Introduction

Read Ephesians 3v14-21

“Working together with our sister diocese has given Kagera people the opportunity to discover how God’s love is so great that it is beyond our imagination. It is only through this love that we may become the same before the Lord.” Bishop Aaron Kijanjali

Our diocese is linked with Kagera in Tanzania. Doing God’s work there is very similar in some ways to doing it anywhere in the world. But the practical ways of serving God in a country with great poverty, illiteracy and health problems look very different. This session looks at some of the ways God’s people are helping others in Kagera, and aims to show children that God is at work here and now, not just in the Bible.

More background on http://www.kageradiocese.info/

You might want to offer some African fruits for snacks (e.g. bananas, oranges and pineapples).

Welcome (choose one)

WELCOME – KARIBU

This is the Swahili word for Welcome, spoken by many people in Africa. Say it to every child and let them say it back to you.

Africa is a long way away, and some things for children are very different. A lot of people do not have enough money to feed their children nice meals. Today we are going to find out about a place in Africa called Kagera and how God loves the people there.

ANIMALS OF AFRICA

Have pictures of animals found in Tanzania (see below) or model animals if you have some.

Elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, hippo, buffalo, zebra, lion, hyena, cheetah, leopard can all be found in Tanzania.

Look at them together. There is a powerpoint of pictures you could use.

Tanzania is a country in Africa – it looks quite different to our country. It can be very hot and dry, but then some months it rains a lot. Today we are going to find out about a place in Tanzania called Kagera and how God loves the people there.

FOOD FROM TANZANIA

Have some tea, coffee and chocolate set out to look at. Explain that tea, coffee and cocoa beans all grow in Tanzania, a country that we are going to look at today. But many people in Tanzania are poor, and they need to sell their crops at a fair price to get enough money to live. People in the richer countries have started to label their products ‘fair trade’ if the people who produce them are getting a fair price.

Taste some fair trade chocolate and look at the logo, and see where the ingredients come from.
Jesus said
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10v10

Paul writes
For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.
Colossians 1v9

Prayer for the children
Lord, may our children begin to grasp the extent of your love for people, and appreciate that Christians can show your love through acts of love and service.
Amen

Word
In the Bible (Ephesians 3) it says that God's love is wide (stretch out arms), long (stretch arms vertically), high (stretch up) and deep (crouch low). God loves everyone and he wants everyone to hear about Jesus and how to be his friend.
God also cares about how people live and he wants people in his church to be kind and help others. In Africa Christians are helping people by running schools and hospitals.
A lady called Helen from Suffolk took a bear called Edmund to see Kagera in Africa. Here are her pictures.
Watch the 2 powerpoints on Edmund's travels – they were made by Helen Matter, our diocese schools advisor. Chat about what you see in the powerpoint.

Work it out (offer choices)
BASKET MAKING
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKgDD9KxyQY – have a look at this girl making a very simple basket. Pre cut strips of paper – you might want to tape them together ready for weaving as well.
The women in the powerpoint were making baskets to sell. God’s people help them set up a business so they can make enough money to look after their families.

MAP OF THE WORLD
Spread out the map of the world or use a globe. Point out some countries. Using post-it notes put a heart or happy face on all the countries of the world – because God loves everyone in them.

GOING TO SCHOOL IN AFRICA
Look at the pictures from the information sheet about Ngara Anglican Primary School (NAPS) below.
What are the main differences between this school and the schools in Suffolk? Make a poster together about the school in Ngara.

Worship
Draw the children together and pray for the people of Kagera.

What could we ask God?
(That the children will have enough to eat and be able to go to school. That everyone would hear about Jesus and become his friend. That doctors and nurses can make people better.)

Make the children’s suggestions into a prayer and all say ‘Amina’ at the end (Swahili for Amen)

Adapted from material developed by Rachel Bricknell, St John’s Church Ipswich
EDUCATION FACTSHEET - Ngara Anglican Primary School (NAPS)

The Tanzanian Vision for 2025 is for "A well educated and learning society". Education is compulsory for seven years, until children reach the age of 15 years. State Primary education is free but schools are very poorly funded and parents must provide uniform, books and writing equipment. Children of families who cannot afford these items often do not attend school. Education is highly valued and parents who can afford to pay realise it will open up opportunities for their children to have a better future.

Ngara European School opened in 1994 serving mainly expatriate children of aid workers. After they left, the Anglican Church adopted the school, maintaining it as an English Medium Primary School. It was established as Ngara Anglican Primary School (NAPS) in 2004 and is registered under the rules and regulations of the Tanzanian government. Lessons are taught in English following the primary curriculum set by the government.

The national language is Swahili but all secondary education is taught in English so to learn English at primary school is a huge advantage.

There are various ways to support the growth of this school and improve the future for some of the children in Kagera.

- Pray for the children, for good health and the ability to learn
- Pray for the staff to be committed to the children and to providing good quality lessons
- Raise some funds to help complete and equip the buildings
- Are you a teacher? How about going to Ngara to work at the school?
In 2005 the church was granted some land, on a steeply sloping site on the edge of Ngara town, to start constructing permanent school buildings. Parents pay fees but this barely covers the cost of teaching and running the school. The money for the buildings has to be raised separately so we, as the Link Diocese, agreed to support this project.

As each building is completed, it is furnished and brought into use, so the school continues to grow both physically and in pupil numbers. Each building has 2 classrooms.

Bishop Nigel officially opened the school during his visit in 2010.

The final classroom block was completed in 2015. So far, there is no connection to the electricity supply so it is not possible to use computers. There is a football pitch and netball posts for games. The school provides transport for the children and teachers to and from the centre of the town, but some children have to walk to school from their villages outside Ngara. Now they are working on a Dormitory block so children will not have to walk every day.
A nourishing meal is served at lunchtime.

Animals of Tanzania
For parents and children

Today we learnt about how God is working in Kagera in Tanzania.

In Tanzania the women and girls wear a square of cloth, a kanga, in many different ways. Have a look at this clip - www.youtube.com/watch?v=xw4FI-9rlYA and see how they use their clothes to help them in their daily lives.

Say a prayer together for the people of Kagera

(you can find out more at http://www.kageradiocese.info/)

Have a look at fair trade labels when you go shopping. What does Fair Trade mean?