

WINTER 2019



THE VIEW

Christian Partners in Africa | Winter 2019



CELEBRATION

**THANK YOU,
MAMA
HARRIET!**

**NEW ONLINE
SPONSORSHIP**

**THE
KOMAMBOGA
FAMILY**

**SCOVIA'S
HOUSE**



CPA News

Congratulations to St Paul's School

Last term the children at St Paul's Community Primary School took part in a Music, Dance, and Drama competition. This gave the pupils an opportunity to show off their talents and they came second out of eight schools!

Five Talents

In July, Chris and Rosey were invited to a Five Talents event at Merton College, Oxford. They were able to catch up with old friends and hear how this fantastic organisation continues to work with needy communities in Africa.

New – Online gifts and Sponsorship

Every donation, however much you can afford, makes a difference, so we've tried to make it that bit easier for you. From now on, if you'd like to sponsor a child at St Paul's School, or make a donation to support the scholarship scheme, you can do so online at:

www.cpafrica.org.uk/give

Thank you again to everyone who donates; we are so grateful.

The Face in the Place

Mama Harriet, senior mother at Komamboga Children's Home, Uganda

I was born in 1964 in Jinja. I started school there but we didn't have enough money to complete my education, so I helped to make money for the family by selling charcoal and soap from a factory, while looking after my sister.

Later I did some secretarial training, worked in a sewing factory making protective clothing, and as a shopkeeper, but they were not very good positions.

A pastor at my church, who was on the board of directors at Komamboga Children's Home, told me about the job of 'auntie' at the Home and recommended that I applied for it. I remember, on the day I went for the interview I was suffering from pneumonia and felt really ill **but was so happy to be given the job.**

I started working at the Home in 1999 and stayed for 20 years. I have seen many generations grow up and leave the Home, been to many graduations and weddings, and I am very proud of all the children.



With my retirement gift I have been able to buy a house with a small piece of land.

THANK YOU, Mama Harriet, for everything you have done for us over the years.

Here are some things that the children have said about you:

“ **Mama Harriet, what a great mother ❤️** ”

“ **Best mother ever. Raised me to be the best mother I can be** ”

“ **She raised us to be God fearing, respectful, humble, disciplined, kind and a lot more.** ”

“ **Mama I love u soooooooooo much. Live long, you have always been there, every time** ”



In Celebration of 'Education' at St Paul's School

(Latin *celebrātiōn* - (stem of *celebrātiō*) big assembly)

Denise Niel

We arrive in Rukungiri late on a Sunday. Here in the west of Uganda, overlooking high undulating hills with steep fluted slopes, stands St Paul's Community Primary School.

Our first taste of St Paul's is early on Monday morning when it sounds as if someone has switched on a PA system right outside our rented house. In fact, it is the children at St Paul's beginning their school day with an assembly. **Their songs of**

praise ring out from the hilltop, like an audible beacon; full of life and enthusiasm for the new week ahead. You see, **education is celebrated here; it's a privilege,** something you hold on to.

Our presence is welcomed and celebrated, as we are old friends of the school and most children have known us since their Nursery days.

The following day we spend some time **at the place that is close to my heart;** the Nursery School. **There is much to be celebrated here.** A few years ago, the Ugandan Government ruled that all Primary Schools with a Nursery, should separate the younger



and older children; providing an enclosed campus with outside play facilities for the younger.

As a Nursery teacher, with over 20 years' experience, I see this as a great development, and **it has been a pleasure to stand with this dedicated team of Nursery teachers**, as they have grown and incorporated more and more play-based ideas into their Nursery curriculum. No longer do three, four, and five-year olds sit behind desks all day long; many activities take place outside now, taking advantage of the glorious weather whenever possible.

The day starts with the Nursery assembly. The children are delighted to find a 'little' Denise in one class to match me, and a 'little' Rosey, to match 'big' Rosey. These two pupils are among the five or six children chosen to lead the worship time this morning. What a joy to celebrate the beginning of a new day with such little ones; definitely with more **confidence and gusto** than most early years children I've worked with in the UK!

