

PARISH PARTNERSHIP

Wivelsfield's link with St Matthew's Aberdeen, Sierra Leone **BETTER TOGETHER**

NEWSLETTER 67

MAY 2021

CORRECTION

In our February Newsletter we told you that we had been able to send an unwanted laptop to Duke Wilson. Duke is the leader of the youth section at St. Matthew's and needed the device to help him with his Accountancy course.

Before being sent the machine was "wiped" by Fenella Holmes who is one of our team. In error we said that the laptop belonged to Fenella. In fact it belonged to a grandson of Sheila Blair, another member of the team. He received a new laptop as a present and very kindly said we could send his old one to Duke.

Earlier this year Duke, who has a coaching role with a basketball team, travelled to neighbouring Guinea for a friendly match which they lost. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all even though the Guinea players were paid \$300 for the match!

SHIDA PRE-SCHOOL



Also in our last Newsletter we gave you details of the renewal of our link with Shida and that we were hoping to be able to strengthen this. Having received more detail about their plans we have been able to contribute £3,000 towards the costs of their building programme.

The latest picture of the Shida extension

PARCELS

Thanks to the efforts of Charley (Charlotte) Hill and her mother, Jane, we are able to send parcels to Sierra Leone from time to time. Charley is also a member of our team and visited St. Matthew's on a number of occasions on our behalf.

Most recently parcels have been sent to Vikki Luke, the maternity nurse whose marriage we were able to tell you about in our January Newsletter. Vikki has, in the past, provided accommodation for visitors from our parish.

Jane and Charley are experts in acquiring items from a wide range of sources to send to Vikki. Recent parcels have, not surprisingly, contained newborn baby items, some of them knitted by ladies at our church. Cot blankets, babygrows, vests and other items have been donated from various sources.



Parcels have also included medical items such as vinyl gloves, plastic aprons, face masks and face shields and things which can be used in other areas of the hospital in which Vikki works. This can be anything from thermometers, steristrip and compression bandages.

If anyone is ever renewing the contents of their first aid kits and has unopened items which are “out of date” please let us know because if it is unopened and clean it can often be recycled.

Not surprisingly, there is a certain amount of bureaucracy involved in sending these parcels. Charley tends to deal with this and copes with all the form filling. In the past everything sent has had to have a European Code. Whether or not this was still needed caused some confusion with DHL who were the agent used for sending the parcels. Much of the confusion, apparently, was because the very nice person at DHL thought Africa was part of Europe.

The picture shows the recent parcel with a smiling Vikki in the background.

In August of last year we reported that the hospital at which Vikki works was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPA) but we have subsequently discovered that this funding no longer exists.

FEEDBACK

As always, if you wish to get in touch simply reply by email or phone 01444 471336.

Paul Welch
5/5/21