



The Mary Wood Trust Christmas Newsletter 2020

Christmas gives us an opportunity to look back over the past year and also a chance to look forward to the future. All over the world 2020 has been a year quite different from any other and we have had to learn to cope with the restrictions that lockdowns and social distancing have created.

Uganda has been no different and we are well aware of the hardship that no work, no markets, no church services and no schooling have had on many people. But it is not all doom and gloom and we are very pleased to be able to tell you about the Mary Wood Trust's involvement in some of the good things that have been happening there over the past six months.

At Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, the nearby spring has been protected and a permanent pipe connected to the school so that the girls will no longer have to walk for some kilometres outside the school to collect fresh water in the dry season.

The much-needed new kitchen and store have been completed, (including three new wood burning ovens) and will be put into full use early next year.

The supplies in the Fine Arts room are slowly being replenished.

5 new refurbished sewing machines have been sourced and will be delivered once the school is back in full session next year.

During the six months that the school was closed, many of the staff were not receiving any remuneration and so we gave them a small helping hand during this time.

Schools are now able to open again, but in a very restricted way. Only the O and A-Level girls are allowed back studying at school, preparing for their delayed exams next April.

At Ruth Memorial Nursery School in Kihiihi various pieces of play equipment have been mended and new items sourced. The staff and families of the young children have all received food support despite the fact that the school has been closed since March.

At Bishop Barham University two of our girls have now completed their degrees and are waiting for their results. The other four girls are facing the challenge of studying on line, using their mobile phones and very difficult internet access.

The 290 churches within Kinkiizi Diocese have struggled during the Covid restrictions, not being allowed to open for some 6 months. With no congregations there is no income and so many of the clergy have gone without. With the recent relaxation of the rules, we have provided a large number of these churches with the temperature probes that form part of the Covid protocol for each church, sourcing most of them directly from China. Hopefully by Christmas the various congregations will be able to meet again but with limited numbers in attendance.

So, as you can see, our involvement in Uganda has continued during the pandemic. Equally so here in the UK, where earlier in the year over 80 Ugandan cotton shopping bags were sold to raise money for the new sewing machines. And fundraising has continued despite the lockdown, with numerous items being sold on ebay.

As the Mary Wood Trust, we are very grateful for all the support that we receive, both financial and prayerful, and we hope that you will all have as special a Christmas as is possible in these unusual and difficult times.

Thank you.

Ann, Kath, Pippa, Peter and Clare

