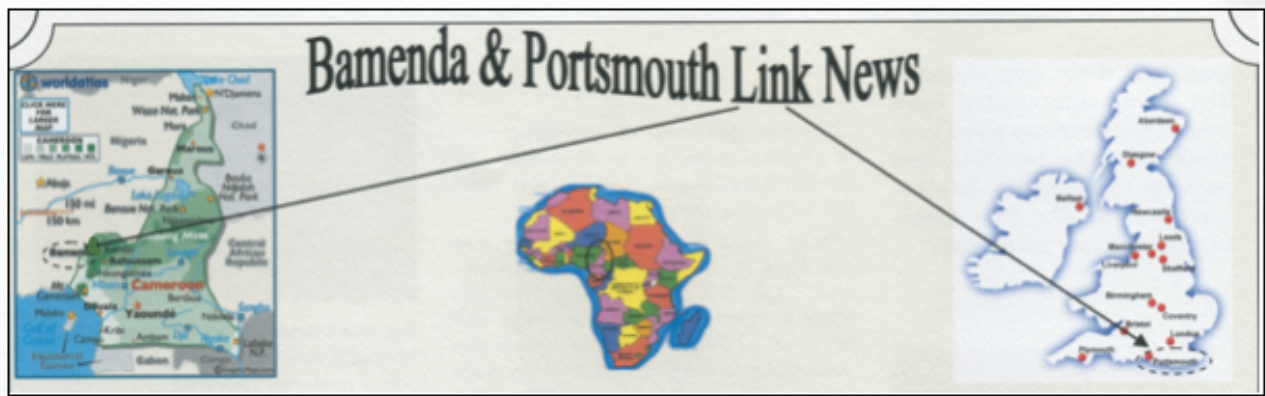




ANNUAL BAMENDA SUNDAY NEWSLETTER 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over the past 12 months, the Anglophone part of Cameroon, which includes Bamenda, has been through a difficult period of conflict with the Government.

This has given rise to some unrest and following the advice of the Foreign Office, a planned trip to our twin diocese was cancelled. Our work in partnership with the Archdiocese and the local communities has however continued. We ask your prayers for a swift resolution to their issues.

Sadly we had to bid farewell to Fr Bonaventure Ndong who has returned to Bamenda after 6 years serving in our Diocese, most of it as Parish Priest of St. John Bosco Parish, Reading. He will be sorely missed and we wish him well in his new ministry.

This year we have received applications for many worthy causes in the fields of Faith, Education, Health and Social Welfare. Meeting these challenges can only be done through your support and on this Bamenda Sunday, as in the past, please give as generously as you can.

www.bamendaandportsmouth.com

Colm Lennon, Chairman Bamenda Committee



UPDATE ON PROJECTS

HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE

After problems arose with plans to extend a basic health centre on land at Bukow, an old church hall along the road at Bamessing was converted instead. Funds generously donated from St Joseph's parish in Bracknell and others have helped complete the building (seen here) and we will now work to ensure it is suitably equipped.



Three new projects will bring adequate clean water supplies to a health centre, a school and a remote rural community. At St Blaise Clinic, in Bamenda town, we match funded a donation from Clinicare (our health partner) to purchase an incubator and a generator. A reliable electricity supply will improve outcomes and standards of care.

During a visit in 2016, members of the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee liaised with staff from St Joseph's home for people with disabilities. This year we have supported them with educational resources for those with visual impairment. The new vocational skills training centre at Esu is thriving and more equipment has been requested.

FAITH

The Catholic Church in Bamenda continues to grow and benefit greatly from our help.

The Pastoral Institute in Bamenda, which was built with our assistance, plays a significant role in the spiritual life of the Archdiocese. Each year we support the centre which provides Maryvale training courses for Catechists and we subsidise candidates unable to pay full fees.

This year we were pleased to sponsor 10 postulants from the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis who attended for training. We also continue to sponsor Fr. Emmanuel Seninka from Bamenda in his training at Maryvale U.K. Thanks to your generous support, work on the chapel at the Institute has been completed and it is now functioning as a Parish Church.



EDUCATION

Many thanks to all the schools who throughout Lent raised the sum of £6,633.71 to support the education of orphans and vulnerable children in Bamenda. Without your help these children would never have the benefit of education.



This year we have also, with the local community, helped to rebuild Holy Trinity School at Wum where the whole roof had collapsed. Our school twinning program with schools in Bamenda continues to grow with children from each diocese communicating and learning about each other.

FINANCE

Despite the problems in Bamenda we have continued to support the many projects that we agreed would receive our help. We were fortunate to receive a generous single donation of £23,300 which, with money from our capital reserves, meant that we could fund two additional major water projects.

Our main source of income was from the annual diocesan Bamenda Sunday collection. Together with the capital monies the total amount sent to Bamenda this year was over £113,000. The need for support is always exceeded by the projects we help. Please be as generous as possible in assisting our brothers and sisters in Bamenda.

FRIENDS OF BAMENDA

Friends of Bamenda Groups are being introduced as a way to form links with Parish/ Area Groups in Bamenda for cultural/ friendship/support interchange. Our Diocese and our Sister Archdiocese have much to share and we can be really helping each other by a greater awareness of each other's needs. Groups in Portsmouth and Berkshire are actively participating in this project and we are looking forward to new groups starting in the Channel Islands and in Abingdon.

A group started in Bournemouth too and they would welcome new members. Perhaps some of you may like to fund raise towards a chosen project? – this does not mean a huge outlay. Our Sisters and Brothers in Bamenda are desperate for help in many small ways, so please consider what you could do to help. Why not find out how you can become a Friend by contacting us for more information?

If you would like to learn more about our work in Bamenda or are interested in being involved, visit our website at www.bamendaandportsmouth.com or alternatively contact our Chair, Mr Colm Lennon at clennon@bamendaandportsmouth.com