

Swaziland

Week 5 (the extra week)



The new kitchen



The visits



The filing

Mbabane
3rd August 2013



Diocesan Office:

This has been a completely different visit to Swaziland for me. Previous visits have involved lots of driving - to schools, care points and parishes. This time I have spent most days in the Diocesan Office, which adjoins the Bishop's House. I have been working with Mrs Beketele Tembe, who has been in her job since the 1980s, and has worked with four bishops. We have sorted out the filing, put the files into Dropbox, and rearranged the furniture. I will miss the laughs with Bishop Ellinah, Mrs Tembe and Gladys Shiba. They dressed us up on the last office day - photo: Gladys, Jabu, Beketele, Linda, Bishop Ellinah, and Jan.

Neighbourhood Care Points

Tuesday 30th July



Mrs Bhembe has been feeding pre-school children beside her home in Ekukhanyeni since 1978. She is helped by two other local families. They cook outdoors, over an open fire, but are building a new kitchen beside their local church.



Beside St Andrew's Church in Luve, five Anglican women run a pre-school. They look after 30 children, and cook for them. In school holidays up to 100 children come along for a meal. These are children from homes where there is no food.



At Timbutini we met Gogo (Granny) Sipiwe Fakudze. She is 82 and was widowed in 1972. When she moved from town to Timbutini she started her own Anglican Church, where she cooks for all who come. She has a fascinating story...

Usuthu Mission Kitchen Project



The Cook

Mandy, the cook, is delighted with her new kitchen. The old kitchen was unsafe and full of smoke.



Archdeacon Bheki, school manager, said “The school committee was right to push for this type of kitchen. It has been worth the little extra time.”



Swazi government

The Ministry for Natural Resources has been involved all through the building, and will commission and test the stoves.



The School Committee, pictured here with Maureen Moss, Limerick, are all pleased with the new design of stove, which will save 70% of fuel costs.

School visits

Thursday 1st August

These schools have received grants from the Diocese of Cashel & Ossory via Bishops' Appeal



Ulundi Primary School received a grant to help them construct a new kitchen. The principal is now awaiting the report on Usuthu Mission kitchen before finalising building plans. Easy to share this information thanks to the new school laptops.



Esigangeni Primary School will put their grant towards building teachers' accommodation. The school has 30 teachers, of whom 6 are local. There is accommodation for only 7 teachers, which means very long commutes or boarding locally for the rest.



Makhwane Kop Primary School is using its grant to improve its water supply. A bore hole (in the photograph) has been drilled and is awaiting testing. This will provide ample water all year round.

Last days



Sandra Dlamini

Sandra is one of the diocese's home-based care volunteers. Mandla & Jan delivered blankets knit by members of Rossorry parish.



Floor repairs

Always practical, Jan repaired broken floors, doors and even toilets!



Google Earth:

Night view of Mbabane from Brackenhill. If you use google earth you can find Brackenhill here: 26° 17' 43.76" S; 31° 09' 31.78" E; the elevation is 1315m.

Other special places to spot:

Thokoza Diocesan Centre:

26° 19' 11.44" S;
31° 08' 47.93" E
Elevation 1175m

Luyengo Farm:

26° 34' 36.22" S;
31° 10' 11.17" E
Elevation 760m

*And now we go
home...*