

PARISH PARTNERSHIP

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

NEWSLETTER 76

JULY 2024

EXIT STRATEGY

Apologies that this is our first contact with you for some time. When we last sent you an update we reiterated that our link was to be ended. It started back in 2009 and, with your support, a great deal has been done. At some stage we will send a full inventory of what has happened over the past 14 years. It will make impressive reading but will take a while to collate.

This newsletter is to let you know what we plan to do with the money that we have left. The object of the link has always been to support people who lack the resources and opportunities which we enjoy (and may take for granted) with a particular emphasis on young people and education. The list below outlines how we aim to continue this until 2027.

Secondary education. As you know this is not provided by the State in Sierra Leone. We currently have 5 children who will have finished their school careers this September plus another 2 who have one more year to complete and whose fees we have estimated at £272 each and this will cover these costs. In addition, as they leave school we will give each child £100 which they can use as a springboard in to further education/training or employment.

Further education. We are already funding higher education for two young men whose secondary education we financed in the past. Andrew Davies (whose ultimate objective is to become a doctor) is half way through a 4 year course in Biological Sciences and we estimate that he will need in the region of £900 to complete this. In addition Sylvanus Morgan-Williams who wants to convert a Diploma in Accounting into a degree. This we will support over the next 3 years at a cost of around £1,500.

Poor Fund. St. Matthew's church gives money to support vulnerable families in the parish. We have regularly added to this and have set aside £1,200 to continue to do so for the next 3 years, sending £200 at Christmas and Easter. In past Newsletters we have shown pictures of some of the recipients of this money.

Christmas Gifts. Another regular feature of our giving has been to send small gifts for the young children of St. Matthew's each Christmas. We have set aside £500 to enable us to do this for another 3 years. We know this means a great deal to families who may not otherwise be able to celebrate Christmas in the way that we can.

Shida Pre-School. We have allocated £500 to go towards the development of Shida. We have supported it more or less since our link started and, when we know how we can help their future plans we will contribute accordingly.

Bishop's Fund. You may remember from previous Newsletters that the Bishop of Freetown (the capital of Sierra Leone) visited us a couple of years ago. St Matthew's

lies within his Diocese and we discussed with him the possibility of making a contribution to a fund which supports rural schools outside the main urban area. We cannot put a figure on this because what we have set aside for the first two categories above (education) are based on estimates of what we would expect to be needed. The Sierra Leone economy has always been rather volatile and unpredictable so what we have set aside may prove to be inadequate, in which case we will adjust accordingly. **Budgeting.** Because of the uncertainties that exist we will keep a constant eye on everything but you can rest assured that what we do will continue our original commitment as stated in the second paragraph of this Newsletter. **Pictures.** The 3 pictures below are of St. Matthew's new vicar, Rev. Hannah Gillen: Andrew Davies with his sister Jessica and mother Rashida: a group of Shida pupils enjoying a parade.

Paul Welch 22/07/2024
01444 471336 pssjwelch@gmail.com

