

Projects cont'd

Websites: There are three websites:

- www.companionshiplinks.co.uk This website enables individuals in the project to register their contact details. It also provides up to date information on the links projects.
- www.anglicandiocesekaduna.com is a website created for the Kaduna diocese who now maintain it themselves.
- www.stmichaels-college.com is a website for diocesan secondary school in Kaduna. Site now maintained by school.

Contact: Jim Saxton Tel: 01295 680613 Email: saxton@tiscali.co.uk

What about the next 6 years?

All of these projects are continuing and details will be available at the Companionship Links sessions in September and October 2007. Also the website is kept up to date with latest plans and activities.

Spreading the word - those involved in the links projects are happy to give talks to parishes on all or specific projects.

How can our parish be involved in all this?

We would welcome as many parishes as we can get to help in these links projects. This can take many different forms:

- **Prayer**—the power of your prayers will enable the links to be strengthened and help those operating in difficult situations of high unemployment and marginalisation due to faith. We will provide prayer bulletins when appropriate.
- **Projects** many of these projects require funding but if this is spread over 200 parishes then a great deal can be achieved. Collection boxes can be obtained from Links website. Some of the projects will require volunteers and materials e.g. children's books.
Contact our Links Treasurer Jim Saxton Tel: 01295 680613
Email: saxton@tiscali.co.uk



Companionship Links

In 2001, Companionship links were made between:

- The Syrian Orthodox Diocese of Jerusalem, Jordan and the Holy Land
- The Anglican Diocese of Kaduna, Nigeria
- The Diocese of Coventry, England



EXTRACT FROM THE AGREEMENT

"We the undersigned, as bishops of our different dioceses hereby declare our intention to enter into a spiritual partnership. We assert that Companionship is about journeying together. The earliest believers were called followers of the way. As companions we wish to follow our Lord Jesus Christ together in His way. We understand partnership to involve listening to each other, praying for each other, learning from each other and challenging each other. We hope to share in each other's spirituality, culture and life and in the mission of God's Kingdom together. We expect to engage in common tasks and to support each other. We look forward to gaining an insight into each others' burdens and helping to bear them. We also hope to develop a world-wide understanding of the Kingdom of God."

The Companionship Links project, headed by Bishops Colin and John in the Coventry diocese, has now been operating for 6 years.

Who are our companion churches?

The Syrian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land

- **An ancient church** founded by St. Peter in Antioch in 37AD.
- **A small church** with only 4 million members worldwide.
- **A Middle eastern church** congregations in most Middle East countries with its head (patriarch) living in Damascus.
- **A minority church** existing mainly in Muslim countries.
- **An Aramaic church** which uses the language of Jesus, Aramaic, in their worship.



Tel: +44 (0) 1925 680613 **Web:** www.companionshiplinks.co.uk

The Anglican diocese of Kaduna

- **An African church** living the gospel in a different culture and situation to ourselves.
- **A growing church** which is vibrant and involves a much larger percentage of the population than in Coventry.
- **A troubled church** with riots in 2000 and 2003 resulting in hundreds of deaths and Churches burnt.
- **A reconciling church** working to forgive and also to say sorry for the sins on their community.

The diocese of Coventry

- **A diverse church** which is both urban and rural
- **A changing church** with areas of revival.
- **A church in a secular society** seeking to present Christ in an alien world.
- **A church centred on a cross of nails**—profoundly influenced by the bombing of the cathedral in 1940.
- **A reconciling church** encouraging reconciliation across the world from its new cathedral.

What has been achieved in the last 6 years?

Visits: There have been a number of exchanges of clergy and laity from Jerusalem and Kaduna to Coventry and visa versa.

Contact: Revd Charlotte Gale Tel: 02476 617706

Email: charlotte.gale@tiscali.co.uk

Bethlehem Projects:

School: For hundreds of years the Syrian Orthodox Christian community in Bethlehem had yearned for a school of their own.

At the beginning of the millennium their dream came true when the Barnabas Fund with the support of the Coventry Diocese purchased a dilapidated building in Beit Jala in the outskirts of Bethlehem suitable for conversion. Reconstruction started and in 2003 the school opened with just 15 children, as it was still dangerous to travel far due to the Intafada.

The school is now recognised as one of the best in Bethlehem with 83 children attending last year. It was necessary to build an extension to meet the growing demand and also to increase the age of the children who can attend to 12.

Contact: **John Radford** Tel: 01926 854475 Email: hjradford@tiscali.co.uk

Kaduna Projects:

Education: The Coventry diocese, initially through St. Martin's Finham, has provided teaching and computer networking at the diocesan secondary school and over 5000 books for primary aged children. Additionally 900 theological books have been provided by donations from several parishes to enable a library to be established at Jacaranda Farm. Books and funding for materials in church primary schools continues, plus teacher visits to Coventry diocese.

Contact: **Ann Saxton** Tel: 01295 680613

Email: ann.saxton@tiscali.co.uk

Jacaranda Farm: The major initiative of Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon is this farm for reconciliation. Young Christians and Muslims are able to learn about farming and also each other's religions. Coventry diocese is supporting the purchase of this farm, and has also provided a tractor and trailer.

Contact: **Jim Saxton** Tel: 01295 680613 Email: saxton@tiscali.co.uk

Medical Clinics: The Coventry diocese has been involved in establishing two clinics, one south of Kaduna at Kateri and one in the north at Yelwa-Danwata. This has taken the form of providing money for materials and drugs. A new clinic is planned to be established at Iburu, south east of Kaduna.

Contact: **Christine Cooke** Tel: 01926 813842

Email: chrisdavecooke@hotmail.com

Water Wells: Individual parishes and schools in Coventry diocese has sponsored 13 wells and bore-holes.

7 have been completed and 6 will be completed in the 2008.

Contact: **Jim Saxton** Tel: 01295 680613 Email: saxton@tiscali.co.uk