After assembly we watch as some classes return to their classrooms

to begin working on their English, using 'Jolly Phonics', recently resourced online by Immaculate, the Head of the Nursery. Others come straight outside to enjoy a mixture of PE, movement, dance, and singing.

Later in the week I have the opportunity to spend some time with the staff team; **sharing some ideas about teaching early science and observation.** The Nursery teachers have great fun experimenting with brightly coloured magnifying glasses and magnifying "Bug pots", in preparation for introducing the activity to the children.

It is humbling to be part of this growing and learning process with the teachers, and to see the evidence of children's work celebrated in the displays around the school.

It's all a celebration at St Paul's!

“It’s not about what it is...

Since 2001, when our scholarship scheme began, **224 children have completed their primary education** at St Paul’s Community School in Rukungiri, Uganda.

The **£20 monthly sponsorship provides a free scholarship for a child who would otherwise not be able to go to school.** It also goes towards many other aspects of the child’s life.

“I could not manage school fees, but now my child is studying well and writing clearly.”

— A Guardian



Christmas Appeal 2019

St Paul's Scholarship Scheme

This Christmas, we are appealing for your help to support the children of the St Paul's Community.

We know not everyone can afford £20 a month, but even a contribution of £1.50 can **make a difference**.



It's not just **£1.50** for pens and pencils.
It's about teaching a child to write.



It's not just a **£5** bus fare.
It's about helping 25 children get to school safely, every day.



It's not just **£10** for school supplies.
It's about helping a child learn to read and grow.



It's not just **£30** for a school uniform.
It's about children fitting in, and feeling proud.



It's not just **£20** a month.
It's about a child being educated, clean, fed and clothed.
It's about giving a child a future.

www.cpafrica.org.uk/christmasappeal

...it's about what it
can become.”

→ ♥ → Dr. Seuss



"When you arrive without hope you don't dare to dream."

The Komamboga Family

Rosey Shelbourne

It was wonderful to see Fairy and Bob again. Fairy and Bob, who are members of the Trubish family, were two of the first generation Komamboga children (FGKC).

The Trubishes (also including Asha and Steve) rent two houses next door to each other. There is such a lovely, peaceful, happy atmosphere in their homes. The families, especially their children, move freely between the two houses. Fairy tells me that she wanted to create a home that was like 'The Home'. She says, 'We even have the same trees in the compound'.

It is into this lovely family setting that Simon Peter has moved, under the care of Asha and Steve. Asha, who has two girls of her own, wanted to

adopt one of the Komamboga children into her family. Fairy and James have a son called Amani and by the time you read this, they will have a baby daughter too.

When Bob first came to the Home, he was 11 years old. He is now 36 and Head of HR at the Centenary Bank. We asked him, 'When you first came to the Home, did you ever dream that you would be living the life you are living now?' He replied, '**When you arrive without hope you don't dare to dream**'.

It was also great to spend a day with social workers, Shivan and Dina from Retrak, who filled us in on all the other Komamboga family news and took us to see some of the children. **So far, all reports suggest that the placements are going well.**



The Trubish Family with Rosey and Denise

Every placement is different and each child carefully matched. **Three of the children have gone to live with first generation Komamboga children**, others with distant family members, who have welcomed them into their homes. Dina told me that for Jonathan, 'His happiest thing in life is that he has found his sister. They go to the same school, walk around hand in hand and do everything together.'

One of the boys, who has no relatives, has gone to live with a trusted foster family who have other foster children. It turns out that they live in a big house (he called it a Mansion!) and he has been able to study his chosen course in welding, which he loves. He said, **'It is like a dream come true'**.

We also visited Deborah (FGKC), who is now the head teacher of a local school. She and Henry have adopted Marion. They have recently moved, and Marion now has her own bedroom, which she is learning to keep tidy. When we saw her, **she was beaming from ear to ear**.

Some of the older children are

beginning to plan their futures with their new families. **Esther wants to train in catering and Sarah in nursing**. Both girls are doing well and settling into their new family settings.

