

Pompey West Africa Links

May 2015

Issue No 17

Celebrating with a Ghana Link

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Carol and Bill Bailey from St. Andrews Hayling Island have been involved with IDWAL since Carol's first Ghana trip in 1997. She made 4 trips to Ghana before her husband Bill joined her on the visits. Their latest Ghana visit was at the end of November 2014 when they went to help their link church, St. Andrews Asesewa, celebrate a 75th anniversary and also to check on the progress of projects funded by their parish. Two other ladies from the parish accompanied them. One of the first stops in Ghana before travelling to Asesewa was at the Bible Society in Accra where they purchased 40 Bibles as a gift for their link. Bibles cost less than £5 each in Ghana, but this is a big expense for many poor Ghanaians.

After a stop in Koforidua to visit Bishop Francis Quashie, the group moved on to their link at Asesewa. The church in Asesewa has 7 outstations, 4 of them were visited on this trip.

Dominarse was visited on what Carol called, "probably the worst road we have ever travelled on in Ghana". A kindergarten school was built in this village with money raised at Hayling. Takorase was visited down an equally bad road and a meeting with the local chief and elders resulted in a discussion of options to improve the school grounds and generate income. Akohia village had requested a visit as they felt left out from previous visits. A warm welcome was received from the school teachers and village elders and some small gifts were handed over. After viewing the schools it appeared that the kindergarten, falling down from weather damage, was what Carol called, "a project waiting to happen".

The other outstation visited was Ayiesu, where Carol is Queen Mother. The traditional welcome ceremony was held in the church and Carol handed over bottles of cola and biscuits for the villagers to have a party. This village is also the site of the Ghanaian Hayling Bridge, built with funds raised at Hayling Island. In 2012 Carol and Bill renewed their marriage vows in Ayiesu in a big celebration with everyone wearing special cloth for the occasion. The schools in Asesewa were also visited, es-



The Baileys on the Hayling Bridge in Ghana.

pecially the kindergarten where they receive a great welcome and also a tour of the school kitchen. Both have benefited in the past with assistance from St. Nicholas Ecumenical Church in Mazarron Spain where the Baileys worship part of the year.

The main reason for this visit was the 75th Anniversary celebration for St. Andrews Asesewa. Carol writes, "The service and celebration started at 9.00am. The service, Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion, lasted about three and a half hours. Although this seems a long time, the service was interesting enough to make the time pass quickly. The choir took us through the complete version of some Anglican classics, and there was drumming and dancing. The service followed the usual African pattern of the church being rather empty at the beginning, but filled up as the service progressed. Bishop Francis came to preach and preside." Called on to say something; Bill and Carol both gave comments about the history of the link and presented the new Bibles as well as greetings from Bishop Christopher.

The continuing success of this link between the two St. Andrews parishes has a lot to do with the dedication of Carol and Bill Bailey. The visits by the Baileys and others (I've just returned from my fourteenth visit to Ghana) and the friendships built up over the years are what make the IDWAL links so important and so rewarding both for the people in Portsmouth and the people in Ghana. And that's something to celebrate.

Linda

New Ghana Diocese

On Sunday the 23rd of November 2014 at the St Michael & All Angels Cathedral, Mampong-Ashanti, the new Diocese of Asante Mampong was officially inaugurated by the Primate and Metropolitan Archbishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa (CPWA), Most Revd Daniel Yinkah Sarfo. The Diocese of Asante Mampong thus becomes the 17th diocese in the West Africa province.

Later in the evening, at a special synod constituted by the Primate, Rt Revd Cyril Ben-Smith was canonically elected as the first diocesan bishop. Prior to his election, Bishop Ben-Smith was the Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Kumasi. His enthronement was held one week later on Sunday the 30th of November 2014.



Let There be Light

Six teens from Crofton Parish in Stubbington went on the Youth Mission Trip to St. Mark's Essikadu in February 2014. After spending two hot and sweaty afternoons painting the crèche and a day in dark stuffy classrooms with the 5 year olds they decided they needed to do something to help the children have a better learning environment. The St Mark's nursery complex was built with financial assistance from Crofton Parish and opened in 2008. Original plans for the building included electricity but it was never installed.

When the young people got back home they organised a talent show at the church to raise funds to provide electricity for the nursery. The funds raised at the talent show, along with a share of the Crofton mission tithes were enough to see the entire complex wired for electricity with lights and ceiling fans installed in the 6 classrooms, office, kitchen and toilet block.

Money was sent to Matilda Laing, head teacher of the school, in advance so work could begin on the project before our April visit to St. Mark's. By the time of our visit most of the initial wiring had been completed so the lights, fans, switches and outlets could then be installed. I'm not sure how happy the electrician was to have such an audience of small children crowded around his work table to watch him assemble ceiling fans. Once the children left



for their end of term break the electricians could work in peace and quiet.

