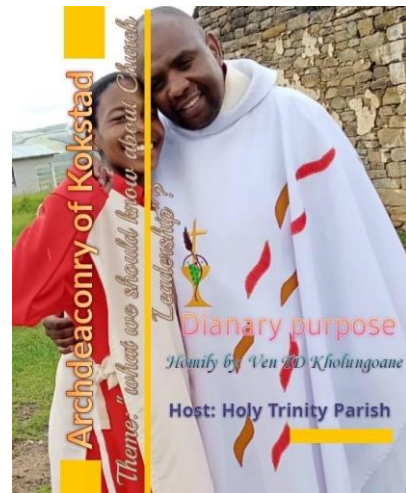


## Reverend Thatho Daniel Kholungane's Story, Mzimvubu

In early 2008, a small party from Truro Diocese visited the Diocese of Umzimvubu in South Africa to strengthen relations between the two Dioceses which had been twinned some years before. Four members went to deliver a van to the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's project which our Diocese was supporting with the help of regular donations from a wide variety of people around our parishes. The van was used to travel around the Kokstad and Flagstaff Archdeaconries, visiting the workers on the ground, schools, other development projects and beneficiaries of the work to alleviate poverty, particularly amongst AIDS orphans. At the end of a three week stay in the villages and a variety of B&Bs we left the van with the leader of the OVC to use for delivering food parcels and school uniforms to the children in the shanties around Kokstad and beyond.

Whilst we were on this amazing tour where we were welcomed wholeheartedly by all concerned, we attended several church services which were a real eye opener! The devotion, enthusiasm and generosity of the congregations was truly inspiring and here we met a young youth leader called Daniel who impressed us all with his desire to progress and do the very best he could for the youth of the deaneries in which he worked. He introduced us to the local Chief and acted as a go-between to show us some of the work that this young man wanted to do for his people.



After our visit we kept in touch with Daniel, whose African name was Thatho Kholungoane, but during the next few years due to some leadership issues in the Diocese of Umzimvubu, we were temporarily unable to continue sending contributions to the OVC Fund. However, we still had donations coming in regularly, so the Truro Diocesan World Church Committee (the fore-runner to the Truro diocese International Links Committee) decided to try to directly help some ordinands from the Diocese of Umzimvubu and surprisingly, we found that Daniel was one of them! So we paid his living expenses for the rest of his period of training and congratulated him as he went off to work in the parishes back home in Matatiel. A year or so later we heard from Daniel that he was now a vicar in his own parish but had difficulty getting around his people because he couldn't drive. Daniel has a prosthetic leg due to childhood polio so this is particularly difficult for him. We were able to use some of the funds to pay for Daniel to take driving lessons and his driving test.

The Diocese, which has now changed its name to Mzimvubu, now has a new and committed leadership in place, who are working hard to support orphans and vulnerable families. Truro Diocese has been able to resume donations helping to finance the feeding programme and equip them in this important work.

Reverend Thatho Daniel Kholungane's career has continued to progress and in January 2022 he became an Archdeacon of Kokstad and Rector of St Mary's Indawana.

We wish Daniel every blessing in his work and thank God that the generous donors of Truro Diocese have been able to help him on his journey as well as feeding dozens of families who are struggling to make ends meet in rural Mzimvubu