

This newsletter is being produced in response to the discussions at Swindon Deanery Synod in February 2015. The Link team aim to produce it twice a year to keep you up to date with what's happening with our link with dioceses in Uganda. Please feel free to circulate widely in your benefices, reproduce extracts in weekly notices or display on noticeboards.

New Link between Swindon and Luweero Diocese

West Swindon Benefice, including Oliver Tompkins School, have formed a link with Katikamu Sebamala Primary School who they hope to learn from, encourage and support financially. There are already a couple of similar links in existence between St Francis Primary School and Bwaziba School and Haydon Wick Primary School and Balitta School, both supported by St John's Haydon Wick. All 3 Ugandan schools are state funded primary schools which are in remote, rural areas and have good links with the Church of England. Primary education is state funded for all children in Uganda, but the funding each school receives is barely adequate and many children cannot afford the uniform and other equipment to allow them to attend regularly. By forming such links our hope is that we will better understand the challenges faced by Ugandans – and the resourceful ways they overcome them – as well as being able to pray, give and visit the link schools.

If your church or a local school would be interested in forming a specific link with a named school or project in Luweero or Kampala diocese please contact Sally



Katikamu Sebamala Primary School

News from Uganda

There is still a threat of famine affecting northern Uganda, where the population is also under pressure because of large numbers of refugees who continue to arrive from South Sudan.

Following below-average 2016 production, some poor households in the north-east had depleted household food stocks in December, three months earlier than normal. Close to this region, there are also over 600,000 refugees who have fled the fighting in neighbouring South Sudan and who need to be fed.

As far as we are aware, the impact on our link dioceses is currently minimal, though we have heard reports that it is no longer possible to keep chickens, to supplement their normal diet, because it is not possible to purchase food for them.

Visit to Uganda

On 11th February 7 people from Swindon deanery will be heading for Uganda to get to know our links there better. They will be spending 5 days in Kampala, staying with local families and visiting projects, for example in the Kampala slums and Uganda Christian University, then they will move north to stay in the diocesan guest house in Luweero to reconnect with our old friends there. Finally they will have the opportunity to relax at the beautiful Murchison Falls before returning on 26th February.

The 7 people going are:

Raymond – St John's Haydon Wick
Shellie – St John's Haydon Wick
Judith – All Saints Lydiard Millicent
Jan – St Paul's Dorcan
Tony – St Paul's Dorcan
Judy – Christchurch Old Town
Phil – St Andrew's North Swindon

They will be taking stationery for Bwaziba school donated by St Francis' School Taw Hill.

News from Luweero Diocese:

- The Ground breaking ceremony for the £1.5 million pension house project took place in August 2016. The vision is to build a complex of flats and a conference centre in Luweero town centre which will provide rental income to finance pensions for retired clergy.
- Bishop Eridard has also launched an initiative to improve the welfare of working clergy.
- He is also keen to work with young people and encourage them into the church.
- There were great celebrations at Kiwoko Hospital, which is closely linked with the diocese, when it celebrated its 25th birthday. The hospital began in one missionary's front room and is now an extensive complex including a training school for nurses.

Prayer points:

Please pray for

- The 7 people visiting Uganda in February, for safety, good health, refreshment and a new perspective on their own lives and the lives of those we are linked with in Uganda.
- The leaders and Christians within Luweero and Kampala dioceses, as they seek to share the good news of Christ with their neighbours and live out their own faith day by day
- The worsening food crisis in the north of the country and especially that Christians further south would know how to respond with generosity and compassion
- Teachers and pupils in state funded primary schools who seek to educate children with very few resources.
- The appointment of a new medical director for Kiwoko Hospital. The current director, who has been supported by CMS Ireland, is leaving after 11 years and it is hoped to replace him with a Ugandan doctor.

Giving

Various churches in the deanery send regular gifts to schools, hospitals and individuals in Uganda. This helps the schools to plan and provides much needed support which the state does not provide. If your benefice would like to link up with a school in Uganda, so that on-going support can be provided, please contact Sally Robertson.

Just a reminder.....

Our Link diocese 1: Luweero

Bishop: Rt Revd Eridard Nsubuga

Diocesan Secretary: Revd Albert Senkeeto

Parish development and Swindon Link officer: Revd Godfrey Kasana

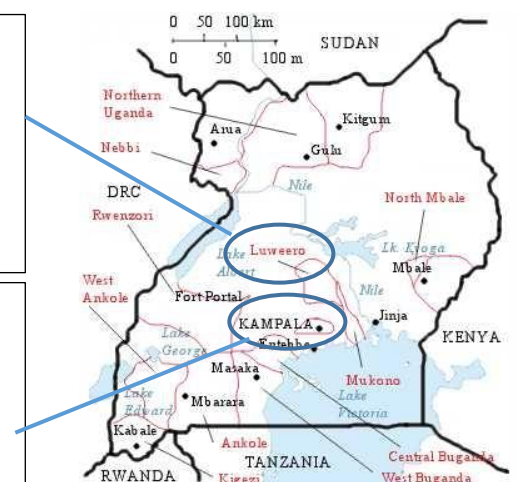
Mission statement: Enable people in Luweero diocese to attain sustainable and abundant livelihood based on Christian values.

Our link diocese 2: Kampala

Bishop: Rt Revd Hanington Mutebi

Diocesan youth coordinator and Swindon Link Officer Alex Abraham Bwambale

Mission Statement: Proclaiming Christ, demonstrating His love teaching and equipping Christians and Churches for effective stewardship and mission in Kampala.



Link Team Members

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Ed Poole and Mary Crichton (Deanery Synod Lay chairs); Jan and Tony Prichard (Dorcan);

Chris Hawkes and Raymond Adams (Haydon Wick); Tudor Roberts (Lydiard Millicent) Daphne Hardwick and Steve Dumba (Old Town); Martina Lewis (Parks and Walcot)