Our hope is that all of the Komamboga children, together with their new families, will find that they can achieve their dreams and grow into happy, fulfilled, self-sufficient adults.



Deborah and Marion



Dina and Shivan



Sometimes the Simplest Ideas are the Best!

Komame Senior School, Afar region, Ethiopia

Chris Shelbourne

It was such a simple suggestion from the Afar Regional Authority: "Help us to build classrooms at the Komame Senior School for our Grade 11 and 12 students and they will get a chance to complete their education here in the Afar region". Sometimes the simplest ideas are the best ones.

Lots of hard work has gone into making this happen, but the classrooms are now complete and the job is done. True to their word, the Local Authority provided teachers and materials for these students and **for the first time in the region's history the students will be able to sit their university entrance exams in a familiar environment.**

It's hard to emphasise how significant this is. Previously students had to travel to a different tribal area to attend "Sixth Form". This was fraught

with difficulty and danger, especially for the girls, and many families simply couldn't afford it. Now, students can finish their studies closer to home.

One of the Grade 11 students said: "the problem for me was that I had to go a great distance to school in Shewa Robit (in the Amhara region) to continue my education. I am 17 and a girl so it was a big challenge to be so far from my family. Now I am saved."

There is a feeling of optimism in the air, buoyed by the fact that Ethiopia's Prime Minister has appointed an Afar woman to his Cabinet and half of ministerial posts have been given to women. So, who knows what the future holds for these students. In the meantime, we can celebrate that they now have the opportunity to do something more with their lives; **the next step is theirs to take.**

Now

Scovia's House

"With a little help from my friends"

Rosey Shelbourne

In the last edition of 'The View,' we featured the story of a St Paul's project family, whose papyrus roof was badly leaking, making the house uninhabitable.

Last year, a CPA team, along with members of the local community, worked together to help replace the old roof with a new corrugated iron one.



Then

We recently visited to find that, inspired by what had been done, **Scovia had rebuilt the mud walls to improve her house and also built a separate cook house.** Again, the local community had rallied around to help her. We are told that some helped with the building whilst others cooked food for the workers.

So now, Scovia's child attends St Paul's School on a free scholarship and her home is transformed. She has also been given a mattress and a goat as part of the 'Gifts of Love' scheme and **her life has completely changed.**

She said **"The changes are so many – school fees are paid, and I have a new built house"**

This is just one inspiring example of how the team at St Paul's School are working with the project families, enabling them to support their own children and transform their lives.



• GIFTS OF LOVE • GIFTS OF LIFE •

Every year we ask our Project Partners how we can help to support the people that they work with, in the best possible way. This then enables us to offer you the chance to buy a **GIFT OF LOVE** gift card, that can really make a difference.



"WE APPRECIATE THE GOOD WORK YOU ARE DOING."

– Adeera Kanshabe (Social Worker)

This year, the St Paul's Community would really appreciate the following

GIFTS OF LOVE



MAIZE AND BEAN SEEDS

£5

Maize and bean seeds will be planted during the planting season, and will provide food security for the families of our project children.



GARDEN TOOLS

£8

Garden tools, such as hoes and pangas, enable the guardians and families of our project children to cultivate their small plots of land, helping to provide a sustainable source of food.



WATER TANK

£10

Many families have limited access to clean water. A 100 litre water tank will give them safe and convenient storage of rain water, making cooking and washing a little easier.



MATTRESS

£15

Families often sleep on the floor or share a single mattress. A mattress for one of our project children will help towards the family having a good nights sleep.

THE **gifts of love** STORY.



GARDEN TOOLS
are used to
prepare the ground.



Plant the
MAIZE
and **BEANS**.

Rainwater
collected from
the roof in
WATER TANKS.



Go to
school, on a
**ST PAUL'S
SCHOLARSHIP,**
to prepare for
the future.



A good
night's
sleep on a
MATTRESS.