The final step was to get the electric meter installed. A man from the electricity board appeared to install and programme the meter but unfortunately there was a power cut and he couldn't programme the meter so it wasn't installed. The numerous power cuts were inconvenient for us, but something our Ghanaian friends have to live with on a daily basis. The last day of our visit a temporary connection was hooked up so we could actually see the lights on and the fans turning—won't the children be happy when they return from their break.

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Welcome Bishop Victor

The Petersfield Deanery hosted Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe from Cape Coast at the end of January. Bishop Victor came to the UK for a Bishop's Conference in Canterbury and spent a week in Portsmouth beforehand. Barbara Shaw, Petersfield IDWAL Representative, organized his programme and he was hosted by Louise and Henry Clay, Louise having been to Ghana in 2007 as part of a Deanery trip.

The week in Portsmouth was filled with activities starting with afternoon tea with Bishop Christopher before the confirmation service in the cathedral on the 24th of January. On Sunday morning he attended St. Mary's Liss before the IDWAL event at St. Peter's (see below). Monday there was a visit to Froxfield Primary School, including lunch, before an afternoon visit to a Bible Study Group.

Tuesday Bishop Victor travelled to the Isle of Wight for some time with Canon Graham Morris, the IDWAL Chairman. On the island there was an opportunity to climb to the top of All Saints' tower for the scenic view as well as supervise the building work going on inside All Saints' Church. Back on the ground it was time to retire to Quarr Abbey for some respite and a tour of the inner parts of the abbey with Fr Gregory. The evening finished off with a curry meal at Monsoon with some of the island Ghana supporters.

Wednesday saw the Bishop back in Portsmouth for the midday communion service in the Cathedral followed by lunch with members of the Portsmouth IDWAL Com-



Bishop Victor as apprentice bell ringer at All Saints Ryde and visiting Froxfield Primary School.



mittee. The Bishop's visit also included a lunch meeting with the Petersfield Chapter and an evening with the Deanery IDWAL group.

Following Morning Prayer at St. John's West Meon, Bishop Victor was taken to Canterbury on the 30th of January for the conference.

Visiting at the end of January Bishop Victor was even "treated" to haggis at a Burn's Night Supper.

Celebration Event

On Sunday the 25th of January there was an IDWAL Celebration Event at St. Peter's Church in Petersfield. Bishop Victor was the special guest of honour.

The afternoon started at 2.00 with table top displays from the various Portsmouth Deaneries to highlight their links in Ghana as well as a display from Us (USPG) to highlight their work in Africa. Light refreshments were also on offer.

At 4.00 there was an evensong service which included a discussion of the links between the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Church in Ghana, led by Bishop Christopher. The IDWAL prayer was used in the service and in his comments Bishop Victor highlighted the links at the beginning of the prayer. "Lord God, we thank you that

in your wisdom and through your Spirit, you have given different and complementary gifts to your Church in different places."

It was a touching significant moment when Bishop Christopher handed his crosier to Bishop Victor to give the blessing at the end of the service.

Expectations were exceeded with over 120 people in attendance.

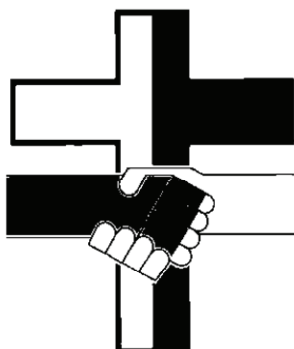


IDWAL

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

Sending Money to Ghana

Most of us have sent money to our links in Ghana at one time or another. However, bank transfer charges can be quite high especially when sending smaller amounts. An easy way to send smaller amounts of money is via MoneyGram.



The MoneyGram website is very user friendly at www.moneygram.co.uk

The website has a locator to find the nearest agent to you and also the locations in Ghana where money can be received. I use the agent at my local Thomas Cook.

To send money fill out a sending form, hand over the form and money and the agent will complete the transaction. You will receive an 8 digit Reference Number to give to the recipient so they can go and claim the funds from their local agent.

The sending fee depends on the amount of money being sent. You can send up to £100 for only £4.90 and up to £250 for only £9.90. The fee is either paid extra or deducted from the amount you send.

Journey with Us

Us, the new name for USPG offers short-term placements with the world church for

people of all ages and backgrounds through their *Journey with Us* programme. The programme provides an opportunity to experience the life and mission of the church in another culture. For over 50 years placements have been arranged for volunteers from 18 to 80 years of age. There is also the Expanding Horizons programme for clergy undertaking sabbaticals or ordinands in training.

One of the *Journey with Us* volunteers is Keri Winter, a school teacher in her early 30s. She has been in Ghana since August 2014. Based in Sekondi, she is teaching kindergarten for a year at St. Mark's in Essikadu. She started in just one classroom but has had to move around teaching in all the different classes because all the children wanted the “white lady teacher” in their class. She will return to UK at the beginning of August this year.

For more information about the programme check out the Us website at: www.weareus.org.uk/



Diary Dates 2015

**11 June - IDWAL
Committee meeting**

**3 September - IDWAL
Committee meeting**

**3 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