

Welcome News



from South Africa

March 2020

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR IN GRAHAMSTOWN

This year I went to stay with the Sisters and the children for 7 weeks over Christmas and the New Year. I arrived in very great heat and discovered that the drought conditions which have been persisting for several years have seriously depleted the water in the reservoirs which serve Grahamstown. The Municipality has a solution to this – cut off the mains water. This happened frequently and usually with no notice. The residents would not know if the water was to be cut off for a matter of hours – or days. It was a very difficult situation to manage even though the convent has a number of rain water tanks and one of these is filtered for drinking. A lot of time and effort has to be spent moving buckets of water from A to B; showers are out of the question and the poor garden...well, all but gone!



Naturally, the children sailed through all this – their preoccupation was with end of school year activities and ideas for Christmas treats! I must show you the convent Christmas tree – decorated by "you know who". A vision never to be forgotten!

All five took part in the Crib Service at the Cathedral in Grahamstown and looked very good and acted their parts very well.



Mother Zelma and I cooked on Christmas Day for 24 people. It was quite a challenge but was well received by the guests who may not have been able to afford a meal for themselves. Then on New Year's Day, I was pleased to learn that we were going to take it easy – just 15 people to cook for this time! We had a braai (barbecue). Even that was quite a challenge – but delicious.



I was very happy to do as I have done in previous years – take each child separately to purchase whatever school uniform and stationery supplies were needed.

This year I decided to buy shoes of somewhat better quality as the others seemed to wear out very quickly.

So here they are all ready and raring for the new school year and looking so smart too.

I next visit at Easter and look forward to reading the first term's school reports. That has become quite a ritual!

OUR NEXT FUNDRAISING EVENT

Will be on **SATURDAY 27 JUNE** in the garden of **PADDOCK HOUSE** in **PIDDLEHINTON – 6 to 8pm.**

This is to be an evening garden party with the title ***All on a Dorset Summer's Evening***. Our theme is a country one with entertainment from a very talented local musician, Damian Clarke, who will sing, play his amazing instruments and tell stories. For your refreshment there will be local beer, wines from a bit farther afield, soft drinks, and a mini ploughman's supper. There will be lovely things for you to purchase...all so we can pay the bills for educating these South African children.

Mother Zelma already has it in her diary so please put it in yours. You will receive a proper invitation nearer the time.

NEW WEBSITE

Until now the web presence for Future Bright Trust has piggy backed on Sue's personal website – this was to incur no costs for the charity. Sue has decided to close her website soon and so it has been decided to create a dedicated website for the Trust. We will let you know about this in due course.

INTERESTED IN A TALK?



If you belong to a group that engages speakers for its meetings, please consider Sue who has a talk titled "Beyond Dreaming: Teaching Madiba's Children". Fully illustrated, it is about how she became involved as a volunteer teacher in South Africa in 2013 and from that experience developed the charity Future Bright Trust. Sue gives all the proceeds from these talks to the Trust as well as any sales of the beautiful notebooks. Send an email to hello@suehennessy.co.uk

LASTLY....

All the Trustees of Future Bright Trust, Andrew, Shelley, Rebecca and myself, are looking forward to meeting up with you when you come to ***All on a Dorset Summers Evening*** on 27 June But before then we want to thank you for all the generosity you have shown to the children in Mother Zelma's care. They are in fact in our care too, as we are paying all the bills associated with their education. You have helped us to help them and we are so very appreciative. A number of you now give regularly and this is so helpful. Cheques arrive in the post – especially at Christmas and that GOLDEN BOX at our fundraising events is always full.

We take none of this for granted and we thank you. As does Mother Zelma who from far away in South Africa, always says to me when I bring her good news; "I am speechless"!

Registered charity no 1159539

For more information see our website www.futurebrighttrust.co.uk or ring Sue Hennessy on 07770 738170

To donate on line www.give.net/20180380