

# Pompey West Africa Links

November 2009

Issue No 6

## Great Jubilation in Sunyani over God's call to Bishop Festus

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For this issue the Profile Feature moves from inside to the front page to profile the new Bishop of Sunyani. Marion Syms, link officer from Portsmouth Cathedral reports:

The Episcopal Ordination, Consecration and Enthronement of the Rev'd Canon Dr Festus Yeboah-Asuamah as Bishop of Sunyani by the Most Rev'd Dr Justice Akrofi (Archbishop and Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa and Bishop of Accra) and the Bishops of the Province, took place in St Anselm's Cathedral, Sunyani, on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Four members of our Portsmouth Cathedral congregation, partnered with St Anselm's Cathedral, together with the IDWAL chairman, Canon Terry Loudon, were privileged to be present for this most wonderful and joyful service which lasted for exactly seven hours. The weather remained fine for the adjoining CCTV relay and subsequent near-by reception.

The Grand Entrance was led by Mother Felicia and all five children (Paul, Festus, Afua, Grace and Bertha) were present together with Bishops from across the Province of West Africa. Our Link Officer, Fr Martin Amankwah, was Bishop's Chaplain. There were moments of palpable solemnity: the Litany for Consecration, the Examination and actual Consecration during the singing of *Veni Creator Spiritus* followed by All to Jesus I Surrender. At other times the Cathedral pulsated with praise led by choirs from the gallery, and the exuberant congregational dancing in the wonderful spacious building could scarcely be contained.

Bishop Festus, born at Berekum (Brong Ahafo), heard God's call to ministry and was ordained Deacon (age of 24) in the Diocese of Kumasi, where he has subsequently served in a variety of parish, Cathedral and Academic appointments. His studies have taken him to Kumasi (KNUST), Legon and Los Angeles (USA), gathering



Diploma, Bachelor, Masters (3) and Doctorate qualifications along the way.

There has been an Anglican presence in Brong Ahafo (at Nkoranza) since 1929 and the Anglican Church of St Anselm (Sunyani) dates back to 1962. The Diocese was formed in 1997 and the present Cathedral built and dedicated in 2003, although many of the original faithful pioneers are no longer alive. Building on these foundations from the past, the enthronement of Bishop Festus marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of the Cathedral and Diocese. Bishop Festus' vision is for excellence in preaching, teaching and spirituality in the Diocese to 'produce the character of Christ and evangelize for his kingdom'. His priority will be for training of clergy and laity alike.

A notable highlight for the Portsmouth visitors was a two-hour meeting next day with Bishop Festus and other Diocesan/Cathedral Officers, culminating in joining hands to sing 'Bind us together, Lord'. How humble and honoured we feel to be able share fellowship in the gospel and stand alongside such beautiful brothers and sisters in Christ. "

Everyone from IDWAL (Portsmouth) offers heartfelt prayers and congratulations to the new bishop.

*Linda*

### IDWAL Committee

- Chairman, Canon Terry Loudon
- Secretary, Marion Syms
- Treasurer, Alan Hoad
- Publicity, Hazel Young
- Bishop's Waltham, Revd Bruce Dean
- Cathedral, Marion Syms
- Fareham, Linda Forster
- Gosport, Revd John Draper
- Havant, Angela Herring
- IOW, David Tamcken
- Petersfield, Geoffrey Barwick
- Portsmouth, Mary Goodwin

#### Also:

- MU, Molly Morris
- CMS, Robin Green

## Bishops Waltham Deanery Visit to Wiawso

Janice Romer

I left home very early on Thursday 24 September 2009 for Ghana with my two new colleagues, Revd Bruce Deans and Laura Cameron. We had a very informative planning pack, a bag full of medicines and kit "just in case" and three of our six suitcases full of presents for those we hoped to meet there. We were all somewhat apprehensive and worried that we may not live up to the expectations of the Deanery Synod or cope with what we might see. We did indeed find parts of the trip difficult, particularly the food and the long trips across hot dusty roads, but the welcome we received and the support and friendship we gained from each other far exceeded our expectations. We were overwhelmed by the need we witnessed but inspired by the resilience, dignity and hope of the remarkable people we met. They were happy and content in so many ways. We were touched and encouraged by their love of Jesus and faith in God and it was a great privilege to spend time and worship with them.



