

This newsletters 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.

Most of all please use it to pray for our brothers and sisters in Kampala and Luweero Dioceses

Educational Visit to Uganda in February 2019

Head teachers, teachers, other staff and governors are being encouraged to consider visiting schools in Luweero Diocese and Kampala in February 2019. The brochure has been sent to Swindon Church of England Schools and other schools with which churches have well established links. The aim of the visit is to increase staff understanding of the situation for teachers and pupils in Uganda and thus enhance pupil understanding of our diverse world. The Link committee hopes it will be possible to form new lasting links with schools in Uganda resulting in the exchange of ideas and friendship in the future, as well as strengthening those which already exist.. If you would like to see a brochure or know someone who might be interested in attending, please contact Sally Robertson



Items for Prayer

- The education of children in Uganda – that would have adequate buildings to learn in and the right people to teach them.
- For Swindon school staff to be encouraged and enabled to join the trip to Uganda next year.
- For the young people from Pinehurst and Bristol travelling to Uganda this summer
- For Bishops Hannington and Eridard and their staff as they run the Dioceses of Kampala and Luweero.
- For the escalating refugee crisis with increasing numbers of people from the Democratic Republic of Congo escaping to Uganda.
- For plans to celebrate 50 years of the Bristol Uganda link in 2019

News from our Link Schools

Churches from around the Deanery support different schools in Luweero Diocese. Here is an update from some of them (with the church that supports that school in brackets).

Balittalwogi Primary and Special Needs School (St John's Haydon Wick) There are plans to open a boys' dormitory to complement the girls dormitory which is already a very useful asset to the school and local (or not so local) families.

Bwaziba Primary School (St John's Haydon Wick) We are anxiously awaiting news of the beginning of term (the academic year starts in February in Uganda), as the pit latrine was collapsing and the Education Authority were threatening to close the school as unsafe. St Francis School have raised money to help with the rebuild and hopefully education will be able to continue.

Katikamu Sebamala Primary School (West Swindon) West Swindon Partnership are waiting to hear how the school will spend it's recent donation.

Sekamuli Secondary School (Highworth) Donations sent from Highworth have enabled work to continue on the much needed dormitory

Uganda comes to West Swindon!



Gayle Bryon, the Schools Worker for The West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership, devised an exciting day for Years 1 and 2 at Oliver Tomkins school when they took part in various Uganda related Christmas activities. Gayle writes:

“In Oliver Tomkins our travels took us all the way to Uganda, in our assembly we took an imaginary plane ride, followed by jeep ride until we arrived in Katikamu (the village in which the school is that we are supporting as a Partnership). Year 1 and 2 spent an hour enjoying a rotation of activities to learn that worshipping, giving, and sharing are the key elements of a Ugandan Christmas.

Each Year 1/2 class spent time experiencing a variety of Ugandan Christmas related activities, including:

Ugandan Christmas Meal - the children learnt that Christmas dinner may be prepared, cooked and eaten outside, and that the children themselves may choose the chicken to be eaten. The pupils played the ‘Kakopi Game’, a playground game from Uganda all about cooking chicken!

Ugandan Christmas Songs - the children got to look at Ugandan patterns and choose a scarf to wear, and then they learnt to sing and dance a Uganda song around the crib scene.

Ugandan Decorations - the children learnt that in Uganda it would be their responsibility to clean the home and garden. The pupils learnt how to make homemade decorations such as made flower garlands or beaded decorations for a Christmas tree, using primarily red and green colours.

Ugandan Gifts - the children looked at a Ugandan Nativity scene to discover that the Wise people in this scene would give the Christ Child a drum, a spear, and bark cloth symbolising his Kingship. The pupils learnt that Ugandan families do not have money to buy lots of gifts but will share what they have with friends and neighbours. The children then could try weaving a mat or making a football.

This was an amazingly fun session to run, but also a fabulous way to think about what is truly important about Christmas.”

Many thanks to Gayle for her inspiration and hard work in drawing this session together. If you know a school in Swindon who would like to use the materials next Christmas, Gayle would be happy to you about it.
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Link Team Members

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