

so often forgotten by the rest of the world.

We are again running our Christmas Giving scheme and we hope that you will be able to support that again this year.

With love and gratitude from the Community.

## Message from the Community

Welcome to the **Ninth Edition** of our newsletter.

Thank you all for the great interest you take in reading news of our Communities in Africa. It is encouraging to us to know that so many of our friends are engaged with the Daughters of the Resurrection through their interest and prayer.

It has been another challenging year for our African Communities. Not only have they had to deal with the usual difficulties of conflict and lack of basic essentials, but this year they have also found themselves in the region of the Congo which has been struck by Ebola. We have small community groups in Goma itself which has been at the centre of the outbreak.

Yet our sisters continue to show unbelievable courage and dedication, fuelled by their faith in the Risen Lord, which is their driving force and deepest belief.

Please continue to show an interest in this poor country and its inhabitants,



*The new Prioress and Council in Kindu, after elections in August 2019*

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## KINDU, DR CONGO

### KINDU RECEIVES AUTONOMY

At the Prioresses' Conference in March this year, the Community in Kindu received their autonomy, thus creating a second autonomous Priory in D R Congo.

The international group of Prioresses in the Association, meeting in Zaragoza, celebrated this new beginning for the Kindu sisters.



*S. Anne Marie (Kindu) lights a candle with S. Hannah (Prioress General)*

In August, the celebrations continued in Kindu, as a new Prioress was elected – S. Jacqueline Kadorho and the new Priory of the Resurrection and chapel were blessed by the Bishop, in a beautiful ceremony accompanied by some very moving songs.



The English Community gifted a brass enamelled processional cross which had been given to the Community at New Hall in 1877 and now passed on for continued use in Africa. It takes pride of place in the chapel.



*Stained glass window – new chapel in Kindu*

This special moment for Kindu also witnessed the profession of first vows of one sister, Francine and the entering into the noviciate of 4 postulants, Judith, Virginie, Christine and Marie Claire, who have been with the Community for 3 years.



There had been much preparation in advance of the ceremonies in August. The reports from the sisters earlier in the year tell the story.

## OTHER NEWS

### Postulants in training



*Postulants in class with S. Anne-Marie*

The first four postulants (young women considering religious life) in Kindu, as reported in our last newsletter had been undergoing training both practical and in the classroom. Three years of preparation and hard work, culminating in their becoming novices.

They are pictured below in July, on the day they began a month's holiday with their families, before taking their first vows.

**"They are our hope for the future!"**

*S. Anne Marie*



### The build

Hampered by heavy rains and escalating costs and availability of building materials, the building of the new Priory has been slower than had been envisaged but as you can see from the photograph, great progress has been made. The sisters have moved in, but there is still some work to be done on the ground floor accommodation and electrics. The outside of the chapel is pictured below in the foreground.



*The outside of the new Priory*

Below is the Kindu Community pictured on the steps outside the chapel in August. They would like to express their sincere thanks for all your support now and into the future.



### Medical centre

*Report by S. Jeanne Françoise*



*S. Jeanne Françoise with a young patient*

At the beginning of August 2018, we opened the doors of the Medical Centre and began providing a service for the local people. Most of the health providers in the area have moved to the city where things are easier and more profitable and so the opening of the centre and dispensary has brought great relief to the locals.

By January 2019 we had already treated 184 sick and assisted with 16 births, and all the children were born alive. We thank the sisters and their friends in England very much for all the gestures of charity that have enabled us to build this dispensary and which has also allowed us to make real our charism – helping the poorest of the poor.



At the same time as caring for the sick, we maintain a garden around the health centre. It is helping us to educate the local people by showing them how to grow healthy things to eat and with little cost.



We are trying to dig ponds so we can farm fish, this is work-in-progress. We have also put up a bamboo fence around the enclosure to keep wild animals away from the garden – that is a constant battle!



