

NEW PROJECT

The Group is currently raising £5,768 for a new project in Uganda. The money will help finance the construction of large water tanks in the ground and related piping/pumps for St Martin de Porres parish centre (with schools) in Lukome, near Gulu in Northern Uganda. NB: The centre is outside the area that the government supplies with water/sewerage. Local people rely now on (1) dirty spring water from the valley-the supply of clean water from the tanks will reduce the risk of outbreaks of diseases like cholera, typhoid and dysentery; as well as (2) two boreholes which are often dry. The project will complement, not replace these sources. Around 1,400 people a day including 1,100 primary/nursery school children and their teachers are expected to use the tank water. The local community in this poor and remote area, who suffered greatly during the 21 year long civil war which ended in 2007, is itself contributing to the project; this will include 5% of the cost, crushed stone, sand, some of the labour etc. A committee will be formed to oversee the project and Father David Kolo, who has worked in parishes near ours and Dennis Cooper from Our Lady of Lourdes has visited, is leading the work. Our aim is to send the total amount, against receipts, by the end of February- the first £2,000 was sent on 1st February – so that the project can, if possible, be completed before the wet season which begins around April. In order to achieve this, the Pakistan project which we intended to do in December/January, will be funded instead in March/ April.

FINANCE

On January 9th. donations of £1,165.66 were credited to our account. A further £ 602.50 from the Barn Dance, £890 from the Lea Singers Christmas concert and £683.30 from the Green Box collection on January 20th. /21st. has also been paid in. The Green Box total is tremendous, especially as this excludes a large number of Green Boxes handed in one by one over the last year.

Thank you and all your friends from outside the Parish who have contributed so generously by coming to these events: you have made this project possible.