With the PCC Ayinabrim

We were whisked off to the Diocesan Synod where we learnt a lot more about the area and its people and this continued throughout the rest of our visit. We spent the rest of our time in the Diocese visiting the local parishes, 17 out of the 19 currently in existence, together with a number of their outstations, schools and health centres. Everywhere we went we found the people to be wonderful, welcoming, excited about meeting white visitors from overseas and very hopeful for the possible link with our Deanery. Access to a number of the parishes was difficult as the roads were very dusty and full of enormous potholes. It was often very hot and humid and

after heavy rainfall travel became even more difficult.

We heard that the schools are having great difficulty coping. There are not enough teachers, books and space for the pupils. One kindergarten we visited had 400 4 to 6 year olds occupy 3 tiny classrooms with each child sitting on a small cross on the floor. The teachers told us that the level of



literacy is low in some areas, particularly amongst the women. This is beginning to improve following a campaign to encourage girls to attend school. "If you educate a girl you educate a nation, if you educate a boy you educate an individual" was the favourite saying of Mabel, wife of Archdeacon Alfred and a leading light in the local Mothers Union.

We ended our journey convinced that any link with the people of Wiawso would benefit and enrich both the people of Wiawso and those in the Bishops Waltham Deanery. We have recommended to our Deanery that links be developed between clusters of parishes in the Bishops Waltham area and individual parishes, together with their outstations, in Wiawso. There are a number of projects that we might support with some interesting income generation schemes. We might also support building projects such as church buildings, school building improvements, mission houses, motorbikes for priests and teaching resources and equipment. One attractive initiative we observed in action was the Happy Child Fund supported by St Johns, Locks Heath.

I would like to finish by thanking the Deanery Synod for giving us this fantastic opportunity, for Bruce Deans for his excellent planning and for keeping us on track throughout the visit, Laura for her sense of humour and most importantly all the amazing people we met across the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana. It was a privilege and joy to spend time with the lovely people of this diocese and Laura and I would love to lead a further trip in the near future, God willing.

**The Diocese of Wiawso is quite remote, situated in the Western Region bordering on the Ivory Coast. It was carved out of the Diocese of Sekondi in 2006.**



"Thumbs up Laura" at Ayinabrim Primary.

## Petersfield Deanery Events

During September there were two opportunities to “dress Ghanaian” in Petersfield Deanery.

On the 9th of September Petersfield Deanery hosted a “Ghana Evening” at St. John the Baptist Church in Greatham. About 50 people gathered for a Ghanaian meal followed by several interesting speakers. Mrs Sylvia Bovington spoke about the visit to Sheet by the churchwarden from their link at St. James’s Church Elmina. Mrs Emily Greinke, a teacher at East Meon Primary School, spoke about school links and her 2007 visit to St. Cyprian’s Junior School in Cape Coast. The Revd. Canon Joseph Bain-Doodu from Cape Coast, now

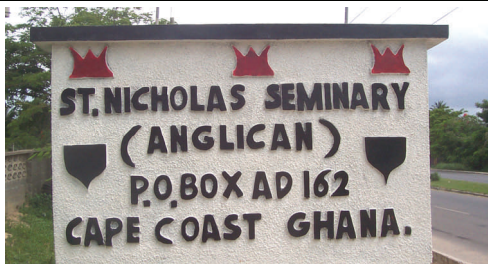
living in Portsmouth while he studies in the UK, spoke eloquently on the value of the IDWAL links. The special guest speaker was Rt Revd. Daniel Allotey, Bishop of Cape Coast, who had just arrived in the UK that day to attend the farewell service for Bishop Kenneth.

There was also another chance to hear Bishop Daniel when he preached at the evening service in All Saints Church in Steep on Sunday, 13 September. Despite the cold many came in Ghanaian dress, including the young, inventive daughter of the church warden - her lovely Ghanaian dress was actually one of her father’s Ghanaian shirts worn with a belt.



**Bishop Daniel preaching in All Saints Steep.**

## St Nicholas Seminary News



On Tuesday, 6 October there were two completely different events happening at the seminary. Outside there were men with sledge hammers demolishing the former chapel building. Inside the new building, in the temporary chapel, a service was being held for the inauguration of the new governing council of the seminary - building up and tearing down.

At the inauguration service a local benefactor of the seminary was honoured with a

commendation and it was announced that he has given a parcel of land to the seminary to build a new chapel that will be used both by the seminary and the local community. A new accommodation block is proposed on the site of the former chapel.