There are many malnourished people in the area, but we aren't currently able to provide them with the help we would like to due to the costs involved. We simply share with some of them what we have to eat, although there is not enough for all of us.



Since in the area there are almost no other proper healthcare centres, the expectations of the local population oblige us to carry out other activities such as routine laboratory examinations, ultrasound, simple surgery and so on. They say: "the sisters heal not only the body but the whole being, and we have

never seen nurses wash the sick, like the sisters do". Their gratitude and words of admiration are very touching. It shows how they have been deprived of what we would consider normal gestures and treatment.

For the moment we want to keep providing this much-needed service to the people. We have still to complete the two rooms which will allow us to have separate treatment areas for men from women; although for the moment we don't have sufficient resources or staff.



*Essential medicines in the pharmacy*

We have just essential medicines at our pharmacy. We keep small quantities because funds are limited and they are kept under lock and key, supervised by S. Jeanne Françoise.



The patients we receive try their best to pay for care, but we find that they are

lacking and don't have the heart to stop their treatment, especially for malaria, which is ever more prevalent and dangerous. So we just do what we can to help 'the smallest of God's children' and wait for Divine Providence to help us through.

### **Kindu Schools**

*Report by S. Léa*

I visit about 34 schools a year in the area, doing school inspections and helping with formation of the teaching staff.

The children study subjects such as language and science but also practical subjects such as dressmaking.

The Kindu schools are really in need. The children really try hard with their studies and the parents struggle to pay what they can towards their education.

There is one school I visit regularly. I have to cross the Congo river to reach it. It is very poor and the children don't even have desks to sit at.



This little girl is called Louise and she travels to school across the Congo river by

dug-out canoe every day. Her father is a poor fisherman. She has tremendous courage!

Another school I visit is for deaf children. It is a mixed school with 10 children in each class.

The school day runs from 7.30 to 12 noon and the children are aged between 6 and 18 years old.



These young men are in their last year of school and finish in June 2019. They have been studying practical subjects for 4 years – garment-making - so they have a skill when they finish their studies.

We could help them after they finish their studies if we had sewing machines which they could have access to, but otherwise we have no way of helping these young people and they end up just hanging around in the streets.

The Community hope they will find a way to help in the future.

## MIRHI-BUKAVU, D R CONGO

As many of our readers will know, Mirhi-Bukavu Priory is large and the Community widespread, in 18 locations. We are therefore thankful to the main Priory for having produced a summarised report for us. The report was sent to us by S. Agnes who some of you will know.

Their general news is as follows:

There are currently 156 fully professed sisters in the Community. In addition there are 32 who have made temporary vows and 8 novices – who are shown below in procession towards the chapel. In addition there are 8 postulants and about 6 or 7 who enter each year.

We have multiple activities going on in our Priory. Some work inside the convent and others work outside, in the community: teaching; involved in further education with young people in the Centre which we opened six years ago or working in the parish and in the health sector.

This year we mourn the loss of two of our sisters, Sister Raphael and Sister Astride. May they rest in peace.

### EDUCATION

We have three primary, two secondary schools and one school for nurses, so six schools in total. Our aim is to provide not only an intellectual but also moral education and we especially want to help our pupils develop their individual talents.

Many parents like their children to study in schools run by Sisters and therefore we are very oversubscribed. Schools all over our country are experiencing difficulties; the State is not meeting its responsibilities. At the Maendeleo Institute, where one of our sisters works, the toilet block

collapsed following an earthquake. The parents have struggled to rebuild it, but are unable to find the full amount requested.



*Classroom at the Maendeleo Institute*

The Mère Hadewych primary school is still not completed, there are classrooms which are not yet finished, yet the demand from students who want to study in this school is large. In this school year 2018 - 2019, we enrolled 517 students. The sisters try to do their best, but they are limited when it comes to building classrooms and our Priory is not able to do it either.



