The joys –
The warmth of the welcome was almost physical, like a great tidal wave.
The lunchtime feasts – but where were any kitchens?
The school children – mischievous, smiley and cheerful
The singing – we knew some of the hymn tunes;
Sharing their 12th birthday celebrations

The surprises –
Viana is a big town and not just a suburb of Luanda;
not having to make sign language as we had an English interpreter with us every day; the comfort of the guesthouse;
discovering that in one week we had more contact with ordinary Angolans than foreign aid and government workers;
tea with the British ambassador in his garden;
the women tailoring us perfect fitting African-style outfits by just looking at us;
the very fashionable outfits of some youth – but where did they buy them?
the traffic – gridlock and getting worse by the day;
the rubbish everywhere except the presidential palace;
a sound system at church

And the humblings –
The generosity of the gifts
The money they must have spent on giving us the best
The offertory collections - truly sacrificial and cheerful giving
The care – every detail of our programme thought through.
The respect given to us, our thoughts and opinions
Being the first woman priest to celebrate and preach in Angola and knowing how important this was to some of the women present
Their energetic and determined youth group
The strong and faithful Mothers Union
Their faith – knowing that to be touched by the Holy Spirit is to be changed for life
Building their church, building the community
Feeding a roomful of street children and those with no one to look after them during the day
The lack of cynicism
—Rev Elisabeth Morse

All Saints’ visit to our sister parish in Angola
pages 12-13

In Angola
Four All Saints representatives pay a life-changing visit, pages 12-13
This month, a quartet of delegates visited our sister parish, St Augustine’s, in Viana, A

‘On the road, young men sell everything from screwdrivers to tinned tuna’

Many people have asked me about our visit to Angola and each time I have struggled to find the right words to describe our wonderful experience. When Father Joe asked me the day I got back I responded, ‘Deeply humbling, incredibly uplifting…’. This seems contradictory, but I discovered that Angola itself is very much like this; so diverse and full of contrasts.

One such contrast was between Luanda, where we stayed at night, and Viana, where St Augustine’s is situated. The daily car journey in between, although only 8km, was very long due to heavy traffic and much time was passed staring at the world outside our windows. It was an interesting city, with its beaches, bustling capital city and dotted with rustic, attractively green areas. Some areas rivalled the Caribbean for beauty with attractive beach-side restaurants, bars and villas.

On the outskirts of Luanda, the scene changes. One block of flats caught my eye. Huge sections of the exterior brickwork no longer exist. Still, a family sits around a table together sharing a meal, oblivious to the traffic on the side of their invisible wall. Washing lines decorate the building like bunting.

As you leave the city, all that’s visible beyond the railway track along the road to Viana are hundreds of crooked rectangular corrugated roofs like a poorly made patchwork quilt stretching into the distance. On the track itself, shoeless children play, surrounded by the community’s rubbish. Older boys kick a deflated football around with determination. A steady stream of women, in traditional fabrics of every colour, cross the dusty rutted earth with large, awkward bundles on their heads.

In the foreground, about as close to the cars as you can get without actually being run over by one, hundreds of young men hope to strike a deal by selling their wares to drivers. And the items on offer are such a weird assortment—anything from screwdrivers to lightbulbs and from tinned tuna to car speakers. The roadside is littered with rusty, mangled, upturned vehicles, often charred by fire. They seem to have been there forever.

On the road to St Augustine’s parish, we turn off the main road onto a narrow, potholed track, passing homes which may well belong to members of the congregation. One such home had the chassis of an old car turned on its side as its front wall. Another had a beautiful wall of flower pots outside its simple doorway.

One of our first visits there we could hear from a distance, long before we saw, our hosts’ vibrant welcome of singing and clapping. As we turned into St Augustine’s, the sound of their amazing voices practically deafening. So much so, I doubt the memory will ever leave me.

By Nicki Thompson

Song recital and wine, 9 October

The first concert in this autumn’s Evening Recital Series will feature All Saints’ new soprano choral scholar, Suzanne Anderson, in a song recital on 9 October at 6.00pm.

