

CHRISTMASTIME 2019

The battleship HMS BARHAM, sunk by a German submarine in 1941, served King George of England. HMS LAWRENCE BARHAM (His Majesty's Servant) served his King from 1928 till 1993. He was one time a Canon of Namirembe Cathedral, Kampala, Church of Uganda, and one time Archdeacon of Ankole/Kigezi, Uganda, and then Bishop of the one Diocese of Rwanda and Burundi. Since he is in heaven, the gospel work in East Africa, which in the early days was served by wonderful missionary doctors like Ken & Wendy Moynagh, Joe & Decie Church, Godfrey & Phylis Hindley, and Teachers like Peter & Elizabeth Guillebaud, and other gifted people, is now carried on and led by five African Provincial Archbishops (Primates), and 124 diocesan bishops in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Lawrence's wife Julia, (my mother) worked with the Kikuyu people in Kenya, before she married, where she started a Girls' School at Kabete, the Mary Leakey Secondary School. In my lifetime the whole of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Rwanda-Urundi and Boga-Zaire was one Diocese in the Province of Canterbury! It then became the Province of East Africa under my uncle Archbishop Leonard Beecher, and the **Anglican Church is still growing**. In June 2020 all the bishops of East Africa, except Burundi, will be in Kigali for the Gafcon Bishops' conference (GLOBAL ANGLICAN FUTURES CONFERENCE) with Anglican Bishops from the Province of South America, Brazil, Chile, Myanmar, USA & Canada (ACNA), Sydney Australia, one new Bishop from New Zealand, and Nigeria, South Sudan, Congo and many others from Asia and Africa, at least 450 Anglican Bishops, with a similar number of their wives.

By the grace of God, we keep working to help our friends in East Africa build the Church. Most weekends I go to a local church to preach and take Communion services. Where I go, Jill comes with the car full of craft from Africa. This makes a few pounds each week for our funds. We also take the stall to a local plant nursery, a church craft fair in Lewes, a Christmas Tree Festival in Battle and other places. What we want, is to give the Church, entirely led by indigenous bishops, enough infrastructure to enable it to be self-supporting. We recently built 20 houses for pastors in Cyanguu Diocese, but there are still 9 parishes without a vicarage. We built a new guest house in the forest at Bweyeye with eight en-suite bedrooms, but they need a kitchen/dining room. So, if God gives us the strength, we will carry on this work. Bishop Nathan, now Bishop of Kigali, and Bishop Cranmer of Muhabura Diocese in Uganda, and the Principal of the Bishop Barham University, Uganda, have all stayed at Rosewood recently and expressed their appreciation of the work we do. May the glory go to the Lord whose Church it is that we help.

2019 seems to have rushed by, but is nearing the end. So with this letter we wish you and yours a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** as we remember how much God loves us and the wonderful gift He gave us. To all our friends who share with us the problem of living with cancer, Alzheimer's or other debilitating illnesses, may the Prince of Peace pour into our hearts His peace this Christmas. "*Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King..*", singing in perfect harmony of course, because everything in heaven is perfect!

We are excited at having Michael and his family over from New Zealand. We all plan to travel to North Devon to join Jane and her family in their home for Christmas.

PLEASE NOTE ADVANCE NOTICE... **COFFEE MORNING** with special **SALE** of **New** Woollens & Household articles. **March 13 2020** From 10.00 am at Powdermills Hotel, Powdermill Lane, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0SP. **Don't miss it!**

With our love

Bishop Ken Barham OBE
Mrs Jill Barham (Ken's better half)