

In the Church of Uganda this year has a focus of 'Compassion for Children'. At each of the four Church schools that we visited in Kampala Áine and Joy led a discussion on the Compassionate Teacher. The discussions varied from school to school, each interested in pay and conditions in the UK, as well as finding out about the challenges we face in a secular society. Although our educational resources and support networks are vastly different, the need for teachers who have a vocation, a 'call to teach' was shared."

You can read Gayle's full report at <http://bit.ly/GBrep0219>

Áine Gale summarised her experience



"It was a humbling experience to visit the many schools in Uganda and everyone was so welcoming and generous in their time. It was a privilege to share education experiences with the many teachers we met. Spending time watching the children being taught with limited resources, yet engaged in their learning and happy to be in school will stay with me for a long time.

Meeting the headteacher of Balitta Primary school and seeing for myself the school which we are linked with and supported for many years was amazing. Engaging with the pupils and teachers has established this link even further and we are already planning more fund-raising ideas at Haydon wick."

Look out for Joy Farrell's reflections in the next edition of the Diocesan Connections Newsletter.

Link Team Members

Sally Robertson (chair) revd.sally.robertson@nschurch.org.uk or 07588 594410 (North Swindon)

Gayle Bryon gayleschoolswork@gmail.com (West Swindon)

Mary Crichton mary.crichton@yahoo.co.uk (Stratton St Margaret);

Chris Hawkes chrishawkes.2019@gmail.com and Raymond Adams r.adams3081@gmail.com (Haydon Wick);

Judith Mumford judithm1167@outlook.com (Lydiard Millicent)

Swindon Uganda Deanery Link Newsletter – Spring 2019



www.ugandanetworks.org

Please circulate this newsletter as widely as possible and feel free to use the content in parish magazines and noticesheets.

**Commemorative plaque in
Namirembe Cathedral**



This newsletter is being produced by the Swindon Uganda Link Team to keep you updated about our link with Kampala and Luweero Dioceses in Uganda. 2019 marks the 50th Anniversary of the link between Bristol Diocese and the Diocese of Uganda so there will be plenty of opportunities later in the year to find out more about the life and faith of our brothers and sisters in Uganda. Please read on to find out more and please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Kampala and Luweero Dioceses and for a strengthening of our links with them.

Key Celebration Dates

4th October – Guests from Luweero and Kampala Dioceses and from AYF Choir arrive in Swindon

5th October 10am -12noon – Uganda Experience at St Francis School, Taw Hill – music from Uganda and England with refreshments and Ugandan games

5th October 7pm – Concert by AYF Choir at St Michael's Highworth

12th October – Diocesan Celebration with AYF Choir at St Michael's Stoke Gifford

14th October – Final visitors depart

Background to our link

In the 50 years since Bishop Erica Sabiti of Uganda and Bishop Oliver Tomkins of Bristol committed to a partnership of fellowship in the Gospel many things have changed in the world and in our dioceses. It is now usual for dioceses within the Anglican Church to be linked with dioceses in other parts of the world. Also the church in Uganda has expanded so much that one diocese has become 35 dioceses within the province of Uganda, headed by Archbishop Stanley Ntagali. Some of the dioceses are linked with Winchester Diocese and the rest are linked with us in Bristol Diocese, each Deanery partnering with 2 or 3 dioceses.

In Swindon we are linked with Kampala Diocese which covers much of the capital city and with Luweero a mainly rural diocese centred on a small town 50 miles north of Kampala.

Celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of the link and preparations for stronger links in the years to come will be taking place throughout Bristol Diocese in October 2019 with guests from Uganda joining us. They will focus around a visit from the Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir, a group of immensely gifted musicians and singers who have the ability to communicate clearly across cultures. They will share their deep experience of faith and worship which is rooted in their African heritage and the realities of life in a developing country which has emerged from extensive civil unrest.

How can I get involved?

- **Save the dates** and look out for details of how to buy tickets nearer the time and for other Uganda focussed events in Swindon during the week
- Offer to **host** 1 or 2 members of the choir for the first 5 days or Bishop Eridard and Mama Jane or guests from Kampala for 10 days.
- Offer to **drive** members of the choir around Swindon and the diocese for the first 5 days
- **Donate** to the fund to cover the cost of the airfares for Bishop Eridard and Mama Jane from Luweero and other expenses
- **Pray** that the time spent with our guests from Uganda and celebrating the link would spread the Gospel in Swindon and beyond and build stronger foundations for our partnership for years to come.

Contact Sally Robertson or your local Uganda Link Team member with your offer of help – contact details overleaf

Five get educated in Uganda!

In February 2019 our most recent group of travellers from Swindon flew off to Uganda, with the intention of learning more about schools in Uganda and how schools and churches in Swindon can partner with them more effectively. Sally and Simon Robertson from St Andrew North Swindon and St John Haydon Wick accompanied Joy Farrell, Head Teacher of St Francis Primary School in Taw Hill, Áine Gale, Principal of Haydon Wick Primary School and Gayle Bryon, Schools worker for the West Swindon Partnership. In 2 weeks we visited 10 schools in Kampala and Luwero and received amazing welcomes and hospitality. With the availability of mobile phones and apps such as facebook and Whatsapp in Uganda we intend to keep in closer touch with staff in our link schools.

Gayle Bryon wrote vividly about the trip and the welcome repeated in each school we visited.

“Uganda is a colourful country, from the bright orange soil of the dust track roads, to the yellows and greens of bananas and melons for sale along the road, to the deep pink purple skies of the evening.



As we arrived for our first school visit on the Monday morning children were already assembling themselves for their outside Collective Worship. They stood in their classes, in height order smart lines. The children led a time of singing and worship, then their scouts group showed us some of their drills including raising the flags of Uganda, Kampala, the Church and the school.

Finally, a group of pupils danced for us and we were encouraged to join in, which we all did in the blazing heat with what probably looked like a collective Teresa May moment of uncool Brit dancing!

As we visited each class we were greeted by the whole class standing up, they first greeted the Head Teacher and then us with ‘you are welcome our visitors’.

At lunch time we were surrounded by children wanting to greet us, it started very calming with hand shaking, but high 5’s quickly became the favourite mode of greeting with some energetic enthusiasm.