

"Not the Link Letter" November 2011

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Warm greetings from a very damp and muddy Nairobi. It's Jacaranda time here again, with the splashes of vivid mauve filling the skyline, acting as a sharp contrast to the golds and rusts of your autumnal trees.

Last week a gathering of people involved in mission who are connected with CMS from around Africa was held in Nairobi. It was great to meet up with people, and to hear about the different kinds of things that they are engaged with. It was also an opportunity to thank Tim Dakin who has led CMS since 2000, and who is moving on to be Bishop of Winchester.

**Sheila** is continuing to enjoy spending this term as a Gap student at a school in Mombasa. She is really appreciating spending time getting to know Kenya in a different way. **Sandie** seems to be settling into her B.Tech course and making friends in her new school here in Nairobi.

**Colin** is involved in many things work-wise. This week he is engaging with teams from Chelmsford Diocese who are out here as part of their diocesan link. You may be interested to dip into his blog, Mind the Gap, <http://nairobiSmiths.wordpress.com>

We have had some amazing thunderstorms here in the last 2 weeks, and last week Anita was taking a garden wedding, fortunately under a gazebo, when the heavens opened and the thunder let rip. Despite everyone moving closer, it was more of a visual than an audible ceremony!

As you may be aware, Kenyan forces are involved in military action in neighbouring Somalia, in an attempt to overcome the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. As a result, security in Nairobi and other parts of Kenya has been stepped up significantly. Even today, Anita has had the boot and interior of the car searched as well as mirrors held underneath, and a bodyscan and bag search, and that was just to go to the cathedral and drop into a shopping mall for bread!!

Thank you so much for your support and prayers,

**Anita, Colin, Sheila and Sandie**

In your prayers ;

Please pray for: Kenya involved in military action in Somalia, still facing issues of drought in the north, and continuing spiralling fuel and food prices; **Sheila** in this Gap year as she decides what to do next, **Sandie** to get the most out of a new school and course; **Colin** in all his involvement with urban mission in Nairobi and further afield; **Anita** in her ministry at the cathedral and with all her links with and opportunities within the settler community.