

CHIPPENHAM DEANERY

Uganda Link News

February 2010

On our final day we were at the Cathedral for the main event – a celebration service for the 25th Anniversary of the Diocese and ground breaking for the new Cathedral. The Rt Rev Dr Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyoyo, the first Bishop of Mukono and later Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, was present, as were many Bishops who had had links with the Diocese. The honoured guest was the Rt. Hon. Prof. Apollo Nsibambi, Prime Minister of Uganda. The Cathedral was packed and the service was relayed to many people sitting under awnings outside the Cathedral. We soon found out how much they need a new cathedral when we were hit by a violent thunderstorm and we were soon moving to avoid the drips. Also there was not sufficient space for everybody who tried to squeeze into the cathedral to get out of the rain!



We were welcomed by the Bishop during the service and were able to make a presentation of a new festival stole for use in the Cathedral – this had been made especially for the occasion by Kirsten Webb who is an expert in ecclesiastical embroidery.

There is so much more – but I'll save that for the meeting on 2nd February. We hope you will be able to come so we can share our experiences with you.

Aurea Hart

VISIT TO UGANDA

The Bishop of Mukono invited the Deanery to send three representatives to their 25th Anniversary Celebrations in mid-December. The Rev. Simon Tatton-Brown, Phil Townsend and Aurea Hart were asked to represent the Deanery and came back after a fantastic trip. Now the Deanery has invited eight people from Mukono to come to Chippenham over Easter.

A Visit to, and from, Uganda

Illustrated Talk



Come and hear about the recent visit to our Link Diocese of Mukono and help plan for their visit to us in March-April 2010

**St Peter's Church Hall, Frogwell, Chippenham
Tuesday 2nd February 2009, 7.30 pm (Coffee at 7 pm)**

THE ONLY MZUNGU ON THE MARCH!

(‘Mzungu’ means ‘white person’)

Monday 7th December was a scorcher in Uganda! Even the Ugandans were finding it hot. I was due at the Youth Conference, which was going to start with a march of witness around Mukono town. When I arrived the Boy’s and Girl’s Brigade Band was busy practising, as they were leading us. Other groups had arrived with choirs or dancers. All were shading from the sun under the trees at Bishop’s West School near the Cathedral.

The time came for the march to start and I was given a Mukono Diocese sun visor to go with my centenary T-shirt, so I had the uniform. We did a few laps of the field to get in the swing of it before setting out into the town. I was the only non-Ugandan so was quite conspicuous! People were very kind. The young people were chatting away with me about the UK and even if their English was as good as my Lugandan, Arsenal, Man. Utd. and Liverpool is a universal language. I danced with the cool guys, chatted to the traffic police about the pristine white uniforms they got for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and shook hands with lots of kids shouting ‘mzungu’ at me. I was great fun! Apparently the local TV station caught it all.



the band started playing ‘Rudolf the Red-Nose Reindeer’; you don’t get much snow on the Equator!

After the march we had refreshments, choirs sang, there was traditional dancing and I was invited to address the youth on the theme ‘seek first the kingdom of God’ Matt. 6:33. I focussed on the ‘don’t worry’ aspect allowing us to focus on what God wants from us and also on our unity in Christ whether we support Arsenal, Man. Utd. or Liverpool! Always goes down well but with a serious point about Christ reconciling differences.

Phil Townsend

MEETING OLD FRIENDS

Our link with Mukono Diocese has been active since 2002 when Bishop Paul and his wife Margaret visited Chippenham during his pre-consecration trip to the UK. Since then there have been several visits in both directions and we now have many friends in Mukono. During our recent visit we were able to meet up with several people from the visit in 2005: Rev. Festo Kalungi, who is now married to Victoria with two children, Patience and Elijah, was our guide, our driver and interpreter throughout the visit. We attended worship in Ronald Lutwama’s church, St Dunstan’s, where he is a curate – Ronald is a member of the Church Army and was about to lead a mission to the islands in Lake Victoria when we saw him. Godfrey Sentengo was not to be left out – he managed to hi-jack us for an evening meal one night when we had been scheduled to eat at the Bishop’s house! Then took us to visit his brothers the next day.

From those who came in 2007 we met Archdeacon Samuel Kawuma, visiting his church in Nakibizzi, Joshua Ssali who sang with the Cathedral choir, Rev Sarah Mpakilli, Rev. Edward Belamaze and the Bishop’s Chaplain, Rev David Luvumu, Olive his wife and his 4 children. We also briefly met with Victoria and Daniel – the Bishop’s daughter and son; Daniel is now a doctor working in South-Eastern Uganda at Mbale.

So much happened during the 9 days we were there. We went to a wedding in the cathedral and were privileged to be at the reception in the afternoon. A wedding is a great time of celebration full of colour and joy. We met Clergy, Lay Readers, Mothers’ Union members, children and young people and sometimes were called upon to address these groups – speaking in English and being interpreted in Luganda, which is quite hard work.