

Pompey West Africa Links

January 2016

Issue No 18

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IDWAL Committee

- Chairman, Rev Canon Graham Morris
- Vice Chair, Rev Canon Tom Kennar
- Secretary, Canon Marion Syms
- Treasurer, Alan Hoad
- Publicity, Linda Forster
- Bishop's Waltham & MU, Alison Hubbard
- Cathedral & Us, Canon Marion Syms
- Fareham, Linda Forster
- Gosport, Rev Margaret Hay
- Havant, Angela Herring
- IOW, David Tamcken
- Petersfield, Barbara Shaw
- Portsmouth, Rev Canon David Power

Also:

- CMS, Robin Green

Looking Back - Moving Forward

Looking back - In May 2007 this newsletter started with the words, AK-WAABA... welcome to the revival of IDWAL's newsletter after an absence of many years. The main article went on to stress the importance of communication as the key to making the links work.

A year later, May 2008, there was a feature on links for all ages highlighting the links with schools and how young people are also involved with links; including the visit to Ghana of 4 teenagers from Havant Deanery. Many of the continuing links are with schools and 6 students from St Catherine's school visited Ghana in 2011. February 2014 saw 6 teens from Crofton Parish spend a week at their link in Essikadu. Inside you will find a report on the most recent visit to Ghana by students from Ryde School.

The Lambeth Conference was held in 2008 and we welcomed all of the Ghana bishops and their wives in Portsmouth for 4 days of hospitality before they attended the conference.

In 2010 Bishop Christopher was welcomed to Portsmouth as our new bishop with Archbishop Justice Akrofi of Ghana as one of the special guests. One year later Bishop Christopher was welcomed in Ghana on his first visit and a second visit to Ghana followed in 2013.

Rev Canon Terry Louden was the Chairman of IDWAL from 2005 until his retirement in 2013. A special edition of the newsletter was published allowing the Bishop and people on the IDWAL committee to pay tribute to his leadership.

Difficulties in obtaining UK visas has decreased the number of visitors to Portsmouth, but link visits still continue to happen in limited numbers, which makes the visits more special.

Pompey West Africa Links

May 2007
Issue No. 1

Communication is the Key

In this issue:
Special Edition 2

AKWAABA, is a Ghanaian word meaning 'you are welcome'. So, welcome no electricity the only means of communication is writing a letter, and hoping that it will reach its destination

ing here and in West Africa. We want to let you know who is coming and going on link visits, and what they are doing so we

Pompey West Africa Links

November 2008
Issue No 4

Welcome to Portsmouth

In this issue:
Visitors to Havant 2
MU Reunion 2
Visits to Ghana 3
St Nicholas News 3
Profile

In July we were privileged to welcome our Ghanaian bishops and their wives to Portsmouth Diocese for the Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative. For many of them, especially wives, this was their first visit to this country.



Pompey West Africa Links

November 2011
Issue No 10

Bishop Christopher Visits Ghana

In this issue:

Bishop Christopher made his first visit to Ghana as our Bishop in October. The rest of 'The Team' (or 'entourage' as we were often called) were the Revd. Sally Davenport called) were the Revd. Sally Davenport and wife of the sort (Holy Trinity, Fareham and wife of the sort)



Pompey West Africa Links

June 2013
Special Issue

Thank You Terry Louden

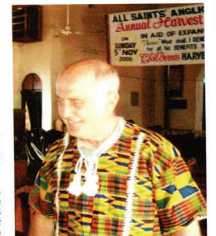
In this issue:

Bishop's Tribute 2
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Last Word 4

The Rev Canon Terry Louden was appointed as Chairman of the IDWAL Committee in June 2005, about the same time I joined the committee as the representative for Fareham Deanery.

In 2006 he made his first official trip to Ghana as IDWAL Chair. This was followed by many more trips, not just as IDWAL chair but also visits to his parish link. Official visits saw him making whirlwind tours of Ghana visiting Diocesan Bishops and clergy, touring parishes, schools, church projects, preaching sermons, presiding at the Eucharist and visiting St Nicholas Seminary in Cape Coast and the new Anglican Retreat Centre at Nkwawie.

Terry has also organised 2 visits to Ghana for Bishop Christopher. At the time of the Bishop's first visit we happened to be in Accra so my husband and myself, along with Bishop Matthias of Ho, were at the



And now moving forward. In recent years with fewer visitors to and from Ghana it has sometimes become a bit more difficult to find news to fill these pages. The frustrations of trying to communicate with busy people and to get contributions from them for the newsletter does take a toll. Which is why this will be the last issue of this IDWAL newsletter in its present form. Maybe it will be revived again in the future, maybe in a different format or on social media or a website. Who knows what will happen. In closing I will say that it has been my privilege to edit this newsletter and share the Portsmouth and Ghana news with you for the past 9 years.

