

PARISH PARTNERSHIP

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

NEWSLETTER 73

NOVEMBER 2022

BISHOP'S VISIT.

When we last contacted you in July it was to give you details of a forthcoming visit to our parish by the Bishop of Freetown (Rt.Rev.Thomas Wilson), his wife Victoria and his PA Rev.Shirlene Carew. Bishop Thomas was in this country for the Lambeth Conference and was as pleased as we were that he was able to call in on us.

The visit duly took place from Friday August 19th to Sunday 21st. Some of you would have met them either at the informal gathering in the church hall on the Saturday or when the bishop preached in church on the Sunday morning.

When they arrived on the Friday we were able to provide them with lunch at the Cock Inn. Amongst other things while they were with us they were able to tour the parish and visit a vineyard near Herstmonceux.

After they had returned home we received a letter from the bishop "to thank you for your warm hospitality during our visit. We were overwhelmed by such love bestowed on us which we will always cherish".

From our point of view it was invaluable to be able to talk to the bishop and his PA. We are grateful to all those in our community who provided accommodation and who made our visitors feel so welcomed.



This photograph was taken in the church porch after the service on Sunday 21st. The lady on the left is Victoria and the lady in the middle is Rev. Shirlene.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Since our link was established in 2008 we have been able to pay for the secondary education of some 26 children, both Christian and Muslim. We currently have 7 “on the books” and will be sending £1,800 to cover fees, uniforms and stationary needs. There will be money left over which St. Matthew’s can put into their Christmas “Poor Fund” which is distributed to needy people in the parish.

It has never been part of our remit to support our children beyond the secondary level although there have been a few exceptions over the years where there have been special circumstances,

SHIDA PRE-SCHOOL.

We have always helped this thriving establishment and have recently had a request to contribute towards some play equipment in the form of a trampoline.

We are looking into the precise details but it would be good to think that we can provide something that should last well into the future.

THE FUTURE

As you know we are no longer accepting money into our fund and will be ceasing the link once all our children have completed their education in 2025.

There will be funds remaining although we cannot be certain how much. Whatever remains will be used for the benefit of the parish of St. Matthew’s and the Freetown diocese after consultation with all concerned.

Meanwhile we shall continue to keep you up to date with developments.

FEEDBACK.

As always we are always happy to hear from you if you have any observations or questions. My phone number is 01444 471336 or you can use the email address pssjwelch@gmail.com.

Paul Welch
21/11/02