

It's Fun raising funds for ZVSF

The folk at Priory Methodist Church in Bedford are now taking a break after a busy year raising about £7,500 for ZVSF. The opening weekend caught the imagination of some who were fascinated by an exhibition of Zimbabwe carvings, fabrics, utensils, crafts, posters, maps and pictures, introducing them to Zimbabwe and it's suffering.... then a presentation in slides and music showing them the nation's beauty, it's people, it's wonderful wildlife and great potential, plus a Power Point presentation of the work of ZVSF. All this set the tone for a service of worship the following day.



It wasn't easy trying to limit the events to one each month, some of which have already been featured on the website, because keen supporters came up with imaginative ideas. The programme included a Saturday morning **French Café**, with a little help from 'Allo! Allo!', and half of the proceeds from the **Autumn Fayre**.

A good crowd came for an evening of **'Puzzles, Potatoes and Puddings'** – that was dining first followed by a quiz, but just for fun – not in a highly competitive spirit !



At another time there was a **Pub Quiz** at the White Horse, just opposite the church, and the locals joined in, responding well to the real live stories from Zimbabwe. A **Beetle Drive** raised a few pounds and plenty of laughter, and so did a Saturday morning **"Singing for All"**, which included some African songs – and dance !

We were not sure what to expect from a **Concert by 'Peculi8'** ! Never the less we gathered a good audience and we were thrilled by their superb and gifted acappella singing.



A couple of people **opened their gardens** for an afternoon and provided tea and cakes, while others made personal donations to the fund. At every event information was available about the needs of Zimbabwe's people, plus a ten minute update and some of the recent, often tragic, news we were hearing from our

contacts in Matabeleland....



..... but also some tales of vibrant faith and loyal commitment from some of the fund's fine Christian volunteers.

The final concert by **Bedford Concert Brass** inspired a spirit of celebration. The band kept us rooted where we wanted to be, by including "Out of Africa" and "Born Free".



The programme included projected pictures of ZVSF at work in Zimbabwe whilst, at the same time, we were moved by wonderfully rich Zimbabwe voices singing 'Nkosi Sikelel' i Africa' – 'God bless Africa'. That indeed was the whole point of this year's project – to bring a little of God's blessing to our brothers and sisters who are living with poverty, hunger and disease in Zimbabwe. But as we learned more of them, and grew a little closer to them, they brought more blessing to us.

David Winwood