

PARISH PARTNERSHIP

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

NEWSLETTER 61

January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR

For a whole host of reasons it has been a while since we last sent out a Newsletter. In fact our last communication was last September and was a reminder about the talk in the Church Hall by Allan Curtis who was a nurse in Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic. His talk was most revealing and very moving and we are so grateful to Allan for giving his time.

VIKKI LUKE

Also in our last Newsletter we were able to tell you that we are supporting Vikki in her work as a nurse. We are able to give her regular financial help so that she can buy supplies which she would otherwise have to buy out of her own pocket if she could afford them. We gather that Vikki has herself been unwell and off work but we wish her a speedy recovery.

VILLAGE SCHOOL

Once again our village school has donated proceeds from their Christmas fund raising activities towards our parish link and this year they have given £600. We have written to thank them for this splendid effort on the part of staff, pupils and parents. Such help is very welcome at any time but especially now as Sierra Leone is suffering severe problems with inflation.

The school has also attempted to set up a whatsapp (?) link with the municipal school in Aberdeen although this is proving to be a bit problematical at the moment! We are very grateful to Deputy Head Phillip Dawson for persevering.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Very good news on this front. In addition to the secondary school scholarships that we provide we are also giving financial help to a couple of former secondary students who have now moved on to college. One of them is taking a nursing degree and the other is taking a course in Mass Communications. We obviously hope that both will successfully complete their courses and remain in Sierra Leone after they have qualified.

At secondary school we now provide financial support of £137 for each of 2 at senior school level and £125 for each of 10 children at junior school level (the equivalent of our Years 7 to 9).

In early December we transferred £2,100 to cover the costs of all these scholarships and to give some money to St. Matthew's for their Christmas Poor Fund.

In addition the Hill family (Jane, Mark and Charley) sent out a parcel of items of particular attraction to young children.

The pictures show items being given to parishioners of St. Matthew's. The one on the left is of St. Matthew's vicar, the Rev. Georgiana Scott.

200th ANNIVERSARY

In September, St. Matthew's will be celebrating 200 years since it was founded. They have already launched their celebrations and we are told that there are many plans afoot. We hope to be able to give more details in the course of time as well as giving any support of our own.

We certainly hope that we will be able to send some representative out from our own parish.

Watch this space.

PARTY PIECES

On Saturday, March 7th Wivelsfield will be putting on its Music Hall style entertainment involving local talent. It's always good fun (and slightly anarchic!) and it raises money that helps us to support the costs involved in sending representatives to Sierra Leone. Such costs involve not only air fares but also the necessary injections.

Watch out for details of tickets.

DO YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If this comes through your letter box but you have an e-mail address it would be helpful if you could let me know. If you don't mind doing this it would reduce my carbon footprint!

ANY COMMENTS?

As always, if you have any questions or comments about anything, do not hesitate to contact me on 01444 471336 or pssjwelch@gmail.com



Paul Welch