

VISIT BY CANON BOB HARLEY TO DR GRAHAM'S HOMES IN KALIMPONG

In March 2017 Canon Bob Harley visited Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, a Boarding School mainly for under-privileged children from Kolkata situated in the Himalayas, as part of a McCabe's Pilgrimage. Alistair McCabe had been born at the Homes while his father was serving there as the Farm Manager.



A visit to the Taj Majal

This was the second expedition to the Homes led by Alistair (and thus Bob's second visit too). Bob also managed to spend time with friends made in the Diocesan link with the Diocese of Calcutta. The tour began in Kolkata, at the Peerless Inn. On Monday 13 March there was a drinks reception with an introductory talk on the Homes from Bernard Brookes, a former Headmaster and Principal. That evening Revd James and Mrs Deepa Gomez of St Paul's Cathedral joined the group for dinner. On Tuesday 14 March the group visited St Paul's Cathedral. Bob bumped into Rig David, Manager of the Cathedral Relief Service.



Bob meets Nigel Pope

In the evening there was a dinner party in the Peerless Inn for members of the Board of Management, which included the Revd Nigel Pope, Vicar of St Paul's Cathedral. Speeches were made by Chair of the Board, Dr Gillian Hart, and by the Vice-Chairman, Shane Calvert. Gillian and

Shane intend to attend the UK Committee's Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh on 17 May.



Bob with Dr Gillian Hart and Bernard Brookes

On Wednesday 15 March the McCabe group had lunch at the Birkmyre Hostel, an accommodation venue for former students while they attend college in Kolkata. In the evening, at the invitation of Revd Nigel, Bob attended the St Paul's Cathedral Lent Study meeting led by the Youth Fellowship. Nigel invited Bob to pronounce the blessing at the end. After a couple of days in Darjeeling the Group checked into the Silver Oaks Hotel in Kalimpong on Saturday 18 March. Representatives of the Homes came to dinner, including the Principal, Brian Robbins, and the Chaplain, Revd Henry Simon.



Bob with Sinai and Jordon Domingo

On Sunday 19 March all the clergy in the group participated in the School's Sunday worship. Bob introduced the visitors, read out a letter of support from the Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, and pronounced the blessing. After lunch Bob was able to spend time with Sinai and Jordan Domingo, aged nine and seven, who are sponsored by St Mary's, Kirriemuir.

On Monday 20 March Bob visited Sinai in his classroom and met his teacher. There was also a visit to the farm, where there are lots of cows, whose milk is used to make cheese. Principal Brian provided samples of cheese for tasting.

After Kalimpong there was sightseeing in Delhi and Agra, which included a visit to the Taj Mahal. Meeting the Domingo brothers was the high point of Bob's visit to India. It was lovely to see them looking so well, so smart and so happy. Dr Graham's legacy, begun in 1900, continues to provide education, shelter and a safe passage through adolescence for Indian children.