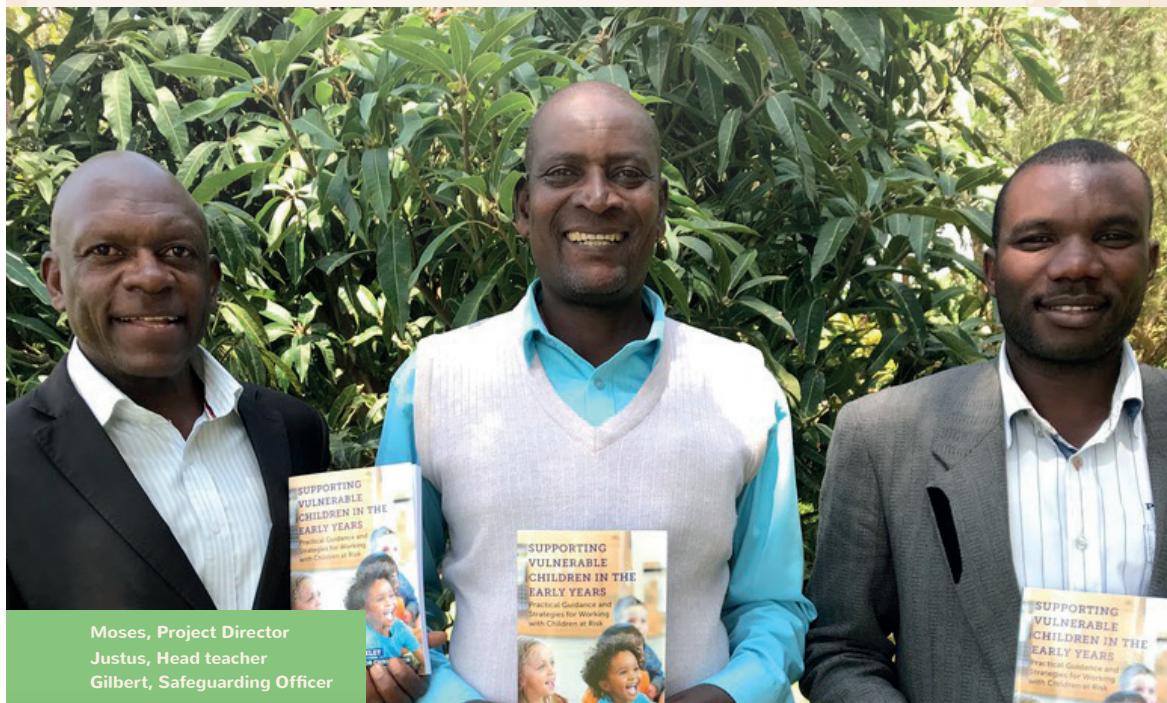


The
MAIZE & BEANS
grow.



Plenty of food and clean water for the
family, maize and beans to sell – and a
CHILD GETS AN EDUCATION!

To order your gift card visit: www.cpafrica.org.uk/giftsoflove
To give a child a **ST PAUL'S SCHOLARSHIP** visit:
www.cpafrica.org.uk/give



Moses, Project Director
Justus, Head teacher
Gilbert, Safeguarding Officer



Dr Pat Beckley



The Final Word

Celebrating a shared journey

Rosey Shelbourne



I was recently invited to write a chapter for a book, edited by our friend Pat Beckley, called 'Supporting Vulnerable Children in the Early Years'. My chapter celebrates the story of the **amazing work achieved by the team at St Paul's School**, particularly in the area of Safeguarding and 'what makes a good school'.

The chapter represents **ten years of working together with St Paul's on a shared journey**, helping them to develop a strong ethos and incorporating new ideas and teaching styles.

On a recent visit to the school I was able to take a copy of the book for each of the team. Needless to say, they were very proud; it is well deserved, considering that their results made them **the best school in the district last year**.

They have much to celebrate, as this is the fulfilment of their original dream.

The school was established by a group of friends who wanted to provide a source of hope, in the form of education, for orphans in the community. Today, of the 700 children, 144 children are supported through the school on a free scholarship.

It is amazing what can be achieved when a group of friends get together and try to bring change. Let's work together to see what we can do, with and for others, to make this world a better place for all.

Rosey



Cover images: St Paul's School, Rukungiri, Uganda
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