

Visit to Kimilili Kenya October 2019

As part of our church giving, St Matthias supports the Christian charity IcFem, Inter Christian Fellowship Evangelical Mission, whose work ethic is Holy living & Hard work. They are a Christian charity who feel it is important to care for God's people and His great creation. They take the Gospel message to isolated villages where the people have very little hope of help from the world around them, showing the love of God by their actions to those who are less fortunate than themselves.

In my second year as curate for St Matthias, and still studying at Theological college, I have had to undertake a counter cultural mission assignment; it did not take long for me to realise that IcFem would allow me the experiences needed to enhance my understanding of a diverse culture.

As a group we had very little idea what would be expected of us on our arrival in Kimilili. The journey took a massive twenty-four hours and as you can imagine we were exhausted on our arrival. However, this did not stop us being overjoyed by being on African soil.



Meeting the people, what a joy! Walking along the red soil road lots of people were stopping to say hello or just waved as they passed us by on their piki pikis (I'm not sure how we spell this, but they are Motorbikes). On our first day we walked to headquarters and into the Kimilili nursery school playground, we met beautiful children who were so happy to see visitors from the UK. We obviously looked very strange with our very white skin and my white straight hair. I don't think I have ever been made as welcome as when we walked into the school. Alex (my daughter) bent down to say hello to one child and was swamped by dozens of children. When she came up for air, tears were rolling down her face, tears of Joy at this beautiful welcome.



I will never again complain about roads in the UK and their potholes, Kenyan roads are something to be experienced to appreciate our own roads here in the UK; beautiful red soil but terrible for making roads. On one occasion journeying to a remote village, our hosts needed to leave the vehicle to repair the road so that we could pass, this all made the experience more real. We now realise how very much blessed we are to have the roads that we do.



We visited the IcFem hospital where amazing work is being done to bring medical services to people who walk miles - yes you read correctly, walk for miles, sometimes days, to get desperately needed treatment. IcFem also run outreach clinics in isolated villages, taking simple medical treatment to those who cannot make it to the hospital such as treatment for Jiggers (see picture of the child's foot) eye tests; those in need of reading glasses are given off the shelf spectacles and treatment for cuts and wounds.



Also, we visited education centres where young people are keen to be educated, this helps not just themselves, but whole families and villages. We visited a new school, for both boys and girls, still partly built, a huge undertaking which will house, with the help of God, some two hundred plus young people. This alone will have a huge impact which may enable villagers the chance of a better life.



All the above cannot take place without the generosity of those who give to IcFem. I have witnessed first-hand the good work done and the money wisely spent to help those in need. If you are thinking that you would like to help further please do contact either Shaun or myself.

May God's blessings be upon you and those who you love.