

Report on Visit to Irundu, 5th - 17th February 2018

Fr Stephen sends his greetings to everyone at Worth. He is planning to apply for a visa to come to visit – when the weather is a bit warmer but not as warm as it was in Irundu this time: 42C – even the locals were complaining! Fr Stephen continues to be the PP in Irundu as well as overseeing the running of the Health Centre and doing 2 days per week in Jinja with the Bishop as he is Vicar General for the Diocese. Fr Deo is now a parish priest as is Fr Anatole. The 2 curates are Fr Raymond and Fr Matthew.

St Matia Malumba Health Centre III. The Health Centre continue to be busy with an average **monthly attendance of 1523 patients and 95 deliveries**. David is till our in-charge. Sharon is our second clinic officer. The Diocese is still linked with Marie Stopes – an unlikely liaison but on the condition they fully respect the teachings of the Catholic Church. They will be administering a Ministry of Health project by selling vouchers to poor women for a very modest fee which will cover 4 ante-natal visits, free delivery and post-natal care. During the year we were also funded by Cordaid by way of performance-based funding but this ceased on 30th June 2017. Whilst there I carried out an audit, checking all the primary records and gathering the figures I needed for a set of accounts.

Jenny's Sales/Medical Fund Several children had corrective operations followed by treatment for club foot and cleft palate. Some women had VVF operations. This is a really valuable medical fund enabling many people to have life-changing treatment so **thank you to everyone who has supported Jenny's sales of jams and chutneys before Christmas which raised a stunning total of £1485. Since 2012 Jenny has raised £4772.90 – a really amazing amount. Thank you so much Jenny for all your hard work for Irundu.**

Tins/Benches Paul and Helle have very kindly continued to organise the collecting tins in spite of having moved away. It was their idea in the first place and has certainly provided change for many Irundu children. I took out a further £917.30 which has been raised since March 2017 and will make a further 25 benches. This brings our total collected to **£10, 832** and benches made to **360. Thanks to everyone who has turned their small change into such a big change for approximately 2000 school children in Irundu.**

Friendship House Resty is a fine housekeeper. Fr Stephen is happy that we have handed the house over to his parish. Whilst they like to have visitors from Worth there are other visitors during the year who enjoy staying there including the Bishop and some seminarians.

Vocational School – great excitement and many congratulations as the academic side of this school was voted **best in the district** with pupils attaining 2 x 1st grade, 11 x 2nd grade, 13 x 3rd grade and 3 x 4th trade in GCSEs. Car Mechanics Workshop started when I was there with 5 students having driving lessons and vehicle tuition; the tailoring department has 10 students but hairdressing and carpentry are very low in numbers.

Cynthia Haynes

Please Support Our Health Centre