**The Cadbury  
Cocoa  
Partnership is  
now active  
across 100  
Ghanaian  
communities.**

## Fairtrade Cadbury and Ghana



January 2009 saw Cadbury announce that their Cocoa Partnership was now active across 100 Ghanaian communities, marking the 100th anniversary of cocoa trading with Ghana. In March

2009 Fairtrade certification was announced for Cadbury Dairy Milk and the first Fairtrade marked bars came on the shelves in the UK in July 2009. This has already resulted in a Fairtrade social premium of £500,000 being transferred back to Ghana.

Janice Romer recently visited Wiawso Diocese in Ghana and says, “ We saw much evidence of small-scale farming, the main occupation, with people of all ages harvesting the seasonal crops including oil

palm, cocoa, plantain, cassava, yams, coconuts and tomatoes. Most villages had electricity and well water, thanks to a project with the Cadbury Foundation, but plumbing to individual homes was rare. “

Fairtrade Cadbury was launched with a TV advert filmed in Ghana with a cast of hundreds including a huge wooden carved head, a hip-life music recording star named Tinny, a dance troupe, cocoa farmers and local community members.

If you would like to know more, why not check out the Cadbury website [www.cadbury.com/ourresponsibilities](http://www.cadbury.com/ourresponsibilities) where you can read all about the Cadbury Foundation and the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership. The website also has a YouTube link to the advert video.

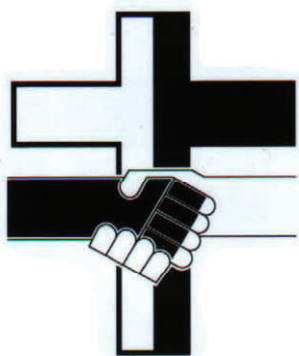


## IDWAL

### Pompey West Africa Links

Edited by:  
Linda Forster  
5 Brookside  
Gosport, Hants PO13 0YS

Phone: (01329) 231544  
Email:  
stulin@stulin.demon.co.uk



IDWAL, The Inter Diocesan West Africa Link, promotes companion links between the Dioceses of Portsmouth, Chichester and Guildford and the Anglican Provinces of West Africa and Nigeria. Most 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.

## Bits and Pieces

### Diary Dates

2009

**10 December -  
IDWAL Committee  
Meeting**

**13 December -  
Ghana Presentation  
at Holy Rood Church,  
Stubbington 3.00pm**

2010

**October - Fareham  
Deanery Ghana trip.**

**Lots of other link  
visits?**

### Ghana Mobile Phone

Stuart and Linda Forster have purchased a Ghanaian mobile phone (Vodafone network). During our 20 days in Ghana it was very useful and much, much cheaper than using our UK mobile. We used just over 5 cedis credit for all the calls we made. Marion Syms borrowed the phone for her October visit for the consecration of the new Bishop of Sunyani and said, “The phone was absolutely invaluable. I am not sure how we would have managed without it, especially when trying to connect with the Nkawie Retreat Centre. We used it mainly for receiving calls. Our number spread around Ghana like wildfire - with people checking on our progress every hour or so!!” If you would like to borrow the phone for your next visit to Ghana, please contact Linda or Stuart

### Ancient & Modern

The Anglican Church of Ghana Hymn Book is a combination Book of Common Prayer and Ancient & Modern hymns. I will get prices and details from Fr Oscar in Kumasi and report further in the next newsletter for anyone interested.

### IDWAL Insurance

If you are going to Ghana and making use of the IDWAL insurance, please contact Revd. Canon Terry Loudon to arrange for coverage. He is now the new contact person.

### Bishop Kenneth in Cape Coast

Bishop Kenneth’s portrait now hangs in the Library at St. Nicholas Seminary in Cape Coast. Terry Loudon took the portrait with him on his recent visit. The portrait was swathed in bubble wrap and marked FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE and travelled as ‘oversize baggage!’ The journey was via Amsterdam (with a change of planes), so Terry was anxious lest Kenneth end up as a Dutch Master!

However, KLM kept him safe, and on the morning of Friday 23 October, Terry was able to present the portrait to the staff and seminarians at St. Nicholas. They thanked Kenneth for the gift, and for his support of the Seminary, and wished Terry to pass on the assurance of their continuing prayers.

