

# **UB** Newsletter for Bristol City Deanery Uganda Link. *Spring 2010*

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## **Forthcoming events**

### **Visit from West Buganda**

From March 4th until about March 16th we are going to have the pleasure of a visit from **Bishop Samuel of West Buganda and his wife Robinah** (many of you will know of Robinah's 'Micro Finance Scheme' to aid clergy wives in her husband's diocese).

Lastly, surprise surprise, our friend '**Romans**' (**David Serunjogi**), who many of you already know, will be with us at the same time.

### **Party for our Ugandan visitors!**

On Saturday, 13 March, from 7pm to approx 9pm,  
there will a **Deanery party** to which all are invited,

at

**Cotham Parish Church**  
**(Cotham Road opposite the homeopathic)**

### **Prayer and Information Evening**

The next Deanery Uganda Link prayer evening will be at  
7.30 for 7.45 pm, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. Feb,  
at Rev. Susan Allman's house  
5, Lodgeside Gardens, Kingswood, BS15 1NY

**Opportunity for young adults to visit Uganda this summer!  
Might you be interested in visiting West Buganda, one of  
our link dioceses?**

We are hoping to take a group of  
**Eight People (mainly young adults)**  
to experience life as a Christian in rural Uganda. We will work with a  
team of local young adult Ugandans on a very worthwhile project  
namely:

**A tree Planting Project for the Diocese.**

The project has been planned locally in the Diocese, and carefully worked out in order to fit local requirements and provide a sustainable and renewable plantation. We understand that the ground for the work has already been prepared. Three types of tree, appropriate to the area, are to be planted. Of these, two are suitable for pollarding when an appropriate size (i.e. cut near the ground so as to leave a long-lived bole which sprouts smaller branches for periodical cropping. The third type will be a species of pine, which will be grown to young maturity and cropped, presumably to provide building timbers, before replacing with a succession of new tree seedlings in the future as required.

We will also be involved in some evangelistic work with the diocesan Mission coordinator, Rev Tabitha Ddembe, and we will hope to visit some tourist attractions, for example, the source of the River Nile, the Ssesse islands in lake Victoria and a small Game reserve. If you wish to consider joining this party, we would like to talk to you!

Best estimates of costs:-

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Flight, taxes, travel insurance and visa                | £550        |
| 3. Board and Lodging                                       | £200        |
| 4. Vehicle hire and fuel                                   | <u>£ 50</u> |
| Total cost (without contingencies)                         | £800        |
| Anti-malarials and necessary jabs <i>could</i> add another | £200        |

**For further information, contact David Matthews:  
tel: 01179 611965 or email: dcm\_1939@talk21.com**

**But don't delay, as time is getting short!**

## **Releasing the Energy**

*By Rev. Susan Allman*

As we begin a chilly New Year, it is good to reflect on the Ugandan sunshine that came to us last May with the Anglican Youth Fellowship Band. I will never forget them at Bristol Brunel Academy, where they performed in the reception area during three overlapping lunch breaks.

The Vice-Principal watched the band anxiously while they unloaded instruments and amplifiers as, with some students always in class doing exams, the volume had to be kept at an appropriate level. Then, the first group of students began to appear, and the band began to sing. The lyrics were very openly Christian: "Hold on to Jesus; he is your best friend, he will not let you fall." There was a bit of jeering and my heart sank for the band. I could see that they had noticed the jeers, but they were undaunted. Those of us who were with them prayed silently for a miracle, the band took their music to a new level - and the miracle happened.

Suddenly there were students all around us and gathering on the walkways at different levels. They danced and cheered, joined in with the actions, took pictures with their mobile phones and mobbed the band for autographs afterwards. This happened three times as each group took their lunch break.

In the final break, