



Newsletter



No. 9 December 2020

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Online Donation Platform



We are now using Virgin Money Giving for online donations.

- Visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com
 - Search for Future Pillars
- Or
- [Click Here to go straight to our page](#)

Welcome

At the time of writing, we are entering the season of Advent – looking forward to the coming of our Lord. Last year, I was given a great picture of Advent – imagine sitting in a packed theatre, prior to the performance starting. Advent is that time between the lights going down with the deafening silence of anticipation and the curtain going up. Of course, this Advent for most people is like no other previously experienced, as we all look forward to Christmas. What can we expect? Perhaps it is an opportunity to explore Christmas afresh, as we continue to cope with the demands of COVID restrictions. Out in Zambia, it would appear that the full impact of the virus is still awaited, with the understanding that the medical services cannot begin to match those in the developed world, and so they are living in fear and expecting the worst. Let us hope and pray that their expectations are not realised.

Our joint Zam-Brit expectations for 2021 are very high, as we proceed with the new classroom block – yes, groundwork to start in December. Since our July newsletter, a good deal of activity has taken place here in UK, continuing to raise funds for both the recurrent spending on the school's needs and the new build. I am sure you will enjoy reading about what we have been up to in this newsletter! At the same time, progress at FFCS has continued apace, and Headlines from Moses Kopa describes some specific gains.

It is my prayer that, whatever Advent and Christmas mean to you, you stay safe and well through this 'festive' period and, on behalf of Emma, Kathryn, Nick, Peter and Rosemary, please accept our sincere thanks for your ongoing support for the children at the Family Future Community School in Kabwe.
Barry Gransden, Chair, Future Pillars

Building Appeal

In the last newsletter we shared our plans to extend Family Future Community School so that vulnerable children can complete their secondary education on site and free of charge. In the autumn, encouraged by some very generous donations, we launched an appeal to raise **£50,000** towards the cost (current estimate £109,000) of this project. The pictures below show what your money can buy:



Twenty concrete building blocks
£10



Four 50kg bags of cement
£20



One door and door frame
£65



20-ton lorry-load of sand
£120

Since launching the building appeal in September we have raised **£2648.00**
Thank you!



If we are to have this fabulous building open for the January 2022 Grade 10 cohort, we need to build it in 2021. Watch out for fundraising opportunities and please support as you are able. You can find more information about the project – and donate - on our appeal page on Virgin Money Giving.
[New school block building appeal \(virginmoneygiving.com\)](https://www.virginmoneygiving.com)

News from Kabwe

Headlines

Warm greetings to you all,
Another privilege for me to talk to you through this media. As usual, I'm always delighted to share information about Family Future Community School here in Kabwe.

I'm very happy to report that we have had a Covid-19 incident free learning period from June to date and I know you are aware we have not had any cases since the outbreak.

I am pleased to share that there has been continued improvement on the part of the teachers especially in the lower primary on the use of the teaching resources from the container. This is also being complemented by the use of locally available materials made by the teachers. This is really helping learning to take place through play – a less familiar medium for us here compared to UK. Learners are actively involved and the benefits are evident. Thank you to everyone that sent us various toys and other related learning resources through the range of subjects taught in school.

Another interesting development this time around is that for the very first time in the history of FFCS, we are going to implement a well-balanced report form for the learners and their guardians. This is a mile stone as learners will be availed with information on the important aspects of areas where they have done well and where they need to improve in a very positive way.

Previously we were making a very short comment or two on the academic performance of a child, based on the scores attained in a particular subject or subjects. This process often lacked accuracy and so lacked real meaning. Our Assessment was not on a continuum and so was not accurate. This time around we are able to give a holistic feedback to the learner and their parents with absolute confidence that the status of the child is as reflected with correct suggestions put across. Thanks to the CPD we had with Barry in March this year, this has really helped us realize that our previous model of assessing, recording and reporting of the learners' progress had some serious flaws. Thank God we are getting there.

Lastly, we are wrapping up our school term with the non-Examination classes on the 4th December, thereafter the grade 9 Final examinations takes off on the 7th December to 15th December and the Grade 7s commences on the 21st December to 24th December.

Cheerio for now! *Moses Kopa, Headteacher FFCS*



News from UK

Quantum Quizzicals! Saturday 14th November 2020

Barry and Becky Gransden reflect on an enjoyable first for Future Pillars

Holding our first on-line quiz, courtesy of Zoom, we were eager with anticipation and trusting that the technology would not let us down.

The organising team of Heidi (our daughter), Thandi, (our son-in-law), Becky and I very much enjoyed constructing the 6 rounds of the quiz:

- celebrity name-smashing
- sport
- music
- geography
- general trivia
- Christmas emojis

Just outside Southampton, Heidi ran the quiz. At the end of each round, teams marked their own answers and then sent the scores to Becky here in Dorset, where we constructed the FPZ Quiz Premiership League Table.

In between the rounds, while the scoring was going on, we shared pictures and videos of recent activity in the UK and Kabwe and we were delighted to have a video message from Moses to all supporters.

Of the 18 teams that started, 15 completed and this was a huge achievement in itself, with the second national lockdown being observed. Some teams were operating in 3 different venues, communicating as best they could.

We are not aware of any teams coming to blows!

The level of competition was high, enhanced by all the trustees organising their own individual teams. *Yes/No Pardon What*, Nick's team, came out triumphant – narrowly beating *The 3G Quiz Team* – and the rest of us are preparing ourselves for probably being reminded about this for months to come!! We should add that quizzing integrity of the highest order embodied the event, and nobody has even suggested a recount!

The timing overran our expectation slightly. Before moving on to the next question each time, Heidi was surveying the screens to judge the right time to move on, recognising that teams needed opportunity to chat. The 'between' round items also extended our overall time estimation, but they all contributed to a more holistic understanding of what FPZ and FFCS are about.

I understand that just over **£1000** was raised for the new building project – fantastic support!

We wish to thank Peter for enabling us to take advantage of his Zoom account in order to run the quiz. Also, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Emma for promoting the quiz through our multi-media formats and for dealing with the registration process, together with communicating with the teams pre-quiz.

If you missed out this time, never fear; we are thinking of running another quiz next year!



Donate while shopping online – at no extra cost



Following lockdown, more of us are now shopping online. Why not support us as you shop? Easy fundraising will give us a donation from your purchase!

- Log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
 - Search for Future Pillars and join us
 - Start shopping
- Or
- Click Here to go straight to our Easy fundraising page and join us
 - Start shopping

Trustees Tackle the Thames (part 1!)

Peter McAughey writes:

I remember reading in mid-October a Met Office report that the UK had had its wettest day on record with enough rain falling to more than fill Loch Ness. That day was Saturday 3rd October, and the storm was called Alex.

Saturday 3rd October I had Alex plus, Rod and (Trustee) Kathryn. Intrepid walkers in wet weather gear setting out from Thames Head in search of the river Thames. Plenty of water in the sky but little sign of it for an hour. We knew it was beneath us and would bubble up as indeed it did... and how!

Sunday 4th dawned, very wet underfoot and overhead.... I got 3 squelchy miles out of Cricklade before coming to an impassable section of 'Path'/river. So, it was a hasty retreat and a frustrating day on the sides of busy dual carriageways, B roads and minor lanes. The challenge was always to keep going preferably towards the sea! I'm very stubborn.

Monday 5th was a great day with (Trustee) Emma joining me. We ended up walking 18 miles but that doesn't do justice to the story. For about a mile we had to wade the cold, increasingly deep floods until forced to retreat and find an alternative way. Very much like life - sometimes you must go back to be able to move forward.

Tuesday 6th back solo - except I'm not alone because (Trustee) Rosemary is spending all week in the support vehicle, providing regular food, drink and motivation. She's getting used to seeing socks being wrung out and the desperate battle to dry boots overnight! I battled through another 18 miles to the edge of Oxford.

Wednesday 7th I had a new walking buddy in the shape of Ed Israel, a wonderful FPZ supporter. I kept quiet about the potential for flooded paths. There was only one long section, but it was deep as the photo shows. Ed coped manfully and we certainly deserved our pints when we finished the day off in Abingdon. Another 11 miles ticked off.



