has a roll of 250 pupils and the head teacher is Mrs Mpofu and the Deputy Head teacher Stanley Sibanda.
- The numbers at the school have risen dramatically, due largely to the land resettlement programme. Most of those resettled are Shona.
- Fees are \$15 a term but the majority of families cannot pay as there is 90% unemployment in rural areas.
- Every child receives a hot meal every day. A rota is organised whereby mothers take it in turn to do the cooking on wood fires with large kanga pots.



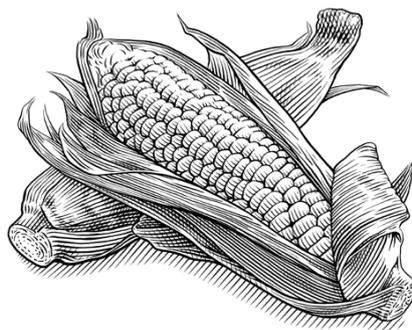
Friends of St James Mission and School has supported the Primary School for many years and in particular has helped to provide funds for the crucial feeding programme.

## Pre-School

Run by Margaret Sibanda and another co-worker.

- The Pre-School and Primary School children are being fed 5 days a week with a hot lunch.
- The meal is either soya protein chunks which are hydrated and boiled up or sugar beans. 20kg of mealie meal is used daily to make sadza which is then flavoured with Knorr soup.
- The food is stored in a store room between two classrooms and is kept under lock and key by Mrs Mpofu, the head teacher of the Primary School.

The children looked well and quite clearly benefit from this daily meal. Sister Dorcas believed illness in Primary and Pre-School children had been significantly reduced due to this improved nutrition.



## Secondary School

- There are 610 girls on the roll.
- The day starts with the rising bell at 5am and school assembly begins at 7.15am. The last lesson of the day ends at 4pm.
- The school staff are very committed and most of them have worked there for many years.
- The school enjoys a productive garden. 50 pigs, chickens and 7 cattle all help to feed the school.
- Girl Guides have recently re-started and 37 members now meet regularly.
- The school achieves 100% pass rate at A level.

Miss Bafana gave a warm welcome and was keen to show us round the school and talk about future plans, including the administration block which is an on-going project.

The school buildings and the church were in good order, with two new class rooms being built in the last five years.

The next project is the teacher and guest accommodation which is currently in a poor state.

The swimming pool, originally funded by the Beit Trust, was looking AMAZING! It was in full working order, renovated and with crystal clear water!

The Home Economics room now has more than 10 gas/electric cookers and is staffed by Ray Uriel, the only male Home Economics teacher in the country and a former chef who worked for six years in Northern Ireland! The ICT and science labs were also well equipped.

**We now support six girls with bursaries. The value of this support cannot be measured as these girls go on to become the professional women of Zimbabwe. It is thanks to your generosity we have been able to provide these bursaries.**

## The Church

Bishop Cleophas runs a tight ship despite challenges way beyond the usual running of a diocese in the UK. From bankruptcy in 2006/7 when hyper-inflation took everyone's assets, leaving the diocese in a dire state with no means of paying clergy stipends, clergy now appear to be well supported and visited often by the bishop.

St James Secondary School has the use of an office within the diocesan office at the cathedral where parents pay fees and leave parcels for the girls. It even has a chest freezer for storing chicken/fish to be transported to school when transport comes to town.

Back at St James the body of the church was in good order. Fr Ncube is the priest in charge and Stanley Sibanda helps out most weeks. Fr Ncube also looks after St Francis, Tsholotsho.



**Friends of St James Mission and School**

**AGM 2018**

**March 10th:**

**St Peter's Church,**

**Chailey,**

**East Sussex,**

**BN8 4DA**

**Coffee from 11:15, Service at 12:00,**

**Lunch from 12:45, AGM 14:00 – 16:00**

It's not all business but a great opportunity to catch up and share some time together. Do come if you can!

If you would be interested in attending contact Sarah at:  
[sarahsspencer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahsspencer@hotmail.co.uk)

*We hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive correspondence from FSJMS, please contact our Secretary, Sarah Spencer, at [sarahsspencer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahsspencer@hotmail.co.uk) or at 8 St Martins Close, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5JG*

**Or you may wish to follow us on Facebook:  
Friends of St James Mission and School ([facebook.com/fsjms](https://www.facebook.com/fsjms))**

**or on our website: [www.fsjms.org.uk](http://www.fsjms.org.uk)**

If you would like to support the bursaries you can donate easily through our Virgin Money Giving Campaign at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=2656&charityId=1008597>

Alternatively our Treasurer, Revd Alan Butler, is happy to receive any donations.

You can send them to:

Ashways, 3 Ashurst Road, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 OLR

Thank you for all that you do to support St James - your contributions make a huge difference and continue to encourage and help the communities of St James.