*Unfinished classrooms at the Mère Hadewych school*

The Mère Hadewych primary school Head is Sister Noëlla Bishikwabo and she is assisted by other sisters but also lay people.



*Assembly of children at the  
Mère Hadewych primary school*



*Children in procession on  
the way to the church*

## **THE RESURRECTION CENTRE**

At the Resurrection Centre we help young girls who have not found the means to study; teenage mothers and also some boys. They all learn how to cut and sew; we teach them life skills, entrepreneurship, Christian morality, cooking, and presentation. Due to lack of space we welcome a small number but there are so many more whom we could help if we had the space. There are two sisters who work

at the Centre and some lay teachers, and each year learners receive a Certificate on completion which evidences their garment-making skills.



## **THE MALNOURISHED AND OUR ORPHANS**

We thank all those who have supported these children with your donations! As you know, it is because of the continuous wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo that today, there are many children who are malnourished and especially in our area there are many victims. Parents bring their malnourished children hoping that the sisters can help them. We are sometimes overwhelmed by the demand, but we do what we can. We have already treated and rehabilitated more than 500 children from (2007-2018). For the moment the number of new cases continues to grow and our supply of food and medicine is exhausted. It is for this reason that we appeal to your generosity and ask for help on their behalf. We would not want to stop this vital service for the children which might prove fatal for some.

Here is a recent photograph of our orphans who have grown, thanks to your donations.



Sister Thérèse reported earlier in the year about a child who almost died of malnutrition. The Community were very concerned about him but here he is! Nursed back to health and his mother grateful.



S. Thérèse also sent this photograph and message,

*“These are the people to whom we are sent as Daughters of the Resurrection. With our sisters in England and their friends who support us, we continue the mission towards the poorest.”*



*Maternity centre in Mubumbano.*

We thank you with all our heart for all you do to come to our aid to relieve the distress of the poor who come to us for help.

### **OTHER NEWS**

At the time of writing, Sister Thérèse is still fixed in her chair with her foot in plaster.

Sister Véronique visited Kindu as Administrator and everything went well with the trip and all the meetings with the sisters. The sisters had their annual retreat and the jubilarians celebrated in early July.

## DUNKIRK

Over the course of the last 12 months several of our English Community together with some friends have travelled from the UK to visit our African sisters in Dunkirk. They wanted to experience first-hand how our African sisters, working alongside the Emmaus community, are helping the migrant population in the neighbouring area of the Grande Synthe.

Our readers may remember there was an established refugee camp in Dunkirk until it was burnt down in 2017. Despite the camp being raised to the ground, many migrants remain, living in and around the same area in the forest.



Our visiting Community and friends helped to sort and prepare food ready to distribute. They also visited Emmaus's warehouse and shop where they restore and sell old furniture.

At lunchtime they drove to a distribution point to get ready to serve food and hand out clothing. Distribution points vary according to whether or not the police have moved them on in previous days.

The reports from our Community have all reflected their shock at the sheer numbers (over 1,000 each day) waiting to be fed. The migrants are mostly male, but also some families with young children, generally well-mannered as they queued for food.

In addition to the distribution of food and clothes, there are barbers – to shave and cut hair, generators to charge phones, doctors to offer help and advice including specialist gynaecologists to help the women.

***“It was an overwhelming experience to see so many people in desperate need massed in one place in a European country.”*** reported one of our Sisters.

Our African sisters admitted being shocked themselves when they first arrived to see that such needs exist outside the poverty of their own country of D. R. Congo.

We thank those people who responded to a local appeal for sleeping bags and warm clothes and for those who have given financial support to the operation in Dunkirk.

In more recent months a gymnasium and a makeshift camp around it, where many migrant families were seeking shelter, was cleared by French police, after a court ruled it was a health and security hazard.

We continue to pray for the migrants and a resolution to this desperate situation.



