

# PARISH PARTNERSHIP

## Wivelsfield's link with St Matthew's Aberdeen, Sierra Leone **BETTER TOGETHER**

### *NEWSLETTER 60*

August 2019

#### SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

Church Hall, Church Lane at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee available.

An illustrated talk by Allan Curtis about his experiences as a nurse in Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic of 2014.

Allan lives in the parish and has already spoken to some of us about what it was like to be in and around Freetown at that time. What he has to say is most revealing and thought provoking. We hope to see many of you there.

There will also be an opportunity to catch up with the latest developments in our parish link.

#### CHRISTIAN AID

You may remember from the last Newsletter (June) that the usual house to house collections had not been possible this year and that Christian Aid's focus this year had been on alleviating the problem of expectant mothers in Sierra Leone.

You will be glad to know that, by various means, the church was able to donate almost £1,300 to Christian Aid.

Many thanks to all who were able to contribute.

#### VIKKI LUKE

Also, in the last Newsletter, we mentioned Vikki who is a maternity nurse and midwife who lives in our link parish of St. Matthew's. She has been a good friend to us ever since our link started and has, on several occasions, provided accommodation for visitors from Wivelsfield.

As is so often the case in the world's poorest countries she has to buy a lot of essential supplies out of her own money – supplies which we would expect to be provided by the State. This often even includes rubber gloves.

For some time we have been discussing the possibility of supporting Vikki financially and we are glad to be able to tell you that we now have a scheme in place.

We have arranged through Western Union to periodically transfer fund to Vikki to enable her to buy items for expectant mothers and women with young babies. She has already received the first donation of £70 and will be keeping in regular touch with us to let us know what progress she is making. We will keep you up to date.

It is another example of how a little from us can go a very long way in Sierra Leone.

The picture shows Vikki at work.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

We should soon know the names of the latest batch of children whose secondary education we will be sponsoring.

### **VILLAGE DAY**

We had our usual display and free lucky dip at Village Day on July 20<sup>th</sup>. With the help of the sale of Jane Hill's jams and preserves we raised £120 for our link.

### **SAD NEWS**

If you have access to the Wivelsfield Monthly News (the title of our church Parish Magazine) you will have read the obituary for Florence Davies who was a leading figure in the life of St. Matthew's church and a key participant in our link

A retired headmistress, she was a church warden, took on responsibility for monitoring the progress of our sponsored children, and took over the running of the Shida Pre-school on the death of her mother.

She will be greatly missed both by us and the community of St. Matthew's.

Our "main man", Charles (who celebrated his birthday last year) was hoping that Florence would take over from him as church treasurer. He visited us in May of this year but is now back home and we wish him success in finding someone to take over all the sterling work that he has done over the years.

Paul Welch. 16/8/19

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