At the Evensong Recital Series, started last year, musicians connected to All Saints perform music that churchgoers wouldn’t have a chance to hear them perform in a worship context such as flamboyant opera, delicate cello solos, or piano jazz. The lunch that day (and every day) were ushered into the school and everyone introduced to ‘beautiful things’. It was refreshing to see the intentions of this part written so clearly.

‘The welcome never wavered and their sense of faith gave us a vision of what faith can be’

Before we left the plane, we nervously covered ourselves with Deet to fend off the giant mosquitoes I envisaged darting through the plane doors. But once off the plane—and not reduced to bloodless husks—we were very happy in the open in Luanda and met Mario, our host from the bishop’s office. At the hotel, we such was basic— but miles better than all the habitations we had passed coming from the airport—we chatted with Mario. He got to work working through the full plan for our stay which he was due to interpret at the service the following day.

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‘The welcome never wavered and their sense of faith gave us a vision of what faith can be’

By Jonathan Wheeler

Santa arrives early with new equipment for All Saints School

All Saints School has been enjoying a mini shopping spree with the supermarket vouchers donated by All Saints parishioners. We have ordered a set of heavy duty headphones and five roammers, which will greatly enhance the pupils’ use of the computer room.

As for the sports equipment, the amount we have ordered is quite exciting. We should soon be the proud owners of 15 more cricket balls and skipping ropes, 10 training vests in each of four colours, a set of hurdles and relay batons, a netball kit, bucketfuls of tennis balls and other sorts of balls and a treasure chest to store all this treasure!

The school and the governors would like to say a huge thank you to all who so kindly donated Tesco and Sainsbury’s vouchers, which has made this possible. We are very much looking forward to putting the equipment to immediate use.

—Anneli Stammers, Governor

Drama Group stirs up history for Trafalgar Day

Ahoy there, shipmates! How will you be celebrating the nation’s glorious victory on October 21, 1877, when Lord Nelson confounded Napoleon’s navvy tricks?

You could have dinner on HMS Victory, a snip at £500 a cover, or you could attend the Drama Group’s celebration in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.

This has been organised with extracts from the writings of, among others, Captain Thomas Hardy (Nelson’s captain), ‘Kiss me, Hardy’ fame, Mr Thomas Hardy (the great English novelist and poet), and the first Duke of Wellington.

There will be other items, largely of the Group’s own devising. Most items will be reasonably correct historically; some will be correctly politically!

In the interval, we shall indulge in that most British of delicacies, fish and chips. We hope you can come to celebrate.

Tickets at £5 including supper can be ordered from Jenny Pollicott (020 7610 1356).

—Christopher Day

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion (Said): 1662 Prayer Book Rite
9.30am Sung Eucharist with Sermon
11.30am Family Service Eucharist: children especially welcome!
6.00pm Choral Evensong with Sermon: 1662 Prayer Book Rite
WECKDAY SERVICES: CELEBRATION OF THE Eucharist
Tuesday 8.00am
Wednesday 12.00noon, followed by lunch in the vicarage
Thursday 7.30pm, followed by:
• Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer on 1st Thursday
• A Service for Healing — Laying On of Hands and Anointing on 3rd Thursday
MORNING PRAYER: 8.30am Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
ADDITIONAL
Baptisms and weddings can usually be arranged on Mondays between 6.00pm and 7.00pm in the Church Vestry.

The Church is open for private prayer, peace, contemplation and visits Monday noon to 3.00pm, and Tuesdays to Fridays 10.00am to 3.00pm.
**WHAT’S ON**

**What can Christianity offer today’s world?**

Don’t forget this new course starting in November. It is very much about faith in the third millennium and covers the resurgence of religions and the contemporary conflicts surrounding them. Seven weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings starting on 12 November and led by Revd Elizabeth Morse.

**Celebration of All Saints Weekend**

Our patronal festival is on Sunday 30 October and we are delighted to welcome the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Richard Harries, as our guest preacher. He was a former vicar of All Saints and started the 11.30 family service. No doubt he will be comparing All Saints now with how it was in his day!