## RWANDA

*Report by: S. Marie Rose (Prioress) and  
S. Thérèse (in Nyundo)*

In 2018, several big events took place: firstly the elections for Prioress and Council; the meeting of the two African councils of Rwanda and Mirhi; profession of temporary and final vows of several of our sisters and volunteers who came from England to help us with our English learning. S. Marie Rose, elected Prioress in 2011 when the Rwandan priory was granted autonomy, was re-elected as Prioress.

We continue to grow our school 'Christ Ressuscité' and opened a small Community house in Muhanga to help young people living with disabilities.

### Meeting with the Council from Mirhi

We were happy to welcome our sisters from the DR Congo, not only those on the Council but others we don't usually have the opportunity to meet with. We also welcomed sisters from Kindu who were working towards becoming an autonomous priory.

### Profession of temporary and final vows



On 1st December four of our novices made their temporary vows. They are sisters Immaculée Mutimukeye, Agnès Nikuze, Florence Bora et Dorothée Akimana.

Those taking their final vows were sisters Domitille Mukanyangezi and Angélique Nyirangizwenimana.

### English volunteers



*Valerie Nazareth*

Over the course of 2018 and 2019 we received two volunteers sent by the UK Community : Valerie Nazareth and Valerie Francis. Valerie Nazareth spent time with the primary school children as well as taking classes with the sisters. Valerie Francis, who came in the early part of 2019, spent time with sisters in Masaka in group and individual lessons and also spent some very productive time in Busasamana teaching the postulants.



*Valerie Francis*

We are extremely grateful to our dear sisters in England, for your care and concern about our future, having organised and financed the volunteer programme over the past 5 years. We are also give huge thanks to the volunteers for their courage and the gift of their time and unquestioning patience.

### Our school - Ecole Christ Réssuscité



This year we welcomed 330 pupils. 180 at the Nursery and 153 in Primary. All lessons, apart from Kinyarwandan, are taught in English in our school.



### Community in Muhanga



We now have four sisters in our new Community who are there to respond to the needs of children living with a disability. S. Bonifrida is the sister in charge of the Community house and S. Annonciata has been appointed Head of the Primary school. Sr Pélagie, is the Coordinator of the Centre for the Disabled and in particular looks after the two houses, one for boys and the other for severely disabled girls (Lazare Home) and S. Marie-Claire does the Accounts.

### This Centre for Young Disabled is made up of:

- An 'inclusive' Primary School where those living with a disability learn alongside able bodied children



- A house for children under 10 years old and young girls with severe mental and physical disabilities



*Children from Lazare House  
with teachers from the school*

- A house for young men, victims of the 1994 genocide and mass return of refugees



Some of the young men are pictured here, taking part in the ceremony to bless Muhanga School when the sisters took over its management.

There is more information on page 17 of this newsletter about a fundraising campaign set up by Valerie Nazareth to help buy basic essentials – food and nappies for the profoundly disabled children in the Lazare Home, Muhanga.



*Nursing a sick infant*

## **RWANDA VOLUNTEER REPORT**

*Report written by Valerie Francis*

My time in Rwanda was very special. I spent my first month in Masaka. Here was a blend of older and younger sisters, the young tempered by the wise and the old revitalised by the young.



The Community was established, growing and happy. My first week was spent visiting other houses, such as Muhanga, Kimihurura. On one occasion becoming the official photographer.

My second month was in Busasamana. A very special place, before returning back to Masaka. I visited 5 out of the 6 houses and each had its own unique atmosphere.



I met sisters from the Communities in the Congo and Rwanda. Busasamana was a very special place, on the edge of the Congo divided and overlooked by a magnificent live volcano.



I was privileged to be a part of the postulants development by teaching them English. Each day from Monday to Friday Jacqueline, Anuarite, Marie Josée, Denise and Hyacinthe learnt English through

different techniques, song, games, presentations reading and online learning. Each student would have 30 minutes a day allocated to online learning using Busuu, a language application which they loved.

