

UPDATE ON WORK OF MOBILE CLINIC

22nd August 2019

Dear Fiona, Dear David,

I thought you and all at St Guthlac's would welcome an update on the work of the mobile clinic since the death of Canon Chifisi. By the end of this month we will have had a further two visits on the 24th and 31st August. The diocese remains fully behind the clinic as well as imaginatively expanding it. They have placed it under the auspices of a consultant from Mzuzu Central Hospital, Dr John Chipolombwe, who is an Anglican and worships at St Mark's Mzuzu. He was treating Canon Chifisi in his latter days. The new team will consist of two clinical officers, two nurses, a pharmacist and a dentist who will be able to give more specialised and comprehensive treatment.

At first I was concerned at this considerably enlarged group because of budgetary implications. The diocese is clear, however, that they wish the treatment and care to continue and be more specialised and comprehensive: simply better treatment. At first they were suggesting visits once a quarter to spread the costs. I felt that this change would be very disappointing to the villagers at Mfula and Chamalala. We also discussed making these changes gradually so we might adjust our fund raising capacity. However, when the budget arrived I was very pleasantly surprised. Including the small feeding programme for vulnerable children and adults of around 80 persons it had increased from £420 a trip to £756. It is a significant increase. However, considering the larger team and what they will be able to offer in expertise and improved health

care the extra is modest and initially doable. It still only works out at around £3.00 per patient.

This new arrangement by the diocese is impressive. It will also enhance greatly the argument for a health centre/rural hospital at Mfula. Above all it speaks volumes of the commitment of the diocese and of fellow Anglicans for self help and serving and developing their own communities – albeit with our support - which is so, so encouraging.

As always with warmest best wishes and prayers and thanks to you and everyone there for all you do.

Yours sincerely,

+Christopher