

DIOCESE OF RIPON AND LEEDS

Global Horizons

November
2011

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Sri Lanka's Bishops visiting the diocese in January

In January 2012 Bishop Dhilo (pictured below) and Bishop Shantha will be visiting our diocese and we look forward to welcoming them. Although they have both been here before this will be their first visit since they were consecrated bishops and it will be a wonderful opportunity to meet them, hear them preach



and find out more about their work in the Church of Ceylon.

Our link with Sri Lanka began over twenty years ago and since then there have been many reciprocal visits between our diocese and that beautiful island. Some of our parishes and deaneries have made links with particular parishes and churches and they have

supported one another with letters, prayers and visits. Schools here also have partner schools in Sri Lanka and funding from the British Council has enabled teachers and students to experience education in a different setting and culture.

Those from the diocese who have visited Sri Lanka have been able to experience the wonderful hospitality of the country, appreciate the beautiful scenery, celebrate the many festivals, worship in other languages and begin to understand what it means to be a Christian in a Buddhist country.

They have seen the way

Below : The road to Kandy

the church worked with the communities after the devastation of the tsunami and practically and spiritually supported the victims of the civil war.

The link has enabled us to have a greater understanding of another country and a greater appreciation of what it means to belong to the Anglican Communion. We hope this visit will strengthen our link and give both bishops a valuable experience of the work of the church in this diocese .

Barbara Belsham

Please pray for our links with Sri Lanka. Could your Church support the David Young Sri Lanka Fund this coming Lent?



More information about our link on the diocesan website or contact Barbara on 0113 273 7192

O Little Town of Bethlehem . . .



BISHOP TO SPEAK ABOUT HIS TIME AT BETHLEHEM CHECKPOINT

Richard Llewellyn, (pictured) former Bishop of Dover and Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of Canterbury, will be speaking at **Ripon Cathedral on 17th January 2012** about his recent stay in Palestine as a monitor at the Bethlehem checkpoint. Those who have been on pilgrimage will be aware that Palestinians have to go through Israeli checkpoints as they travel around Palestine itself and if they travel into Israel. They were placed there by Israel to prevent suicide bombers from killing innocent Israelis. The World Council of Churches runs a programme which places monitors at a number of those checkpoints.

The process of going through checkpoints can be degrading. At the Bethlehem checkpoint, for example, Palestinian workers who work in Jerusalem or in

other areas around the city often begin queuing at anything from three o'clock in the morning to ensure that they arrive at work on time. They queue in fenced channels, often being pushed by those behind them who are frustrated that they may arrive at work late – and not be paid. Each person passes in front of an Israeli soldier who checks that he or she has the relevant pass



At the checkpoint

Remember that in the case of the Bethlehem checkpoint Palestinians are having to queue in order to work in what is technically their own country. Many of those going through the turnstiles work in East Jerusalem or in neighbouring villages which are part of Palestine and not part of

Israel.

Many Israeli soldiers, most aged 19 or just above, treat the Palestinians with dignity. Many, however, worn out by long hours of being on checkpoint duty, do not. Some soldiers admit that when they are on checkpoint duty they behave in a way which becomes neither their profession nor their religion. Some use at least some of their time on duty to be awkward.

At 7.00 pm in Ripon Cathedral Bishop Richard will be telling of his experiences at the Bethlehem checkpoint – including starting work at around 3.00 in the morning! Listening to him will give a flavour of what Palestinians have to cope with – for some, on a daily basis. His talk will give some background to Archbishop Rowan William's call for churches to become more aware of what is happening to Christians in Palestine.

The Middle East Focus Group in the diocese is chaired by Bishop Clive Handford.



If you wish to join the focus group or would like more information about its work, contact Bishop Clive on 01423 325406



ARE YOU A FAIRTRADE CHURCH?



Becoming a Fairtrade church is one great way of showing your concerns for God's world and its peoples. To become a recognized Fairtrade church your PCC should pledge to:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings and services
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, chocolate, fruit)
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the year

Please contact Adrian Alker at the diocesan office for more information or go to the fairtrade website www.fairtrade.org.uk

MOTHERS' UNION WORLDWIDE

Ripon & Leeds Diocesan Mothers' Union has links with six dioceses worldwide: three in Uganda (Luweero, Mukono, Namirembe), two in Nigeria (Gwagwalada, Wusasa) and Bathurst in Australia. Our Overseas Link, Ros Dobbin, endeavours to keep in touch with letters, cards and e-mails, but sometimes communication is haphazard.

