

An appeal for support for one of the charities we support which came to Gillian and has been discussed with the PCC.

Dear friends,

I received this email from Thobile Mhlongo this week. I first met Thobile, and her husband Solly, when I went to visit the Zulu township school twinned with Sarum Academy in 2007. Thobile, as well as being a governor of the school, had taken 40-50 children under her wing when their homes were burnt down and parents murdered in troubles in the township. She set up the Ekusizane Children's Home and the adjoined hospice for those dying of Aids, whose orphaned children were taken into the children's home.

There has never been any state financial aid – during my visit Solly pleaded with me for help to buy a much needed “bakki” or minibus to transport patients to and from hospital, and children weak from Aids to school. Many of our church donated and the vehicle was bought. Since then our church adopted the Children's Home as our overseas charity, to help pay for heavy electricity and water bills, funeral cost for the children who die of Aids, costs of school uniform and equipment for the children, for which there is no state provision.

There have always been grateful thanks when we have sent money – and a lot of prayer for us here, by them – but this is the first time an email has revealed quite so much desperate need as this.

We need to reply fairly urgently to pledge our support, ideally we would send around £1,200 to help. It is humbling to know that this financial assistance, which is a quarter of our parish giving to charity, would do so much for the Children's Home over the next year.

If you are able, and want to help with a contribution towards this please either bring a donation to church on Sunday 29th May, or Sunday 5th or 12th June. It is also possible to donate here:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/90a871d0-aecb-4403-8258-6e81ec263555>

Please also keep them in your prayers.

Thank you

Gillian

EMAIL FROM THOBILE

Good evening Gillian

Greetings in the name of our Lords We had a critical situation here Gillian. Floods killed many people and others lost their home. However, God put us under his wings. Except Fortunate and her husband. Their home and cars were damaged by floods. The retaining wall fell on top of their car and was severely damaged. The other one moved on the yard and fell on a big sink hole. Their home is upside down. They do not know what to do and the municipality did assist them. They are frustrated and devastated at the moment. Unfortunately, we cannot help them because Solly and I are pensioners now. But we thank God because they did not lose their lives.

Some people are still missing . Soldiers work day and night find them so that they get a dignified funeral.

I hope you are all well and safe. Please pass my regards to all church members and your family. I always pray to God to keep you, Samantha and all your family members safe that side.

We miss you Gillian and I always pray to God to keep you safe. There are so many people who need you including us in South Africa. Your financial assistance keeps us going. We are very grateful for that. God be with you.

Regards
Thobile Mhlongo
Ekusizaneni Children's Home
South Africa

A photo of our a visit to Kwama Mashu Township in 2007 when we distributed some donations to the orphan children.



A photo of Thobile at the end of a visit to us here in Bemerton in 2009.

