

FUND-RAISING

The funding (over £20,000) for these projects came from standing orders (about £4,600), cash/cheque donations, Green Boxes & Gift Aid (nearly £2,000 each) and fund raising events (over £6,000).

Events included a Spanish wine tasting, the Banish the Blues Supper and Strawberry Social (both organised by the Ladies Group), a 'tea and cakes' Garden Party, manning the Welwyn GC 'charity car park' for a day, the Golf Day, Pop-up Opera's Hansel and Gretel and the Lea Singers Christmas concert.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018

BARN DANCE	20 JANUARY
GREEN BOXES RECALL	27/28 JANUARY
AUCTION OF PROMISES	21 APRIL
GARDEN PARTY	9 JUNE
GOLF DAY	20 JULY
POP-UP OPERA	17 NOVEMBER

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT

If you are interested in finding out more about the Group including helping in any way, please contact the chair, Julia Roche – tel 01582 760295 or juliaandnigel057@gmail.com – or see the Parish website. Gift Aid & Standing Order forms are available in the vestibule.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH HARPENDEN DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP PROJECT REPORT FOR 2017

This newsletter aims to describe briefly the projects that the Parish funded in 2017 and thank all who helped in this by coming to fundraising events, donating etc.

1 PATTAYA, THAILAND JIT-WIN-YAN JEWELLERY PROJECT



This project was undertaken with Safe Child Thailand, a charity working to safeguard and empower at-risk children in Thailand, as well as providing vocational training for vulnerable, exploited women in Pattaya, a notorious destination for sex tourism and human trafficking.

SCT have a partnership in Pattaya with the Good Shepherd Sisters who run a day care centre for street children and give women the chance to learn vocational skills. We donated £6,600 to fund courses to enable women to

create/ sell their own jewellery thus helping to change their & their children's lives.

2 NORTHERN UGANDA MOYO BABIES' HOME

The Group funded the refurbishment/ redecoration (for £2471) of the flushing lavatory block at Moyo Babies' Home, where orphaned and at-risk 0-5 year olds, many from conflict zones, are looked after. It had developed cracks which are potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes, exacerbating the threat of malaria. The work, in association with the International Refugee Trust (IRT) provides the children with a much cleaner, healthier environment in which to recover their joy in life.



3**GODE,
SOMALI REGION OF ETHIOPIA****TABOR HOME FOR THE
SICK AND DYING**

This summer we donated £5,393 to help furnish and equip Tabor Home, a refuge for those who have nothing and no-one else. It was built by a small Catholic "mission of mercy" based in the garrison town of Gode (see <http://missionofhope.co.uk/>), 100km from the border with Somalia. The mission offers shelter, food, work and nursery care to women who want to find a new way of life, having suffered greatly through the time of warfare. As of May 2017, a regional drought and diarrhoea contributed to a daily death toll of 5-9 a day in the town. Our donation was for tables, chairs, medicine cupboards, trolleys, and an oxygen concentrator which is already easing the suffering of desperately ill people (see photo). Sister Mary Joachim, who hails from Herts, spoke here in October to explain the work she carries out with Father Sartorius at the Mission.

**4****WAU,
SOUTH SUDAN****COMBONI
CATHOLIC HOSPITAL**

The Group paid (£5,016) for essential medical equipment for safe deliveries in childbirth especially caesarean births, at the St Daniel Comboni Catholic Hospital in Wau, South Sudan's second largest city, namely nebulisers (for respiration and for the delivery of medicine in a mist-like form), plus patient and foetal monitors. The beneficiaries include a large number of refugees (a third of Wau's population) from the north and the poor who often travel from afar for treatment despite drought and civil war. The Group donated to the Comboni Sisters via the IRT.

**5****DUNDEE DIOCESE, NORTHERN NATAL,
SOUTH AFRICA****YOUTH
PROJECT**

In December the Group donated £680 to provide a stove, dining table and six chairs for a youth centre (in the high veld township of Embalenhle Mpumalanga) which relies entirely on donations. It mainly helps orphans from across the township, many of whom have lost parents and carers to HIV/AIDS, and who meet and learn practical skills at the centre. The priest working with the local community on this & other projects, Father Gostling, has worked with Sister Regina in the past, and met with Group members here in October.

6**THAR PARKAR DESERT,
SOUTH EAST PAKISTAN****WATER
PUMP**

The Group will shortly donate around £1500 to the Columban Fathers to help provide a large hand pump for a village in the Thar Parkar desert in South East Pakistan. This project, involving local people, will benefit this mainly low caste Hindu community, including their health. Feedback including photos of Projects 5 & 6 to follow.