Linda

I must begin by saying how warmly my wife (Jeanette) and I were welcomed by the clergy and people of Ho, and especially by Bishop Matthias. He, in particular, ensured our practical needs were met and also gave us so much time, enabling us to understand more of the current situation in the diocese. Much of our visit was shared with Tom Kennar, to whom we are enormously grateful, both for his expertise and heroic driving. (!) We especially appreciated the many conversations we had with him and +Matthias on this "handover trip", as Tom relinquished his duties as Deanery Link Officer to myself.

We visited most of the churches and worshipped in two parishes, firstly Worraorra (north of Ho) and secondly the Cathedral in Ho itself. Roman Catholic liturgy was used at every Eucharist we attended, which seemed somewhat strange in an Anglican diocese. I preached on both Sundays and the people seemed receptive and appreciative. At Worraorra the Bishop urged everyone to come forward at the end of the service to avail themselves of prayer with the laying on of hands, administered by Jeanette and myself. The entire congregation took up the offer!

We spent four days at a retreat centre (in a war zone!) run by Catholic sisters in Alavanyo, north of Ho. During this valuable time when the clergy have a rare chance to meet together with their Bishop, there was much opportunity for rest, learning and spiritual nourishment. Jeanette and I led morning and evening prayer, whilst +Matthias, Tom and I presided at the daily Eucharist. Opportunities were given for the clergy to have one-to-one sessions with the three of us and the Bishop, which resulted in some interesting conversations.

Tom provided the input for two sessions during the retreat, whilst I offered one. Tom's focus was on the need for good organisation and planning, and I explored two contrasting models of church and ministry in the local context, using 32 bricks to form two visual aids. One model was very "top-down", traditional and somewhat static, whilst the other was more collaborative and dynamic, with an enabling style of ordained ministry in which the laity become the front line



in mission and the clergy see themselves as those who resource and support the whole Christian community for participation in God's mission in God's world, the latter being the context in which the laity collectively spend much more time than the clergy. Numerous photographs were taken of the bricks! From the feedback and subsequent reports, this session seems to have struck a chord with the clergy in addressing some of the issues they face. The retreat has now happened four years running and the Bishop is keen for Jeanette and I to return in 2016 for another, so it seems likely that we shall be able continue exploring these themes, assuming the Bishop is in agreement.

Our second Sunday was spent in Ho itself, where we worshipped with the Cathedral congregation. It was a joy to share in the service, in which Tom presided and I preached. The official "handover moment" took place, with much well-deserved thanksgiving for Tom's remarkable ministry and a kind welcome for Jeanette and I as I begin my time in the role.

Of course, my understanding of the West African Church and the culture within which it is set is limited, and it is not for English Christians to decide or even suggest how overseas churches should develop. The traditional European patterns established by our colonial forefathers may still be appropriate, but this should be a conscious choice rather than assumed. Without doubt, the IDWAL partnership offers rich opportunities for exploring these matters, as well as for the mutual development of spiritual growth and the enhancement of mission and ministry in both English and West African contexts, and I hope that these can be increasingly fostered through our growing relationships

**At the clergy
retreat
numerous
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aid!**



Ryde to Nako and Back

On the 21st of October a group of 11 students and two teachers from Ryde School set off for Ghana with Rev Canon Graham Morris, current IDWAL Chairman, and David Tamcken as their group leaders. Their destination was the north of Ghana to visit the Ryde School link with Nako School near Wa.

After arrival in Ghana the group spent a night in Accra and then had a morning flight from Accra to Tamale. Before the introduction of internal flights in Ghana this would have been a very long all day coach journey. The group then spent a night in Tamale before travelling on to Wa where they would spend 4 days. The Venerable Canon Moses Banungwiiri was host to the group whilst up north and also accompanied them back to Cape Coast. Moses is Archdeacon of Tamale and Wa and parish priest of St. Aiden's Church Wa. He is also the school manager at the link Nako School.

The Nako School is not in Wa so the group travelled back and forth from Wa to Nako on a daily basis. While at Nako School the Ryde students spent time with the Ghanaian students, teaching some lessons and also



offering practical help around the school campus. Upon their return to Tamale Canon Graham reported, "Today we travelled back to Tamale having spent the

week with Canon Moses. The students of Ryde School have been fantastic in the way in which they have dealt with the demands of heat and food. The response has been very moving. A very emotional farewell at Nako School yesterday."



Following a flight back to Accra there was an audience with Archbishop Daniel Sarfo at the Cathedral in Accra and lunch as well, provided by Rt Rev Daniel Torto the Bishop of Accra, before a long journey to Cape Coast to spend their last nights in Ghana. After the work in the north it was time for some fun so the group had a visit to Kakum National Park, a rainforest with a rope canopy walkway, followed by lunch at the Hans Cottage where there is an opportunity to feed crocodiles. The following day there was a visit to Cape Coast Cathedral and Cape Coast Castle, a former slave trading fort.

