

An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 1: Zimbabwe

The Bishop of Southwark's



**LENT
CALL
2022**

A Reflection

“God’s people will live in
peaceful
dwelling places,
in **secure** homes,
in **undisturbed**
places of **rest.**”

— Isaiah 32:18



- † Look at the verse from Isaiah above. Look at the character. How is their environment described?
- † For a homeless person, they are without these things. What has destroyed the peace, security, rest for them?
- † How can a peaceful, secure, undisturbed place of rest be created? How might God use you to create this image in the world?



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022: Raising money for the dispossessed
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Theme: Homelessness

Song: The Blessing Zimbabwe (bit.ly/3Jws1cE)

Bible passage: Isaiah 32:18

This is the first of five outlines for Collective Worship, written to help schools pray and offer love and the hope that "...people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18) and to encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ here in the Diocese of Southwark, within our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Gather...

In your mind's eye, go to the place you feel most relaxed and peaceful. Where are you? With the responses make the observation that the majority of pupils are most peaceful and relaxed in a place where they are safe, warm and loved. For many it will be their homes or bedrooms.

Many people across the world do not have a safe place they call "home" or, as the book of Isaiah describes it, a "peaceful dwelling...secure home...undisturbed places of rest". This can be for a number of reasons often that aren't their own fault.

Engage...

Today, Zimbabwe is our focus. Our Diocese of Southwark is linked to Dioceses all over Zimbabwe.

Ask pupils whether they can identify where Zimbabwe is on the map of Africa. Does anyone know any facts about Zimbabwe?

In March 2020 the UK went into lockdown. People stayed in their homes all over the world. But what about those who were homeless, where did they go? Those without homes had to stay on the streets.

In the box opposite is the story of Tawanda. He is a made-up boy but his story is a mixture of people's real experiences.

Tawanda mentioned the soup kitchen and the helpers who provide masks and water. Tawanda lives in Masvingo in south-east Zimbabwe. It's here that a group called the Mothers' Union (MU) are running a soup kitchen at the Cathedral Church of St Michael and All Angels. The soup kitchen is open every Tuesday and from here the MU serve hot meals (not just soup!) to those who are hungry.

The money raised from the Bishop's Lent Call will go towards feeding people like Tawanda and supporting the soup kitchen. It will also help other projects such as the healthcare Centre



Hi, my name is Tawanda. I am a 16-year-old boy. My parents died when I was eight. My aunts and uncles could not afford to look after me so I live on the streets. Before lockdown, I made money by collecting plastic bottles and cans to sell to waste companies. I lived in an alleyway with other street children. We looked out for one another.

In the middle of March 2020 when COVID hit, we didn't know what to do. We couldn't sell the plastic bottles and cans anymore. This meant we didn't have money to buy food. A disposable mask would cost a day's wage. When we did go out, we went out early in the morning or late in the evening so we wouldn't be caught for not wearing a mask. At night we sleep leaving a space between us because of COVID. It can be cold.

You might feel sad for me. Sometimes I feel sad for myself. But please remember that the friends I have are the best anyone can have and we look after each other. I also know that God looks after me, he provides the soup kitchen and sends helpers who give us clean masks and water. God is always watching over me.



of Transformation in the Diocese of Matabeleland. It will provide shelter for those hit by storms in the Diocese of Manicaland and it will help employ people who support the homeless in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe.

Respond...

Thinking about what you have heard and considered, what are you thankful for in your life? What are you thankful for in Zimbabwe? Apart from money, what do you think the people running the soup kitchen need?

Let's talk to God about it now.

Prayer...

Heavenly Father, we thank you for in our lives. We are also thankful for in Zimbabwe as it provides a peaceful, secure place to stay. Please would you because you promise "undisturbed places of rest". **Amen.**