

Celio & Rebekah's UK Travel Journal

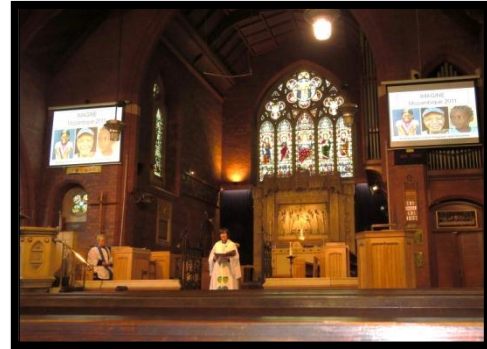
Sunday 5th June

Holy Trinity & Redgate Churches,
Formby.

First stop was early mass at Holy Trinity in Formby, led by Revd. Kath Rogers and attended by as many new faces, as committed supporters of IMAGINE. This was the first time that IMAGINE had spoken at Holy Trinity and it was a real pleasure to receive such a warm welcome! We were particularly thrilled to receive cooked breakfast afterwards, and Celio was amazed to see men doing the cooking!! He took many photos of this, although I don't think he will be showing them to his wife!

After enjoying breakfast and lots of chatting, Lorraine and Celio went to Redgate to talk to IMAGINE's close friends there and update them on happenings in KaTembe.

I stayed at Holy Trinity to speak at the Family Service, and had the wonderful opportunity to give my woes over to the children's "Mr Worry" teddy at the altar! It was lovely to meet some of IMAGINE's long term supporters after the service, and then cross to Redgate in time to also greet friends there. The afternoon was spent enjoying the wonderful hospitality of the Rogers family – and provided Celio an opportunity to entertain us with a few Mozambican songs!



Monday 6th June

Smithdown Primary School, Liverpool



The next morning we were up early to go back to school! Lorraine and her cousin Jean Austen had arranged for us to meet all the children of Smithdown Road Primary School in Liverpool, to give a special assembly dedicated to IMAGINE.

Celio and I had fun with the children, trying to recreate the conditions of a Mozambican classroom, but we all quickly realised that it was much easier to teach and learn with the lights on and power point show running!



The children who had been fundraising for IMAGINE in school, were wonderfully interactive and made the full school presentation much less daunting than I had been anticipating! I have worked in schools before but this was my first attempt to entertain children 4 years to 11 years all in one go!

After, we had a brief opportunity to chat to some of the lovely teachers there, who expressed great interest in IMAGINE and the presentation, for which we are very grateful.



Celio got to see a few classrooms and took many photos to inspire the department of Education in KaTembe with!

Celio and I really enjoyed our visit to Smithdown School and were touched by how friendly and interested the children and staff were. We have heard about lots of great plans they have for learning more and raising money for us and I hope to have the opportunity to return again soon!

Tuesday 7th &
Wednesday 8th June



Allertonshire School, North Allerton

After a scenic drive across country, and a lovely evening with family of Lorraine's in York, Tuesday morning saw us journey to Allertonshire school.

The school has supported IMAGINE for many years and teachers Jackie Hartley, Hilma Peacock and Sarah Bell have all visited KaTembe. The many stories that they brought back have engaged the children and spurred on the enthusiasm at Allertonshire School to support us in many great ways. It was such a pleasure for me to finally put faces to names I had been emailing all these months!

When we arrived at the school, Celio was instantly struck by all of the technology and resources on show! And by the beautiful artwork on display. I was struck by having over 300 year 7 children to entertain – my largest audience to date!

After assembly we were taken on a tour of the school by some of the pupils. I knew this would be an eye-opening experience for Celio, who is used to empty classrooms and no resources, I hadn't anticipated how much of a surprise it would be for me though! The facilities and variety of lessons and extra curricular activities available was exceptional. Our tour guides were very kind, friendly and informative and the teachers were very accommodating of the disruption we created! We thank all involved for this! In particular for us, it was beautiful to see IMAGINE finding its place in various places around the school. We are touched by the efforts being made for IMAGINE at Allertonshire and by the pro-activity of the staff and students there.



After our tour, we met the student council to learn more about the schools fundraising activities, and together we created a few new ideas. We also took a sneaky peak at this years Christmas cards... I will buy a pack from the first student who contacts me...! On Wednesday, it was with some trepidation that we returned to the school to engage in one of the annual fundraising activities – the Fun Run. Celio was without doubt, the IMAGINE winner, completing four laps. He was in red, while Lorraine and I opted for blue. We look forward to hearing which House won?? We want to thank all the staff and children at Allertonshire, for making us so welcome and involving us so heavily in the schools activities. Until next time!



Sunday 12th June

St. Michael's & St. Mary's, Enfield

After Celio had been wowed by all of the best history, culture, architecture and nightlife that London had to offer, as well as plenty of naked people on bicycles – which I am still trying to convince him, is not normal, our final stop was Enfield.

IMAGINE have a great many friends at Enfield and for Celio it was another opportunity to see some familiar faces, of people who have visited and supported IMAGINE in KaTembe. For me, yet again, a pleasure to put a face to an email address. The IMAGINE Family Tree is finally coming together!

After experiencing wonderful hospitality with the Williams family we drove to Enfield on Sunday morning in time to attend the service at St. Michaels, led by Revd. Stephen Taylor. Celio and I were given the morning off, with Judy Smith taking the role of delivering a wonderful presentation of her own about IMAGINE. Judy, I think I have met your friend Maria before, many times in fact, in many homes in KaTembe.

Following the service a large number of IMAGINE supporters and friends gathered at the house of Ray and Rita and were treated to a lovely lunch and opportunity to share news. From here I was delighted to know that I could take a train directly to Heathrow, overloaded with my luggage for returning to Maputo.

I sadly left before having the opportunity to attend the service at St. Mary's with Revd. Gordon Giles. Lorraine and Celio both spoke about IMAGINE during the service dedicated to Mozambique, and the hospitality extended to giving the Lords prayer in Portuguese! Another generous spread of food and drinks were provided – which I imagine was much more enjoyable than my plane food! ;-)
The day spent at Enfield was without doubt a wonderful way for Celio and I to end our trip, enabling us to return to Mozambique filled with the feeling of everybody's love and support for us and IMAGINE. Who needs the sunshine when there is such warmth in the people around us...?!



Friday 17th June

KaTembe, Mozambique

*From Celio, and myself, please accept our thanks,
to everyone involved in making
our first IMAGINE UK trip such a special one.*

*Thank you for the beds and the meals,
the overwhelming hospitality and generosity.
Thank you for the opportunities to speak,
for the inspirations that you gave to us,
and the strength that comes from your support.*

*We had a wonderful time.
For that which is first imagined, later becomes...*

Rebekah.x

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