**Vision Sunday**

25 September saw the first of our Vision Sundays where our hopes, plans and aspirations for All Saints are discussed. 2006 promises to be another exciting and action-packed year for the parish. It seems that as numbers increase, so do the expectations (there must be a mathematical theorem for this somewhere!). At All Saints it does not seem to be a case of ‘many hands make light work,’ but a case of ‘let’s do more’!

**All Souls Requiem**

On the evening of Remembrance Sunday, 13 November, we will be having a requiem mass at 6pm at which the names of the departed are read out. If you have anyone whose name you would like read out please add it to the list at the back of church (and please print the name clearly in capital letters). It is one of the most beautiful services of the year and a wonderful chance to hear a requiem sung as it was meant to be, not as a concert but as an act of worship.

**Bike riders reap a bonanza**

The London to Brighton Bike ride raised a stupendous £16,000 for charitable causes. Congratulations to our 30 intrepid bikers and to all their generous sponsors.

**When the sparks fly**

Tickets will be available very soon for the bonfire and burgers party on 5 November. These have to be limited by safety reasons so book early to avoid disappointment. Do come and help build the bonfire (and, even better, come and help get rid of the embers on the Sunday).

**All Saints mission: the first step in drawing up our own MAP**

While ‘mission statements’ sound dynamic and purposeful for businesses and schools they can sound somewhat off-putting in the church context. The word ‘mission’ can also have uncomfortable associations with the politics of imperialism. On the other hand, the acronym MAP is actually quite a useful way of thinking about the way forward, where we want to go and how we want to go about contributing to what is, in fact, God’s mission on earth. All Saints is publishing its own MAP this harvest. It is something the PCC has been working very hard on. At least three Saturdays over several months have been spent preparing the groundwork, the vicar has burnt a lot of midnight oil refining it and at the last PCC meeting it was very movingly prayed over. Please do read your copy carefully, pray about it and remember the MAP is for all of us to work at.

**‘The children’s drama about the Marburg virus was funny – despite the serious topic’**

BY ELISSA DOUGLAS

At the school, the children: they had obviously been learning some English for our arrival and those that could, rushed to us at every opportunity to ask, ‘What is your name?’ and then say ‘Nice to meet you.’ They are an enthusiastic and happy bunch who seem to love being at school. We arrived the weekend before school started, after a two-week break, so it was quite refreshing for me to see the same confusion and noise that we experience on our first days back in London.

On the Tuesday morning, the children put on what I can only describe as an extravaganza of an assembly. We were welcomed with singing, dancing and clapping (not the first time we had been greeted this way) of such joy and warmth that it was still slightly overwhelming. The headteacher, Paulo Barry Domingos, introduced us to the staff and children and then the performance began. Children recited facts about the history of Angola and told us how excited they are about the link developing between our two schools.

We were treated to a drama about the Marburg virus and its effects on the community. This was hugely funny for all concerned, even though the topic was serious. We were amazed at their acting ability; they managed to be funny and serious at the same time and seemed remarkably self-conscious.

Then, dancing was followed by gym Angolan-style, which consisted of a huge old tyre propped up by a brick. The boys ran, used the tyre as a springboard, somersaulted in the air and landed on their feet. It was entertaining and highly skilled, although part of me was screaming, ‘health and safety risk’!

The assembly ended with a demonstration of one of their playground games, played in teams with sand, bottles and a playground. They are incredibly under-resourced, with the children supplying their own pencils and notebooks. The school had some Portuguese textbooks that date back to before the war. Currently they offer primary education form nursery to year eight in two sessions each day. They are very keen to set up a secondary school because many of the children cannot afford to go to the government-run schools.

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Most of the teachers work for a very small wage provided by the church. What needs to be thought about in the future are the resources the school requires, including up-to-date textbooks in both English and Portuguese, finishing the school building, improving large equipment (such as desks and blackboards) and setting up further education possibilities. The country as a whole needs advice and help to set up a standard national curriculum that will help all schools.