



## Croydon -Zimbabwe Link

*Linking the Croydon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Southwark with the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe*

### NEWS UPDATE July 13

#### **ELECTIONS WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY - *Please pray!***

Please could you make a point this Sunday of praying for the Zimbabwe national elections, which are being held this coming Wednesday.

So far the mood has been quiet and calm, and President Mugabe's speech at a rally last week was far more conciliatory and non-threatening than on previous occasions. Mugabe holds the trump cards in this election: he is running a slick and well-funded campaign and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangarai is hampered by splits in his own party and his own tarnished reputation brought about by scandals in his love life.

There is however a stream of tension not far below the surface. Some evidence has surfaced of harassment and violence, most notably in the death a few weeks ago of Edward Chingdori-Chininga, an MP who had been outspoken in his criticism of the regime. The MP died in what was claimed to be a road accident, though damage to the car was not enough to cause death and two passengers walked away unharmed. Such 'accidents' are not rare in Zimbabwe, and point to the danger of standing up to the regime in any way.

Please pray especially therefore for the safety of Bishop Ishmael of Central Zimbabwe. In his role of President of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, he has a key role in the Ecumenical Peace Observation Initiative, whereby all the churches of Zimbabwe have pledged to work together to monitor and respond to human rights abuses.

#### **AND THE GOOD NEWS:**



Evidence received from Bishop Ishmael earlier this month shows that St Patrick's hospital roof is now completed!

#### **COMING SOON - Put it in your diary now!**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at St Andrews Coulsdon we will be holding an event to look especially at how we can create more effective links with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe via parish to parish links. With Bishop Jonathan. More details to follow.