
OUR MARCH CHARITY

Bishop Hall – Madagascar

I first met Hall Speers at the Anglican church in Grand Canaria in 2003. He had just taken up the appointment as Team Rector in Chipping Barnet. Little did either of us know that some 4 years later we would be serving there together. Hall moved on in 2013 to serve in Chelmsford Diocese and then 'retired' with Permission to Officiate in Lincoln. Prior to this Hall had served for a number of years as a priest in Madagascar but on his return to England he continued to have strong links with the Anglican Church of the Indian Ocean. Nevertheless, it was a surprise when in 2018 he received an invitation to become the Bishop of Mahajanga back in Madagascar. He accepted this call and he and his wife Sarah returned there in 2019 for his consecration on 31 March that year. He has visited the Sonning Deanery on a number of occasions and the people of St Michael's have been generous in their support for Bishop Hall's ministry in his diocese. Madagascar is a very poor country with poor roads, poor standards of sanitation and limited supplies of clean water. Some of you will already receive the regular news letter updates from Bishop Hall if you don't and would like to do so please let the Rector or me know.

Revd Jane Kraft

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Lent Appeal for AMBARIO

In January this year the rains accompanying a cyclone swept away Ambario church. Ambario (pronounced: am-bar- e- o) is a small remote village in the north west of Madagascar. The approach to the village is over kilometres of fine sand. No road – not a problem to ox carts.



Except in the rainy season in January and February when all the surrounding area floods and it must be approached by dug-out canoe.

Lent Appeal for AMBARIO

The large congregation of over a hundred had already become too big for the old church which one of the ladies who evangelised the village had constructed out of sticks and mud with her own hands and had got the men to thatch.

When I visited there was a great celebration and 'parish lunch' as it was the first time ever a bishop had visited the area. The people are generous and hospitable but all are subsistence farmers and there is almost no cash economy.



Everybody brought their own rice, cooking pots and firewood.

This photograph was taken when covid distancing regulations were supposedly in place.

We already have the land to build on but the congregation is much too poor to build a permanent building. Thus your help is most welcome and very much needed.

God bless you. Thank you.

The Rt Revd S. Hall SPEERS

Bishop of Mahajanga

B.P. 365, Mahajanga 401, Madagascar



Donations gratefully accepted by envelope (at the back of church) or via *Zettle* in the Parish Office.