

Welcome News



from South Africa

February 2026

RECENT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

My latest visit to South Africa started well and ended badly!

I met the children with Mama Zelma at Port Elizabeth Airport and we went from there to a house by the sea – my Christmas present to them. It was near Knysna, which is where Mama was born and I have always told the children that one day I would take them there.

We had a lovely week, swimming, exploring, playing beach cricket, board games and braaiing (BBQ) and watching movies on a huge screen. We missed Phelisa who was unable to take time off her job, but made sure we bought presents for her. The journey home was 4 hours long but it gave time to make plans for the Christmas decorations. As ever, I have never seen a Christmas tree quite like it!

Christmas came with many guests to cook for and games to play. Gifts were shared and significant was that these (now) young people went out to do their own Christmas shopping. What a wonderful development!

The BIG school uniform shop started soon afterwards. I took each one separately as always. It was very hot but eventually we got everything that was needed, took certain items to the alterations shop for shortening, lengthening or badge sewing and we were ready for school!



Each of them has been promoted to the next Grade (this is dependent upon the previous year's performance) but where it is clear that there is a struggle with particular subjects, we organise extra tuition to be paid for by Future Bright Trust. It is quite a task for me to find suitable teachers but it really does make a difference to have this 1:1 teaching.

I had almost signed up all the teachers we needed when I received an urgent message from my neighbour Vickey – it contained photos and videos of the severe flooding in Piddlehinton. Of course my house was badly affected and I knew I must get home as soon as possible. The South African family was devastated but as soon as they saw the pictures, they understood. It was quite a struggle but I managed to get a flight home the following day...

A LOVELY STORY

While we were in Knysna, shopping in the town, we came upon a bare footed man begging in the street. He had a severe injury to one eye and looked just terrible. After speaking to him, Phelo suggested that he should give the man his shoes because he had just bought a new pair with some of the spending money family and friends had given me to share with them all. Mama Zelma and I were overwhelmed when he took off his shoes and handed them over. From his one good eye, the man wept with joy! If ever proof were needed that these young people that you all are supporting are on the right track in life...this is it.

100 CLUB LOTTERY

Firstly, a **big thank you** to everyone who has jumped on board and joined this new Club. After 10 years of garden parties, this is the way we hope to raise the money needed for continuing the education of the four children at school. Special thanks to those of you who donated back your winnings – so generous! Launched in August 2025 we have so far recruited **63 members**, had **6 draws**, and made **£1,052** profit. This year should be even more profitable with no start-up costs (£338 for printing). We have got space for **37 more members** and they are much needed – to boost the value of the prize draw each month and to raise more funds for Future Bright Trust. This is a big plea for more members. It is very easy to join.

All the information you need is on the website www.futurebrighttrust.org.uk but you can also get in touch with Sue for personal information/help.

PLANS FOR 2026

Children visiting England in June – as yet this is not definite but Mama Zelma and I are busily working on it! Let us hope that all the various – and complicated - elements come together! We will try to organise “something” here in Dorset if they do come, so that you get an opportunity to say hello.

* Please let me remind you that these visits do NOT use Future Bright Trust funds.

SHARING GOOD NEWS

*** Our fundraising last year was again successful enough to meet all the educational costs for the year AND put money into an investment account which will be used should any of the children go on the higher education.

*** Thanks to those of you who have signed so that we can claim Gift Aid on your donations, we received **£1,821.86** from HMRC

*** **Phelisa** – who will be 20 later this year – has now worked for 14 months in her supermarket job and a few weeks ago moved into a flat owned by that company. She is sharing with a colleague friend. A big step for a young adult towards independence. We all wish her well. (sorry – no picture of her this time)

SHARING THANKS

All that you do for Future Bright Trust has never been taken for granted – and never will be! All of us have demands upon our pockets and that you help us to help these children whose lives started so badly is just wonderful. This is to thank you for your regular donations, membership of the 100 Club, attending and helping at our events and showing ongoing interest in the wellbeing and progress of these young people.

Special thanks to the Trustees who do so much behind the scenes – to Rebecca and Gill and to Ali who stepped down at the end of the year in readiness for her new married life

Thanks to the Mama – I personally see what she does for the 5. It is never ending!

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

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