However, news does reach us of projects being undertaken, most recently in Namirembe where they pray for the construction of a new building for offices and projects. They are also hosting a conference for Ugandan women, entitled "And you shall be my witness". It will be packed with relevant bible teaching, inspiring worship and practical seminars, focussed particularly on young women. The President of Mukono Diocese Mothers' Union, Maggie Kanyali, visited our Diocese recently. She spoke of the projects

with which they try to empower women, to help them pay children's school fees and make them less dependent on their husbands: computer skills, nursery school teaching, and jewellery making, for instance. They also visit the prisons, taking food, clothing and toiletries for the prisoners. In most African countries, where polygamy is common, only the first wife may join Mothers' Union. In the poorest of our Ugandan Dioceses, Luweero, the Mothers' Union Family Life Programme is teaching people the skills they need to improve their families' lives and wellbeing.

Barbara Packer and Carolyn Peulevé visited our two Nigerian links last year, and were very warmly received, visiting many parishes and witnessing the hardship of their lives and also their vibrant faith. In Wusasa Diocese, the Bishop's wife and M.U. President, Mary Lamido, (pictured above)

has formed a Maternal Health Group of doctors, nurses and midwives, who together try to improve the chance of survival of mothers and babies in remote villages.

In an area where farming can only really happen during the short rainy season, Mary has a dream of building a Skills Centre, where women can be taught a marketable skill, and also given basic health training to take back to their villages. We hope to help her raise the money to do this.

In the Diocese of Bathurst, which is in New South Wales, we have heard how the farmers have been suffering from a plague of mice. Some crops have had to be re-sown as the mice ate the grains sown previously. Members are involved in praying for good rains.

Our Wave of Prayer covers Mothers' Unions throughout the World, but it is a privilege to have detailed knowledge of these six Dioceses and to pray with them.

Barbara Packer

To find out more about the work of the Mothers Union in our diocese visit the MU website: www.muriponleeds.org



Does your parish have a Mothers Union and do you want to find out more about our international links?

Contact Ros Dobbin

at:

rosdobbin@aol.com

Mothers' Union is a vibrant network of 3.6 million people across the world, each serving their local community to encourage a better quality of life for all and an end to poverty.

Working at grassroots level through projects, trainings and advocacy work, Mothers' Union seeks to empower, develop and uplift people and their communities.



Margaret Kanyali, M.U. President of Mukono, Uganda visits St. Bartholomew's in Armley, Leeds this summer

CHRISTIAN AID challenging and serving the churches



Bearing Witness at the recent Christian Aid/CAFOD/TearFund day in Manchester

Go to the Christian Aid website for all you need to know about its work and resources: www.christianaid.org.uk

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Christian Aid works globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. CA is part of a wider movement for social justice.

Think of the many issues which folk in your church might feel passionate about—poverty, tax evasion, climate change.

Christian Aid campaigns in all these areas and provides help, ideas and resources for your church. There are special resources for children and young people.

Churches can support Christian Aid's work in all kinds of ways—special collections, Christian Aid week, buying Christmas cards, encouraging individuals to give regularly to Christian Aid.

The regional office in Leeds is on hand to help you. Contact

Lindsey Pearson on 0113 244 4764 or email her on LPearson@christian-aid.org

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USPG in Zimbabwe

The recent visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Zimbabwe has highlighted the persecution of Anglicans in Zimbabwe's Diocese of Harare.

In Harare, Anglican priests and congregations are being harrassed by the ex-communicated bishop Dr Nolbert Kunonga, who wants to take charge of all Anglican buildings and set up his own church.

The mission society **USPG** is providing practical assistance to the church in Zimbabwe. Visit the USPG website for insights about the situation in Zimbabwe and pray for our Anglican sisters and brothers in that country.

USPG and the fight against AIDS

USPG is also active in the fight against AIDS. On the USPG website there are resources to help your church mark World AIDS Day on December 1st.

Resources include a bible study, ideas for a church service, DVD, PowerPoints and a poster.

To order for a HIV/AIDS resource pack, contact enquiries@uspg.org.uk

Key statistics

- Approximately 33 million people were living with HIV in 2007 (latest figure).
- The number of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa is 22 million.
- In 2007, approximately 2 million children aged under 15 years were living with HIV; 1.8 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

REMEMBER WORLD AIDS DAY—DECEMBER 1ST

The Global Horizons Task Group serves the Council for Mission and aims to encourage and help parishes in their awareness of global issues and the world wide Church. We hope that as a diocese we can be aware of the needs of the peoples of God's world and committed to Christ's mandate to love our neighbours whoever and wherever they may be. To join the task group and for more information contact Bishop James.