

Polokong Children's Village

Update July 2021

The last report, in April, said that some of the children in the Village had contracted Covid-19, but that all had recovered. Tragically, in May, the Chairman of the Polokong Board of Directors (an SVP South Africa member) contracted the virus and died. At about the same time one of the childcare workers and another employee also died of the disease. All the staff have been greatly affected by these dreadful events.

The situation has worsened still. This is an extract from an email from the Deputy Director dated 2nd July 2021:

“Things is really getting out of hand here in South Africa, Covid 19 is getting worse. All of our Managers is in isolation at the moment with Covid and the Director is also very ill. I have been tested positive on Tuesday and my husband got his results yesterday and also positive. It is very saddening of the amount of people that is isolating at the moment and people that dies. I am actually heartbroken and morbid these days about all of this.”

The Village's subsidy from the South African Government was delayed, arriving two months late, which left them *“in a very bad financial situation”*. The last donation from Hunsbury and Towcester parishes, therefore, went towards food and clothing for the children.

We have just sent our latest tranche of funds, £1427, which they want to put towards a minibus for the Village, which they desperately need. More than half of this sum was from our Gift Aid refund from the Government on the kind donations made by parishioners. However it was still our smallest contribution for over three years – due mainly to the absence of the monthly church collections during Covid. They are most appreciative of all we are doing for them – another quote from the Deputy Director's email:

“We had a Board Meeting on Saturday and it was so sad that Larry [the late Board Chair] was not there and he will never be again, he is going to missed dearly. He cared so much for Polokong. We have appointed the Vice Chairperson as Chairperson. I really do appreciate your troubles that you always go through in order to care for Polokong even though your church is also going through a difficult time.”

If any parishioner would like to start, or increase, a bank standing order then please contact any SVP member or Fr James.