

**December
2021**

St John's
United Reformed Church

Record

Somerset & Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, Herts, EN5 1RH

Toys for Christmas

New Citizens' Gateway would like gifts of toys for 71 children in hotels in Barnet

Please bring unwrapped toys to the service on Sunday December 12th

New Citizens' Gateway (formerly, Barnet Refugee Service) is an independent registered charity working in partnership with individuals and agencies to improve the quality of life and promote the physical, social and mental well-being of refugees and asylum seekers.



It works in London and surrounding areas, helping to reduce health inequalities, social exclusion and poverty and enabling integration. It supports over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers each year through its *Integrated Holistic Model of Support*.

Its services are designed to support and develop the mental health and life chances of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers living in the UK, to reduce their social isolation and improve community cohesion. It achieves this by helping clients to develop their skills, increase their resilience, improve their wellbeing, and enhance their self-esteem. New Citizens' Gateway provides access to training, offers counselling and advice, provides psycho-social activities and delivers group work, in addition to encouraging clients to volunteer. Its services work in an integrated fashion and support each other.

Your gift of a toy can help to bring joy to a child this Christmas.

Valerie Mills

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Challenging News from the Good Samaritan School for Deaf Children, Uganda

By Rosemary Nakasiita and Tony Shepherd

Most of the children at the school were sent home when the Ugandan government shut all schools at the start of a national lockdown, most recently since June 2021. This is having a great impact on all the children in the country. Vaccines are being rolled-out with free 'jabs' only being available for ordinary people on a limited scale since June. At the School now, there are still about 25 to 30 children left there because either they are orphans or because it is too dangerous for them to be at home with their families. For them, the School is truly their haven and home. Their ages range from 8 to 18 years old. It has just been announced that all schools should be reopened in January.

The children help to look after the School's garden where they have a range of vegetables growing apace! They have just started harvesting them last month, especially the collards, green peppers and eggplants. The cabbages haven't harvested but hopefully they will start around the third week of this month. Our photos, taken on 16th October, show the results of their labours. Fortunately everything grows quickly due to a regular supply of rain, though this is becoming increasingly problematic.

The School depends upon these greens as their staple diet but it needs to be supplemented with rice, maize flour (Posho), beans, Irish potatoes



and others. At the moment they have no regular source of funds for food, but after a donation from supporters, a trip to Kampala has been arranged to buy more supplies.

Rosemary and Infinity Ideas charity are making plans to establish a project for funds so that a larger vegetable garden can be developed so that more food can be grown for the school's kitchen. Some of the spare crops could be sold at the local market to provide much-needed funds.



Each cabbage on market is sold at Ugx 2,000 (approx. £0.5) and each green paper is sold at Ugx 150 (approx £0.04) The plan is to create a sustainable system which eventually include providing 'green' wood supply for the cooking fires. In the long-term it may be that a solar-driven cooker can be provided so as to reduce the need for wood-burning.

We have also applied for funds from the Rotary International charities, with support from the Masaka and Barnet branches, for funds to sink a bore hole for a regular water supply to the school and local community. We await further work on this application, so we hope and pray!

Christmas Appeal – for food!

We thought that you would like to know that there is an appeal for funds to supply food for the GSSDC School for this Christmas time. This is not only to provide them with Christmas fare but also to help give them some basic food stuff for when the vegetables, rice, beans and maize flour run out which looks like being in mid-November. Please contact us and pray for the school at this difficult time.

Please pray

- 1 For Uganda - that the supply of free vaccines will be increased rapidly so that the population will be made safe;
- 2 that the children and staff left at the School plus the local community of Kitengeesa, will be kept free from COVID19;
- 3 that funds for food for the School will be forthcoming now and in 2022, and
- 4 that the children return to school for lessons in January and that God will bless all at the school as lessons re-start.

Any help with the Christmas GSSDC appeal will be very welcome. Just contact Tony on 07901 757 960, Email: tonios2@btinternet.com OR: Rosemary: rosemary.nakasiita2@gmail.com and they will arrange everything!



“Thank you so much for your interest”

from the children and staff at the Good Samaritan School.

Calendar of Events

December		
Sunday 5	11:00 am	Advent 2 Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
Tuesday 7	11:00 am	Advent Discussion Group 2, 79 Greenhill Park
Wednesday 8	8:00 pm	Advent Discussion Group 2, via Zoom
Thursday 9	9:30 am	Mainly Music
Sunday 12	11:00 am	Advent 3 Gift Service led by Alison Bond
Tuesday 14	11:00 am	Advent Discussion Group 3, 79 Greenhill Park
Wednesday 15	8:00 pm	Advent Discussion Group 3, via Zoom
Thursday 16	9:30 am	Mainly Music followed by Bright Sparks Crib Talk
Sunday 19	11:00 am	Advent 4 Worship led by the Elders
Sunday 19	6:30 pm	Carol Service
Saturday 25	10:30 am	Christmas Day Carol Service led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 26	11:00 am	1st Sunday of Christmas Worship led by Sarah Beaumont
January		
Sunday 2	11:00 am	2nd Sunday of Christmas Worship with the Lord's Supper led by Julian Templeton
Sunday 9	11:00 am	1st Sunday after Epiphany Worship led by David Paul and Richard Harvey

St John's Church Christmas Appeal

At the Carol Service, 19 December, and Christmas Day Service, a retiring offering will be taken for the Together in Barnet Night Shelter, which offers accommodation, food, and support to homeless people.

Contributions are invited by Bank Transfer or Cheque payable to 'St John's Church New Barnet' with the reference "Christmas Appeal" *by the end of December*, or by cash on the day.

St John's Fellowship

Next Event

Wed 19 Jan 2022 AGM 7.45pm

The Huguenots of Soho by Paul Baker

8pm in Sanctuary and by zoom