

Africa Team 2020

The Team

As you know at this time of the year, we are usually preparing to send a team over to support our partner community in Mafambisa. And this year was no exception that is until COVID-19 paralysed the world. Our team this year is:

John Dilley, Ben Dilley, Lucy Dilley, Paul Canty, Linda Canty, Sophie Child, Simon Mitchell, Carolyn Tebbutt, Jack Marron, Peter Giles, Alice Scott, Chris Parker.

Mafambisa

Below you will find an update written for us about Mafambisa. As a team we have also had some video updates from Mafambisa, showing how they are coping with Lockdown; pictures of socially distanced chairs in a line for the children to sit on, whilst they wait for their food. But one thing they said really touched our hearts. The children of Mafambisa, know about the pandemic and obviously know why we cannot visit them this year. But the children of Mafambisa have said this because we are really vulnerable too and suffering at the moment- they understand the wider situation, and they are praying for us!

Prayer

We want to use the time that we would have been over there to really focus our prayers and thoughts on the community of Mafambisa. Please try to pray every day for the children, the Care Workers who cook for them and visit them in their homes, for the Care Givers who take the children into their homes (often Aunties, Grandmothers, sometimes older siblings, often only 15 or 16 years of age).

The Blog

The blog runs from year to year, and each year the team member will write a profile of themselves and why they want to go to visit Mafambisa. This year is no exception! Over the next three weeks, the blog will be populated with profiles and stories from Africa. We are inviting those who have been in past years to write a short piece, a story from when they visited for the blog and submit it together with a photo. We hope to continue the story of

Africa and Mafambisa this year, even though we can't be there and walk alongside communities.

Please do visit the Blog at www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk

'Shine'

Over the last couple of years, we have shared the Holiday Club favourite 'Shine' with the children of Mafambisa and other Care Points in Clau Clau and Oshoek. There was one particularly notable time last year when we stood on top of a mountain in the community of Houtbos and we danced and sang 'Shine' as the sun went down on the other side of the valley. We want to share the song again with as many Care Points as we can; we want to make a video of children and adults dancing and singing to 'Shine'! So we are inviting anyone who wishes to play the song and take a video of the children or the family dancing and singing to 'Shine'!

Sunday 2nd August

On Sunday 2nd we are going to have a focus on Mafambisa and Africa in our services. We are fortunate to have Catherine Clarkson joining us from Africa via Zoom to speak at our service.