Thursday 8th there was a new wingman, Nick, another Trustee. Thankfully, it's starting to get slightly drier and we had a wonderful day walking 15 miles to Wallingford. After a short rest it was back to it that evening for the 'Night Walk' as Emma and I added a further 3 miles to the total. And yes, we did detour rapidly when our torch beams came across a field of eyes and menacing outlines - cows were an ever-present this week!



Friday 9th One more push to Reading.

Nick was not yet defeated and did wonderfully well getting to Pangbourne.

As I relaxed on the train back to the South West, I reflected on the statistics so far. 112 miles walked and over £1,800 raised towards the Building Appeal. I'm looking forward to the remaining 90 miles though and hope to be able to tell you how we got on in the next newsletter. It's very humbling how much this little idea has appealed to supporters.

Thank you so much.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Tacklethethames>



Peter was all set to resume the walk in early December and is very disappointed to be foiled by new Covid restrictions. The trustees hope to be able to tackle the remainder of the Thames before too long on dry land!

Container 4 Kabwe; Goodbye!



It is with enormous gratitude that we can report the 4th container is now officially full and is awaiting pick-up to start its journey to Zambia.

In the last newsletter, we invited anyone who still had any potential items to contact us so that we could arrange collection. Please accept our sincere thanks to all those who offered – unfortunately, we were not able to take up all those offers as donations of classroom furniture and resources continued to arrive. With the new block of classrooms very much in mind – which includes 2 laboratories for the teaching of science – we were thrilled to receive the offer from Springfield School in Portsmouth of over 100 lab stools on the back of a refurbishment at that school. They also made available 5 microscopes and after a quick check and spruce up from Alan Dymond – a friend from Blandford – they are as good as new.

We also received late donations of school uniform from Blandford St Mary Primary School 'mums' and Charlton House School in Southampton, following a reorganisation.

Perhaps the least predictable 'treasure' came from a contact in Tonbridge for science equipment – brand new cylinders, beakers and funnels which were all surplus to requirement, but have almost certainly kitted out our 2 new laboratories!

It is a fact that the inventory for this container runs to 21 pages of A4 paper with the 100+ stools taking just 1 line!

You will understand our sense of relief, pleasure, and gratitude as we wish our little box 'Bon Voyage!'

Barry & Becky Gransden

Social Media

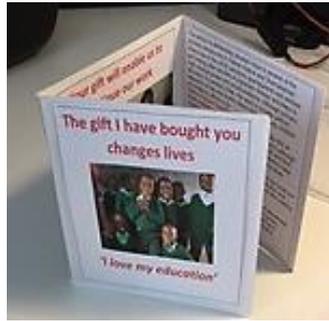


Our newsletters give a snapshot of our activities over the last few months. We use social media to share pictures and stories as they occur.

Follow Future Pillars Zambia on Facebook and/or Instagram to see news as it happens – and many more photographs!

Looking Ahead

Give a gift donation this Christmas



Meaningful gifts for friends and family can be hard to find so why not send an extraordinary gift this year?

We will create a personalised and informative gift pack for a person of your choosing, explaining that a donation has been made to FPZ in their name.

You will be sharing the very special bond you have with the school and its children with your friends and family.

It is easy to organise:

- Email us on trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk with:
 - The name of the person you want the gift to be made out to
 - The amount of your donation
- Make your donation. There are three ways to do this:
 - Via the website, <http://futurepillarszambia.org.uk>
 - Via [Virgin Money Giving | Future Pillars \(Zambia\)](#)
 - Telephone Nick Andrews on 07583 550676 to arrange payment
- We will send the gift pack(s) to you by post

Alternatively, telephone Nick Andrews on 07583 550676 who will be delighted to speak with you.

Gift requests should be with us by the **10th December** if they are needed for Christmas

'With 2020 Hindsight' an FPZ publication

Everyone has a story to tell!

You can become a published author with FPZ in 2020.

