

Bishop Christopher writes: Canon Chifisi was buried on the 20th July in his home village. Most of the Anglican Church leadership in Malawi and many others too attended his funeral. All four Anglican Bishops were there. It feels like the passing of an age. Canon Chifisi was immensely kind to me and so many others too, especially his patients. He was full of patience, sound advice, wisdom and vast experience with such profound respect for the office of the Bishop which I am sure +Fanuel will have found too. For most of his life he was a non-stipendiary priest working for a very long time as Medical Officer for the Chombe Tea Estates where he was held in the highest regard. His work there was of the stuff of legends. His work with the mobile clinic has been exemplary and sacrificial. He was devoted to the care of the villagers he served. The clinic has added immeasurably not only to the reputational standing of the Diocese of Northern Malawi but to the service it has given to communities and individuals in some of the remotest areas regardless of church affiliation or non. Canon Chifisi's work has only been made possible with the enduring support of people like you. On behalf of Canon Chifisi, the diocese of Northern Malawi and indeed my own behalf I thank you unreservedly.

The future of the mobile clinic is secure. Part of my visit last October was to make plans for the clinic going forward after the retirement of Fr Chifisi which was de facto. The next trip is to Mfula. I am awaiting the date and confirmation of personnel.

Of late, as I think you know I have been helping Canon Chifisi with others to build his retirement home. A home he will not now see or live in. Nonetheless its completion will be an absolute boon to Monica, his widow, and her large dependent family. I'm working hard to find the last £3,600 to see it finished. Clergy widows have a very small church pension of around £20 a month. There is not yet, in Malawi, a universal state pension for the elderly.

An update from the City Deanery Synod, held 11th July 2019. St Guthlac's is part of the City Deanery of churches. At the meeting on the 11th, each parish presented their annual parish gift. The parish gift replaced the parish share system and encourages churches to consider God's generosity to us and to respond to support the work of the wider church across the diocese. Full details of the gifts offered will be available later in the year. Both churches in Knighton were able to increase their gifts compared with last year. This speaks of how generous God is being in this place.

The evening also included short workshops looking at Everyday Actions where churches were offering services to the wider community: **Money Matters** - is a debt advice service centred on the Church of the Martyrs helping people in Leicester/shire to tackle their debt issues (for more info have see their website <https://www.moneymattersleicester.org>), **Holiday Hunger** - Is project is run by Christ the King to help address the fact that many people struggle to feed their children during holidays when school meals are not available. Christ the King expect to feed 7000 children over the 6 weeks of school holidays. **Welcome Box Project** - Hope Hamilton Church is part of the Welcome Boxes project which aims to help refugees and asylum seekers housed in Hamilton settle and begin to thrive and also provide links to community and support functions. **How to get started?** - A useful presentation on how, as a church, do we discern where the need in our parish is and how best to serve that need; it involved looking at the assets, community leaders and and speaking to people.

The evening was food for thought. At St Guthlac's we support people in the wider community in a number of different ways. The evening encouraged us to look at what the needs of the wider community are and then prayerfully consider if and how we are able to meet those needs. It reminded me that it is when we look outward we find greater unity, when we give we receive so much more in return.

Fiona