

News from our South African friends in Mzimvubu, Oct 2021

We are often troubled, but not crushed,
sometimes in doubt, but never in despair;
there are many enemies, but we are never
without a friend;
and though badly hurt at times,
we are not destroyed.
(2 Cor 4:8-9)



This is the verse quoted in the latest email from Mzimvubu, our link diocese in a very poor area of South Africa. They added: “No amount of words can describe how the feeding program has impacted the lives of the people in the Diocese of Mzimvubu especially during this most difficult time in the history of our lives.”

We have continued to make quarterly payments of £6,000 to this feeding programme, helping to support some of those families who are suffering the worst during this dreadful pandemic.

In June, the country was at Level 4, meaning that few people could be present at the handing over of the parcels. Even so, 130 destitute families in 5 Archdeaconries were able to receive an essential food parcel. These included orphans, the physically challenged and the aged from remote areas of the diocese.

A vaccine program has been introduced in this area and is moving fast. They are working to ensure that these manage to reach all areas, with churches acting as some vaccination centres.

During the handover, advice was given on how to stay safe, and beneficiaries encouraged to register for vaccines and to have food gardens to plant vegetables. In Holy Cross Archdeaconry in particular, there is a low level of employment as people have no skills.

We have not yet received a report on the September aid sent, but by then the lockdown restrictions had been raised to Level 2. The economy will take time to recover and communities are still in poverty.

Please continue to hold the Diocese of Mzimvubu in your prayers. You can find our prayer points here: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/social-action/truro-diocese-international-links/prayer-requests/>

The TDIL committee would like to thank our many donors who continue to give regularly to this project. If you would like to give towards the aid we send to this impoverished region, please contact either Sheri Sturgess on sheri.sturgess@gmail.com or the Finance department at finance@truro.anglican.org.

Sheri Sturgess
October 2021