

Together with the Live Simply Group we organised a collection of unwanted tools and equipment in support of Workaid, a Chesham-based charity which collects old tools, haberdashery items and gardening equipment. The Church Undercroft was so full that it was doubtful whether the van would take it all, but some 3-D jigsaw work meant it just about did. In total, the collection amounted to more than a tonne of good quality items which might otherwise have gone to landfill. One donor, whose severe arthritis meant she could no longer use her sewing machine, said she was delighted to know that someone in need would now be able to use it instead. The tools/equipment will now be refurbished and sent to help improve the lives of some of the poorest people in Africa by enabling them to learn a trade.



FUNDRAISING

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and their friends, almost £14,000 was raised to fund DWG projects in 2019. These monies stemmed from standing orders, cash/cheque donations of £6,935 (including a donation from the Blues Supper organised by the Ladies Group), the Green Box collection which raised £1,250, an HMRC gift aid rebate of £1,900, along with fundraising events which raised £3862. These comprised a Taste of Brazil afternoon (in which the young and old of the parish learnt to play and sing Brazilian music and taste Brazilian food), a Quiz Night, a Golf Day, a Barn Dance, the summer Tea in the Garden/Plant Sale, and an Evening of Song by the Felici Opera.

The DWG section (under Parish Groups) of the Parish website sets out information about the Group (objectives, projects, history etc), whilst the Parish Newsletter provides short updates. Should you have ideas on the Group's work e.g. projects, or wish to join, please contact Jon Carr at joncarr@gmail.com. If you wish to donate via a Standing Order and/or register for Gift Aid, please see the DWG Finance page on the parish website or contact Noel Whittle at noel.whittle@btinternet.com.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT IN 2019



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP PROJECT REPORT FOR 2019



The Group donated to projects in Africa, Asia and South America, to improve educational, health and economic outcomes; and with Live Simply, organised a collection of unwanted tools to be refurbished and used abroad. Nearly £14,000 was raised from donations and six fundraising events.

1 KISUMU, KENYA

BUSINESS TRAINING & MICROFINANCE

£2,850 was donated in late 2018 to fund a further phase of a programme in Kisumu, where Just Small Change (JSC) works with a local Catholic Non-Governmental Organisation, Our Lady of Perpetual Support. They reach out to vulnerable women (and occasionally men) who are poor, widowed, frequently uneducated and often sick (due to HIV); and who not only bring up their own children, but orphans from other family members too.



We funded 25 of the 34 people on the May 2019 course, of whom 14 were HIV+ and at least 10 were widows. Most new clients already have a small business. With 5 days of business/financial training and additional capital (a £75 loan), the programme enables their businesses to be developed, increasing their income to make them less vulnerable and provide better for basic needs. JSC's impact analysis report is available at http://www.justsmallchange.org.uk/images/Reports/Impact_report_2018-19.pdf

2	PHETCHABUN, THAILAND	DROWNING PREVENTION & WATER SAFETY
<p>In 2018, we donated £4,000 to Safe Child Thailand to help roll out its Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Programme to an additional Thai province, Phetchabun, Drowning is a leading cause of child death in Asia, and the Thai Ministry of Health estimates that over 1,300 children drown each year because they cannot swim. The programme aims to equip children with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent drowning through providing swimming lessons, water safety measures and basic first aid. Having been delayed by intense flooding, the courses were completed in June 2019, with sixty children meeting the required standard. All children significantly improved in skills and confidence in the water, and the programme will continue through local finance.</p>		

3	BRASILIA, BRAZIL	MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE FAVELA CHILDREN
<p>The £1,000 proceeds from the December 2018 Christmas Concert and a Taste of Brazil event at St Dominic's in February 2019 were sent to support the Recycling Sounds Institute, a Brazilian charity which teaches music to children in Brasilia who live around the largest rubbish dump in Latin America where many of their parents work. The money was used to buy and maintain stringed instruments for the children. These greatly disadvantaged children develop self respect, acquire musical skills and learn to play as a team. There is no public funding so the orchestra relies completely on donations.</p>		

4	NZARA, SOUTH SUDAN	INCUBATOR FOR PREMATURE BABIES
<p>£3,755 was provided to the International Refugee Trust (IRT) to purchase a new incubator for premature babies at St Therese mission hospital in Nzara. This hospital is run by the Comboni Sisters and medical staff, who work tirelessly, barely coping with the huge influx of patients. This hospital desperately needed a new incubator for premature babies. This is a vital, lifesaving piece of equipment. Many babies are born early and/or in poor health due to the appalling living conditions their mothers suffer during pregnancy. A new incubator will help the medical staff to support these babies through the tenuous first stages of their life, in particular babies who are born prematurely (before 37 weeks' gestation); with a medical condition which needs treatment; or with a low birthweight.</p>		

5	KANGALUMIRA DISTRICT, UGANDA	PLAYGROUND
<p>We donated £3,800 to add to funds required by a local charity, Orphans Know More, to build a playground with play equipment and training in play therapy for the Kyabato primary school in Uganda. The local charity worked with an NGO, East Africa Playgrounds, with experience of working on projects with the United Nations Refugee Agency and other international bodies. The government had threatened to close the school if it did not develop its playground. The school is the social hub for the community providing education and a community centre.</p>		

6	ALEBTONG DISTRICT, UGANDA	MOTORBIKE FOR STEP UP TRAINING
<p>We donated £3,433 to the International Refugee Trust (IRT) towards the cost of a replacement motorbike. It will help its partner charity in Uganda, the</p>		
<p>Organisation for Community Action (OCA) to deliver the Step Up training programme. It will transport OCA staff to train poor families scattered over a very wide area regarding farming techniques, sanitation, nutrition and other matters. The programme has already transformed nearly 14,000 lives in the Alebtong District of northern Uganda. These were people living a hand-to-mouth existence in absolute, dire poverty. Families that were used to eating only one meal a day have been able to boost their food production quickly by planting kitchen gardens with basic foodstuffs. They have then gone on to learn improved agricultural techniques and, once they have met immediate household needs, been able to sell excess produce and improve their lives.</p>		

7	POKHARA, NEPAL	EDUCATION
<p>We donated £1,596 to allow three students from difficult and very poor backgrounds to complete higher education, which is needed for entry to numerous careers. They are studying hotel management, management and science, respectively. We worked with a Harpenden-based charity, the Nepal Development Association, which has supported the students' upbringing.</p>		