



# Welcome News

**from South Africa      January 2022**

Usually you receive a newsletter just before Christmas but this year for a whole variety of reasons I was unable to write one in time. I am happy though to tell you that this edition is TRULY from South Africa. I am actually sitting in the convent in Grahamstown (now renamed Makhanda) writing this.

After almost 2 years in which the travel restrictions prevented me from coming here, and after so many last minute hitches and uncertainties, I arrived here on 22 December – just in time for Christmas. Such joy! I am now fully immersed in life here and taking full advantage of the long school holidays to do all sorts of things with the children. In the last newsletter, you saw pictures of them having music lessons and it has been very good to listen to them playing. I was particularly impressed with Phelo who gave me an excellent rendition of “Jingle Bells”!

Although I have spoken often with them since my last visit in 2019, it is wonderful to see how much they have grown and developed. Just to remind you...Phelisa is now 15 years old; Emmy 12; Phelo 10; Onelani 8 and Inam will also be 8 in a month's time.

As you might expect, my suitcase contained gifts for the children and the Sisters as well as a set of tablets which were purchased from Future Bright Trust funds. So that these were not associated with gifts from Father Christmas, they were given on New Year's Day. The excitement was overwhelming and within no time the convent was completely silent as 5 children immersed themselves in the games that I had pre-loaded at home. The beauty of these contributions from Future Bright Trust is that the tablets are fun for playing games but also educational. Especially during Lockdown the schools here (as in the UK) wanted to send homework online. These children are therefore now equipped to respond to this development. It is thanks to the generosity of you all that this has been possible and I send warmest thanks.



In spite of all the difficulties associated with Covid -19, Future Bright Trust was able to raise sufficient funds to meet all the educational costs for the 5 children. This included school charges and donations; stationery, books, uniform, school outings, music lessons and extra home teaching during Lockdown. Additionally, we have managed to invest money to meet future costs, as we know that as the children get older and move on to secondary education – and maybe tertiary - the cost of supporting them will inevitably rise. So we are taking the long term view and preparing for this likelihood.

The sources of our income last year were; the garden party in July; the regular donations from a very loyal group of givers as well as the extremely welcome occasional gifts; the sale of children's notebooks, a very successful coffee and book sale morning in Piddlehinton Village Hall in December – the brainwave of Trustee, Rebecca Howard. Additionally, £125.00 came in from the two shopping sites – smileamazon.co.uk and giveasyoulive.com. Both are so easy to use and it is very satisfying to know that you are helping this good cause. Very importantly we were able to reclaim £1,555.00 in Gift Aid from HMRC.

### **NEXT FUNDRAISING EVENT – SATURDAY 9 JULY 2022: 6 – 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 and we also hope that the 5 children will be joining her again. **Please save the date.** You will receive a proper invitation nearer the time.

**NONE OF YOUR GENEROSITY IS EVER TAKEN FOR GRANTED – THANK YOU FROM US ALL!!**



**READY FOR SCHOOL**



**READY FOR PLAY**

**Registered charity no: 1159539** For more information see our website [www.futurebrighttrust.org.uk](http://www.futurebrighttrust.org.uk) or ring Sue Hennessy on 07770 738170 To donate on line [www.give.net/20180380](http://www.give.net/20180380)