

This is an official invitation to a **lunch at the Brickwall Hotel on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018** at 12.00. Tickets from Rosewood, Canadia Road, Battle, TN33 0LR £25.00. Cheques made out to LBMT. We hope you can make the time. Join the Birthday girl Jill Barham's 80<sup>th</sup>! Guest speaker is HE the High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda.

We thank all those who came to our coffee morning at Glydes Farm, where we made £1,500. (Note. Somebody bought a pair of earrings, but left one on the table, please claim its partner! Someone left a cake box with a 'golden lid', which they can reclaim.)

I recently attended the Gafcon (Global Anglican Future Conference) meeting in Jerusalem with 2,000 delegates from 50 countries. The theme was "**Proclaiming Christ faithfully to the nations**". In my prayer group there was the Primate of Myanmar (where our Alistair is working with DFID), the Bishop of Croatia, a Bishop from South Africa, a clergyman from Jordan, a Bishop from North-East Nigeria, from where the Chibok school girls were abducted, and where one of the girls, who refused to renounce her Christian faith, is still held by the Boko Haram. It was lovely for me to be with the eleven Bishops of Rwanda and their wives. The 204 delegates from UK were together in one of the hotels housing the 2,000 delegates, and we had communion together daily.

The Gafcon movement is a global family of authentic Anglicans standing together to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican Communion, seeking to return it to its biblical, creedal, Prayer Book (1662) roots against the inroads of secular revisionism. They came from Australia and New Zealand, South America and South Africa, East and West Africa and South-East Asia. Ten of the 39 Anglican Primates (senior Archbishops) were with us with in Jerusalem, with 316 Anglican Bishops, 669 Anglican clergy and 965 laity, from around the world. In fact Gafcon has 71% of the 70 million Anglicans in the world. On Sunday we joined the congregation at St Georges' Anglican church in Jerusalem for a service of Morning Prayer. While we met in the international conference centre in the city where Jesus was crucified, the Holy City, 730,000 people joined us online. With over 125,000 viewers of the livestream, virtual participants from 64 countries mean that the world has been watching GAFCON day and night! Bishop Ponniah of Singapore says there are ten thousand Anglicans in 80 churches in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal! How very moving in the last Morning Prayer to sing with two thousand voices "*How great Thou art*" and sing verse 2 in a version more appropriate for Australia than "*when through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees*"! Thank you Gafcon for a wonderful week in Jerusalem!

I have been asked to go to Rwanda in July to help the Bishop with confirmation services in the rural parishes, which involves a lot of tough travel, and he is having trouble with his back. One pastor, Pastor Thomas, whom I ordained in 1995, has asked me to open his new, bigger, church. That is the third since he started in that parish, each one getting bigger as the congregation grows! Bishop Nathan says he also wants me in Cyanguu in January to join Bishop Quigg Lawrence from Virginia, USA, who raised the funds, to open the new cathedral, which is much bigger than my 1995 one!

Several people have told me that they hear there is trouble in Rwanda. There is NOT! We will have to wait until we get to heaven before any country can be perfect, but let me tell you with no hesitation that Rwanda is doing well! It is clean, secure, well governed and beautiful! President Paul Kagame has the confidence of the African nations who elected him as Chairman of the 54 nations of the African Union and, whatever the British press say, he is **immensely** popular with the Rwandan people. He has led his country from total disaster to be a beacon of hope and peace in Africa. Arsenal football club players from both the men's and women's teams will visit Rwanda *"to support the development of the game for boys and girls in the country"*. All Arsenal players will have the slogan on their sleeve **"Visit Rwanda"**! The Ministry concerned is confident that it will boost the tourist sector. Arsenal shirts are seen 35 million times a day! The 3 year deal is funded *"by money that was directly generated from tourism"*. There were 1.2 million tourist arrivals in Rwanda, producing 12.7% of the country's GDP, supporting 130,000 jobs.

In the mercy of God, Jill, who lives with the aggressive cancer in her body, continues to work hard for the Lord, raising funds to support the Anglican Church in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. A letter from the hospital in Hastings called her to have some cancer cut out of her **chin**, which should have been **shin**! We'll have to keep a watch where the surgeon cuts! She has made loads of elderflower cordial and has already sold over 100 bottles for the funds! She still has plenty more for sale! For those who have faithfully prayed for my Jill, we thank you deeply from our hearts. Please don't stop.

With our love

Ken and Jill