Music happens randomly anywhere and everywhere. People break out into singing, clapping and dancing quite naturally. On one occasion in Busasamana, in the distance I could hear men clapping and singing at around 11am. Godilieve said that they had finished work and when they finish work they start singing and dancing.

The sisters in Rwanda worked tirelessly in a composed, calm and measured manner. They were a joy to be around.

I was humbled by how much they served others before themselves. It reminded me of the transition from egocentricity to motherhood. Suddenly there's another human to take care of whose needs prioritise your own without question.

The plain habits and headdress of the sisters only served to highlight the love and joy in their faces. Of course, they would get tired, but the collective awareness and support in the community would give them strength.

When they gave something to you, and you said thank you, they would often respond with a 'no', thank YOU! And if you tried to give them something they would always refuse politely with an 'it's for you'.

The Rwandese dress smartly and colourfully. On the rare occasion that I made an effort to dress up, the sisters

would exclaim ‘Wow you look smart!’ and were genuinely surprised.



*St John's Green primary, Colchester, UK*

In Masaka at the Ecole Ressuscité the school children in year 4 were linked with school children in year 4 at St John's Green in Colchester and have started a penpal exchange which continues today with the aim of continuing until the end of year 6.



*Ecole du Christe Réssuscité, Masaka, Rwanda*

The challenge we have is organising the exchange of letters, due to the unreliability and cost of the postage. So far letters have come back with returning volunteers, returned with visiting sisters, sometimes routing via our sisters in Belgium! Our most recent delivery was made by a friend of the Community visiting Rwanda on another project, who was met at the airport by a school teacher from Masaka. They say where there's a will, there's a way!



## IN THE NEWS

D R Congo has been in the news, more than we are accustomed to, these past 12 months. Apart from reports on the presidential election, the spread of the Ebola virus in the country has captured the headlines.

The outbreak, the world's second worst ever, has now killed over 2,000 people since it was first reported in August last year.

As we go to press, there is some good news about new vaccines which appear to be effective and a recent report that more than 1,000 people have recovered after having treatment at Ebola Treatment Centres. The struggle to gain the trust of local communities, in this war-torn area,

continues but the reports suggest that they are making some headway in this regard. There are some interesting reports on the World Health Organisation website, if you want to read more:

<https://www.afro.who.int/>

## OTHER NEWS

### MILK CULTURE



We recently received a letter from two sisters in Mirhi thanking us for sending them a milk culture from Westcombe Dairy and reporting back about how they use the dairy products they produce. The UK Community has been sending the culture on a regular basis for the past few years. It has enabled the sisters to make the most of the milk production from their four cows. They produce 40 – 50 litres of milk per day. The milk is used to feed children with malnutrition, as well as the sisters and workers.



## FUNDRAISING

We are *extremely* grateful to all our donors and fundraisers. This is a combination of organised events, individual donations, people purchasing certificates in our Christmas Gift Giving scheme and by using the Giving Machine:

### ORGANISED EVENTS

We are immensely grateful to the Clayton family who hosted the Garden Party in aid of Africa this year. We thank all those who attended and gave prizes for the raffle.



We raised over £2,200. It was a wonderful afternoon with over 100 people attending. The main focus of fundraising this year has been an agricultural project in Kindu.

On St Patricks Day, Annie Callaghan organised a fundraising event in Wivenhoe - supper and Irish music! It was a great evening and everyone appeared to be having fun! Thank you to Annie and the SVP group too for all your fundraising initiatives in the past.

We thank the Justice and Peace group in Melbourne for organising their annual quiz night and Lent lunches for Africa. It is these regular fundraising events which help the sisters on a consistent basis.

Special thanks goes to Valerie Nazareth, one of our volunteers who spent time in

Rwanda, helping the sisters with their English. On her return, moved by the plight of the profoundly disabled children in Muhanga, Valerie organised a fundraising campaign.