Upon their return to the UK Canon Graham wrote, "Sitting here at my desk reflecting on what has been a most memorable trip. A fantastic educational experience with pupils from Ryde School. We had such a wonderful time in Ghana. Our young people were amazing ambassadors for our school. Thank you to Keith and Joss, members of staff; students David, Danny, James, Tom, Kieren, James, Danni, Phoebe, Annabelle, Izzy, and Annie. I really appreciated your commitment to the tasks set before us, and for the wonderful sense of camaraderie, thank you for being such great travelling companions. 14 days in Ghana extending the hand of friendship across 6500 miles. Who would have thought it! Medaasi, medaasi. Already thinking of planning the next visit."

New Ghana Canon

Congratulations to Canon David Tamcken on his recent well deserved installation as a Lay Canon of Tamale Cathedral. This is in recognition of his long term dedication to the IDWAL links

While the Ryde School group was in Nako David was able to travel and visit other links in Tamale Diocese including Wenchi and Techiman. At Techiman he found work on the church building set back

about two years by recent storm damage. At Zebilla there was the chance to meet Rev Francis, chat a bit, take some pictures, and hopefully prepare the ground for a link with St John's Wroxall. There was also a visit with retired Bishop Emmanuel to see his home. Back in Tamale, he spent time with Canon Norbert Ayeebo and visited Solomon (Solo) Asaanah's project of building a school for disabled children with special educational needs.

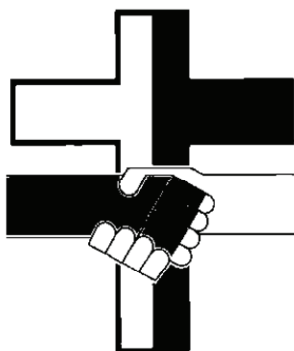
Lunch at Hans Cottage included an opportunity to feed the crocodiles.

IDWAL

Pompey West Africa Links

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IDWAL, The Inter Diocesan West Africa Link, promotes companion links between the Dioceses of Portsmouth, Chichester and Guildford and the Anglican Provinces in West Africa and Nigeria. Portsmouth links are in Ghana. IDWAL links “people to people” and “parish to parish” in a two-way movement of people as partners in World Mission. These links have proved deeply enriching for everyone involved, with schools, churches, groups and organizations all benefiting from such relationships.

Visits offer a wonderful opportunity for developing friendships and learning from one another. Out of these are emerging all sorts of new ideas for working together as fellow Christians—links between schools, communities and church groups; a two-way movement of people, the opportunity to offer support to projects in the developing world; and the enrichment and broadening of our own church life and journey of faith.

The Last Words

Ghana Bishops in UK

Archbishop Daniel Sarfo, Bishop Festus and Bishop Jacob were all in the UK to take part in the York Minster Tercentenary Celebration of the Order of the Holy Paraclete on 17 October. The OHP Sisters have a long association with Ghana and several Ghanaian Sisters are actively involved today e.g. establishing a Women’s Training Centre in Sunyani.



Archbishop Daniel later visited Portsmouth for two days. Bishop Festus was able to spend some time in London and join Archbishop Justin Welby for a mid-day Eucharist at Lambeth Palace where he was particularly interested to hear about the new Community of St Anselm. Later, when visiting Portsmouth, he attended one of Bishop Christopher’s Training Days, learned more about the newly introduced Portsmouth Pathway and the Cathedral’s outreach to school children when he enjoyed the opportunity to dress as a ‘Black Monk’. For all of us the highlight of his visit came on 1st November when the link

between our two Cathedrals was renewed and signed by Dean David and Bishop Festus.

Favourite Photo

Having travelled to Ghana 14 times, always with camera in hand, I have amassed a huge collection of over 5,000 photos from our various visits.

This photo is one of my favourite pictures and was taken in October 2008 at the grand opening and dedication of the St Mark’s Kindergarten at my link in Essikadu. As part of the ceremony these children were doing some traditional style dancing. I used this image to make my own Christmas cards one year and used the inscription from a Christmas card we had previously received from Ghana. I think those words are fitting as the last words of this last newsletter.

*May His star shine bright before you and
may His love be watching over you.*

*May you never lack, but swim in
abundance in the coming year.*



Diary Dates 2016

**3 March - IDWAL
Committee meeting**

**16 June - IDWAL
Committee meeting**

**15 September - IDWAL
Committee meeting**

**1 December - IDWAL
Committee meeting**

A PDF version of this newsletter is also available. Please email me at the above address if you would like to have the PDF version to share with others.

Linda