In this strangest of years of 2020, take the opportunity to become a published author and make a donation to Future Pillars Zambia.

Remember those days at school when you could write and create? Well, your creativity has never left you and now here is your chance to write again.



Send us your stories, poems, lyrics, reflections, prayers and polemics and we will include them in our 2020 publication.

All writing styles and genres are welcome, it will be an expression of the community of FPZ supporters.

We will do all the editing, proofreading and typesetting necessary and you will then become a published author; you will have the opportunity to impress your friends and family with your authorship as you share the link to the book.

Once you send in your piece, we will sensitively edit it and include it once you approve the final version. There is no judging, all entries will be included.

We are looking for anything between 50 and 500 words for each piece.

If you want to send in an illustration to accompany your writing, we will do our best to accommodate it.

£20 (or £10 for under 16s) - Become an author and receive an **electronic copy of the book**

£30 - Become an author and receive a **hard copy of the book**

All costs are covered by the Trustees. 100% of your donation goes to FPZ.

A great Gift idea – a book that you are part of and includes a part of you.

How to get published:

1. Donate the required amount to reserve your place at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/with2020hindsight>
2. Email the editor at trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk to receive your author's pack, stating your name (and age if under 16)
3. Get writing!

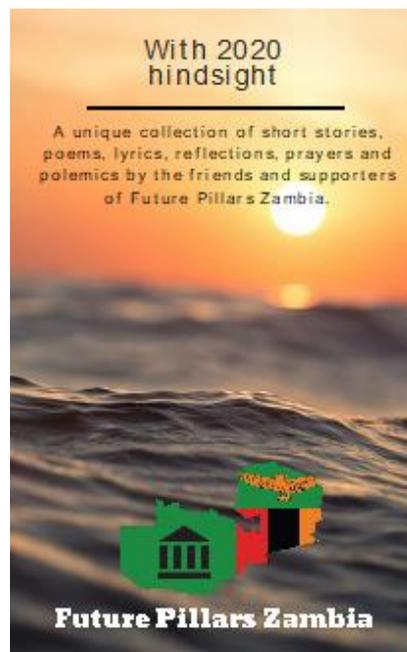
If you have any questions, please call Nick Andrews on 07583 550676.

Our Website

Visit our website for more information on Zambia, Kabwe and our programmes.

On the Events page of the website you will find route maps and an application form for the sponsored walk.

www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk



Deadline for entries 4 February 2021.

Publication date 1st March 2021.

We reserve the right to edit all entries.

The Third Future Pillars Walk; Woolacombe, 19 June 2021!



Our third annual sponsored walk was to have taken place in Woolacombe on 20 June 2020, but Covid restrictions meant that we had to cancel – or hopefully merely postpone! We cannot yet be sure what restrictions will be in place but we are planning to follow the same route on 19 June 2021. If you did not enter this year you now have another chance – and plenty of time to train!

What are we planning?

We plan to follow a figure of 8 walk starting and finishing at Woolacombe Village Hall. Our original plan was to lay on some food and drink during the day, and maybe an after party... obviously there is no way of knowing whether restrictions will allow this in June 2021 - but we live in hope!



How far?

The maximum distance is 28 miles, but there are 8 options, some all day, some morning, some afternoon, and total distances of 5, 10, 13, 15, 24 and 28 miles. The walk will be in two groups, one for hares and one for tortoises. If you prefer an early evening stroll, then the 5 mile Beach & Downs Amble is for you **Interested?**

Speak to a trustee or visit the [events page](#) on the website to find out more about the route. There is no entrance fee, but we do hope that walkers will gather sponsorship from friends and family. The first two walks raised £36,000 between them; can we bring that total to £50,000 next year?

Can you help?

We hope you have enjoyed news of the projects you have supported, and our plans for the future.

Can you help us to keep up the good work:

- Could you **organise an event** to spread the word and raise more support?
- Could you make a **regular donation**?
- Could you **help us apply for grants**?
- Could your **company adopt us** as their charity of the year?

Speak to a trustee or contact us using the details provided if you would like to talk about these or any other ideas you may have.

Thank you

Contact Us

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