

Looking back over magazine letters, I discovered that it was my turn to write for the February Magazine last year. In that letter I spoke of my love of jigsaws and how sometimes they reflect life experiences when pieces don't seem to fit and we can't quite work out the picture, or why some things happen to change our plans. At the time I was looking forward to a return to the Diocese of Kagera to work – planned for August last year. Then at the last minute those plans had to be postponed and again a second time in October. It all seemed very frustrating as the picture-plans had to be changed. However, ironically, as I write I am at last preparing to leave for a shortened trip and by the time this magazine is delivered, I should be on my way back. I am looking forward to seeing the progress on the accommodation to enable women to access education I mentioned a year ago. Many people have expressed an interest in this project and several have since generously contributed to it – and to the other work of the Tumaini Fund of the Diocese that works to help widows and orphans of HIV and AIDs related illnesses. Thank you so much for all of that. As far as the house is concerned, the good news is that the roof was being constructed just in time to protect the walls from the autumn rains and we hope to have a service of dedication of the building while I am there.

One of the things that I know will happen the minute I arrive, without fear of change or postponement will be prayer. We will pray together giving thanks for journey and arrival and for safety as we continue the journey across the mountains from Kigali in Rwanda into Kagera. Prayer will be our constant companion throughout all the journeys we make and for the work that we do and the people we meet. It was prayer that got me there in the first place and has continued to prompt me to return. And I am grateful knowing that there will be people here praying for us while I am away. That means a lot.

Prayer was something that was highlighted by several people in the recent questionnaire that was distributed to help us develop our Mission Action Plan for our churches here. There was a clear desire among a number of people for more opportunities for learning together, spiritual growth and for prayer. We need to think and act on a number of ways we can do this – but to begin with as a direct response to that, explorations of prayer will be the focus of this year's Lent Groups. These groups will begin in the first full week of Lent from the end of February. Do look out for more information about these groups, times and locations either in the Newsletter or in notices at the back of church and join a group – it will without doubt be very worthwhile.

My best wishes to you all

Ruth.