



School for Peace Update



Spring/Summer
2020

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1151173

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Latest News from Congo

So far, there have been 18 deaths from Covid-19 in Kinshasa which has now been locked down to prevent the spread to other provinces. Although there are no known cases in Lubumbashi, the governor has taken several preventative measures, including shutting down schools, bars, restaurants and places of worship. Confinement only lasted two days as 98% of the population live from day to day and have neither money nor food to spare. The spread of the virus would be a disaster as the country has been struggling to deal with the world's worst measles outbreak. Since January 2019, 6,300 children have died from it. Malaria also hit the people badly last year. Fortunately all of the children at the school have been vaccinated against measles and as soon as there are any signs of malaria, the medical centre is just next door



The medical centre showing the two solar panels under the arrow.

caring for the children, staff and the local community. We took \$1000 last June when we met with the sisters in Zambia and they bought two solar panels and batteries to provide constant power.

The Knox Library is now finished



The completed exterior with the staffroom above

The completed interior



both inside and out. However there was not enough money to stock it and provide

shelving and a computer for further study. In February we were able to send enough to make sure this is done as soon as

possible. The toilets are now in drastic need of improvement and expansion, owing to the large number of pupils now at the school. There is no space

to extend the toilet block so a piece of land has to be purchased from the state. The sisters have met with an official from the land registry and after much negotiation will be able to purchase an area 40m by 15m for \$10,000 as land is now so expensive in the outskirts of Lubumbashi. This will be the object of our future fundraising.

Fundraising

In November 2019 we received a cheque for £1,238.25 from the pupils at Glebeland School after



their headteacher and her husband drove to the Arctic to raise money. On **15th February** we celebrated St Faustino's day at the Old Rectory in



A table set with a Congolese hand-embroidered cloth

Barsham, by kind permission of Howard Trust. £1000 was raised and 45 people enjoyed a delicious Italian meal thanks

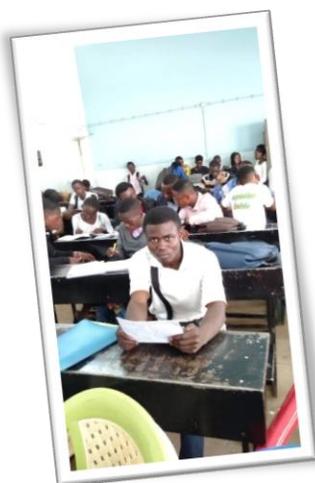
to the hard work of Adriana and Paul White.

We are very grateful for everybody's efforts.

As soon as life returns to normal, we hope to give you news of an organ recital featuring Dom Martin Gowman and Suffolk Strings, playing some of the concertos of Handel.

News from the Higher Education students

In the last newsletter we told you about three students who had all gone on to Higher Education. We managed to find funding for all of them thanks to three generous supporters.



1) Victor Ilunga Mwembo

Victor is studying Chemistry. The days are long: from 8am to 6pm as well as Saturday mornings. As part of his course he has to study English, General Biology, Citizenship*, Logic, Maths, Physics, Elements of Geology, Environment and Sustainable Development.

He could never imagine that he would be able to go to university and he thanks his sponsor for their kindness.

2) Pichouna, holding her 'diplôme d'état'.



Pichouna is studying Management and is very happy on her course. We hope to have more details of her studies in the next newsletter.

3) Joseph Muteba



Joseph is studying Psychology and the Science of Education. His subjects include Introduction to Scientific Research, Statistics, Written and Spoken French, Test Methodology and Citizenship*

He wants to thank his sponsor sincerely for their support which has enabled him to pay for the whole year. "God bless you and we promise to work hard to get the best results we can."

*Citizenship incorporates The Culture of Peace, Democracy, Good Governance, The Rights and Duties of a Citizen vis-a-vis the State and the Protection of Republican Values.

Message from Sr Virginie

We are with you in spirit and praying for you during this period of anguish as the virus spreads around the world. May Mary and St Joseph* protect you.

**They are due to celebrate the centenary of their order (the Sisters of St Joseph) this year.*

Message from Sr Angéline

I cannot find the words to thank you for the money you have sent. You never fail to help us in our mission to support the poorest children at St Benet's School for Peace. May God protect you, grant you long life and reward you a hundred fold.

Message from the Chair of the Support Group

We are truly amazed at everyone's generosity and the fact that each year we are still able to support the running of the school as well as fund its development. It takes a lot of work and we welcome anyone who would like to be involved in anyway. Thank you!

Mike Ellwood

If you can organise an event or help us in any way please contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer):
congoschool4peace@gmail.com