

Lenten Lunches 2021

Every year St Edmunds takes the opportunity of the Lenten period to raise money for the Shearley Cripps Children's Home in Zimbabwe by offering 'Lenten Lunches' of homemade soup and bread in the crypt after the service in return for a donation.

A registered welfare organization, the Shearley Cripps home was founded in 1963 and is run by the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Harare. It was named after Arthur Shearley Cripps (1901 – 1952), an Anglican priest and independent missionary, who, throughout his life, fought tirelessly for African rights and lands. As with so many organization in Zimbabwe, it survives on little or no money – and indeed the same can be said for the Anglican Church there.

Situated 30km outside the city, the home houses some 75 children orphaned by AIDS or abandoned by parents too poor to feed them. The orphanage is funded entirely by gifts; its public water supply is poor; for eight months of the year there is no rain and all the surface water dries up. Thus funds have been raised to allow the home to drill its own borehole, which is needed not just for cooking and cleaning, but to enable it to produce much of its own food. The children cultivate vegetables and maize, care for rabbits and chickens for their own consumption, and for the 70 odd pigs in the piggery, which they sell to generate some income.



St Edmunds was introduced to the home through a Zimbabwean doctor, who was studying for her Masters and PhD in Oslo and was a regular member of our church. In our small way we have been offering support for several decades, helping to establish a fresh water supply, building houses so the children can live in small, family-like settings and providing necessities like beds, equipment and food. Sigrid, our treasurer visited the orphanage in 2017. A copy of her report is available on our website.

We would like to be able to send a donation again this year, but clearly under the current COVID restrictions, our usual programme of Lenten Lunches is not possible. We would therefore like to encourage our members to run their own Lenten Lunch programme, offering soup or indeed anything you are comfortable making, to your neighbours and friends in exchange for a donation. Attached to this mail is a bi-lingual flyer you can email or drop in neighbours' letterboxes explaining the project. In short, it entails:

- Inviting people to sign up for soup (or scones, biscuits, sandwiches, whatever you are happy to make) for a certain date or dates (doesn't have to be a Sunday!);
- Making and distributing the soup – neighbours are ideal - close by, and probably working from home so might welcome a midweek lunch;
- Collecting the donation (cash or Vipps to YOU);
- Paying your total collection in ONE payment to the church account marked *Lenten Lunches*.

There are plenty of soup recipes on the internet if you do not have some favourites of your own. It would be wonderful if as many people as possible could take part - if we all served just four or six people with soup even just once, we would raise a good sum. But of course, you are free to offer this as often and to as many as you like!

If you feel you cannot do this, you are most welcome to participate by means of a straight donation to the church – marked *Lenten Lunches*.

Thank you in advance for your participation. God Bless. We are so fortunate here to have all we need.

St Edmund's bank account number: 1506.51.21686