Her idea is to get a minimum of 80 people to give £1 per week – less than a cup of coffee - for 3 years to meet the cost of food and basic necessities, such as nappies for the children. The result is that we are able to send a regular amount for the Lazare Home and Sister Marie Rose now has time to plan how they will be able to fund it into the future.

For further information and if you wish to join the scheme, please contact [projects@canonesses.co.uk](mailto:projects@canonesses.co.uk).



## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Thanks to those who give to Africa on a regular basis through a monthly direct debit, or on an ad hoc basis. Your gift is much appreciated.

Details on our website:

[http://www.canonesses.co.uk/shop-\(plusdonate\)/](http://www.canonesses.co.uk/shop-(plusdonate)/)

## THE GIVING MACHINE

Some years ago we introduced a new fundraising idea to our readers. The **Giving Machine** is a now popular way for charities and schools to raise funds and without any cost to the donor. Perhaps you have thought about it but never given it a try?

As most of us are now much more used to shopping online, we would like to re-launch this idea of how to give without it costing you a penny! All it requires is a slight change in behaviour – to go via the **Giving Machine** when you are doing your internet shopping throughout the year.

How it works is that the Giving Machine generates a sales commission by directing you to the retailer (they work with many different retailers – Amazon, Tesco, Sainsbury etc). The commission generated is then converted into funds for your favourite charity.

We urge you to have a look at:

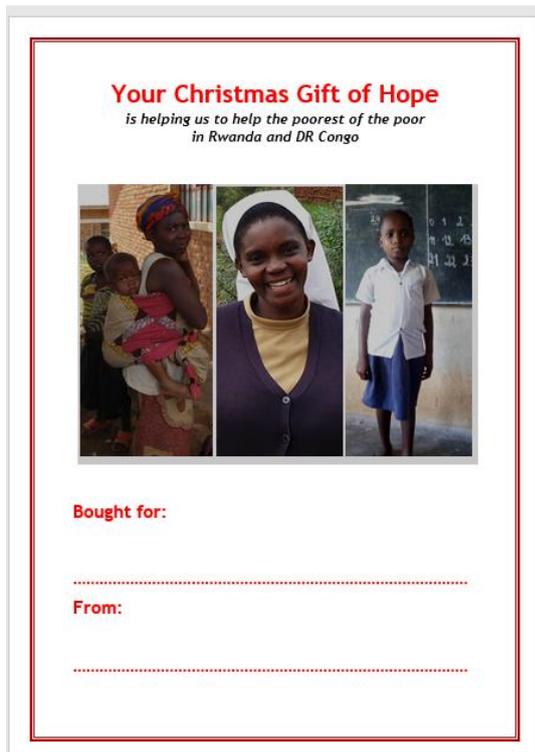
<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>

and there is also a helpful YouTube video which shows you how it works. We look forward to reporting on this next year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xxc5RHI-IHY>

## CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Sincere thanks to all who bought gift certificates or gave donations last year. We are pleased to report that we raised £1,325.



We hope you will consider buying our new style Gift Certificates for Africa this year.

We have produced a choice of Gift Certificates which represent various aspects of the work of the sisters in our three African Pories.

This year all the Gift Certificates are priced £10 each. They are a good alternative to those unwanted socks or chocolates!!

The images show some of the areas where funding is desperately needed – namely health, nutrition, skills training and education. We thought it would be nice for you to see some of the Sisters too!

We have more direct contact via Whatsapp with the Sisters these days and can see a common thread across the Pories. The demand for the work they are doing is increasing and thus the need for funds too.

For more details please see:

<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/news-events/africa-fundraising/>

100% of the proceeds raised from this initiative goes directly to the sisters in D R Congo and Rwanda for the work they are involved in, and as reported on in our Newsletter.

To purchase any of the 'gift' certificates go to our website SHOP:

<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/shop-plusdonate/>

Select and pay for the item you want, then we will send you the Gift Certificate in the post.

You then fill in who you have bought it for as a gift and deliver it to them at Christmas!

THANK YOU

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