

Bamenda & Portsmouth Link News



B A M E N D A S U N D A Y N E W S L E T T E R 2 0 1 5

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In 2014 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of twinning of the two Dioceses of Portsmouth and Bamenda further strengthening the spiritual and social links of our two communities. This year, working closely with local groups, we have continued to support projects in the fields of Faith, Education, Health and Social Welfare. More details of our work can be seen on our web site: www.bamendaandportsmouth.com. As part of a Lenten or Advent Project, an individual, group or parish might like to consider "adopting" one of the Projects to support.

This autumn, we welcome Frs Charles and Isaiah from Bamenda, bringing to six the total number of Bamendan priests now serving in the Diocese of Portsmouth. The major part of our funding is dependent upon the special collection throughout the diocese on Bamenda Sunday; once again please give as generously as you can.

Colm Lennon, Chairman, Bamenda Committee

UPDATE ON PROJECTS



FAITH

Last year the Committee continued to support the Pastoral Centre, Bamenda in the training of Catechists along with assisting in the construction of churches. A grant was also given to The Youth Apostolate for the training of personnel.

The Pastoral Centre is now committed to building a church at the Centre, which will also serve as a parish church. Work has progressed to roof level and it is to be hoped that some parishes in our Diocese can help with completion of the project by paying towards windows, pews, painting etc.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Over the past year, work has continued in building the training centre in Esu, where youth and women can learn skills enabling them to generate their own income. Hopefully 2016 will see the first intake of students.

The Justice and Peace Commission in Bamenda, which does important work in fighting child trafficking and conflict resolution, has, with financial help from us, been able to train new workers in this field. We continue also to assist work in Bamenda Prison with food supplements and training for young people.





HEALTH

Bukow is an area with a growing population and the small health centre we visited in 2014 was bravely providing a 24/7 service with 4 staff. Before her retirement, Sr Sheila (Healthcare Coordinator) secured agreement and the cooperation of the local community to enlarge the centre significantly. With the aid of an anonymous donor and assistance from St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow parish Bracknell we have been able to provide a total of £14,100 this year to enable the work to get started. We hope with your support to complete the project.

In partnership with Clinicare and other donors to health projects, we have helped more health centres by improving water supply, and providing beds and equipment. St Colman with St Paul parish in Cosham have a link with Njinikom Hospital – could your parish or group adopt a project?



EDUCATION



Our school twinning programme continues to expand with 10 schools now twinned. Over the past year schools such as All Hallows, Farnham, St. Finians, Thatcham and St. Peter's, Winchester among others have provided funds for improvements to their twinned schools. If your local school or parish would like to learn more about our 'twinning program' please contact Sean Tucker at stucker@bamendaandportsmouth.com.

We are delighted that the new nursery school at Yemge, funded by your generous donations, is now up and running and will be formally opened when our working group visit there in February 2016. Our programme of paying the school fees for orphans and children in need in the poorer regions of Bamenda continues.

FRIENDS OF BAMENDA

Groups of "Friends" have already started in Portsmouth and Bournemouth and another is planned in Abingdon.

The purpose of the Groups is to foster a closer relationship with our Sisters and Brothers in Bamenda through supporting projects twinning on a parish to parish basis and exchange visits amongst others.

If you would like to learn more our work, please contact Sylvia Foster using the following email address; sfoster@bamendaandportsmouth.com.

WILL YOU COME AND JOIN US ?

FAREWELL TO SR SHEILA



Farewell to Sr Sheila who after 33 years service in Bamenda is returning to her community in Ireland.

Her liaison with us as Healthcare Coordinator has been invaluable and she will be sorely missed. We look forward to developing a new relationship with her successor.

FINANCE

In the last financial year we sent £111,500 to Bamenda to support projects. This amount included some significant one-off donations.

Our main source of funds continues, however, to be the amounts given in the second collection on Bamenda Sunday. Please do give as generously as possible to enable us to provide vital assistance to our brothers and sisters in our twinned Diocese.

If you are a tax payer, please help us by gift aiding your donation through your parish in the normal way. Should you need a gift aid form, one can also be found on our website at www.bamendaandportsmouth.com.

If you are interested in learning more about our work in Bamenda and would like to be involved, please contact our Chairman, Mr. Colm Lennon at clennon@bamendaandportsmouth.com.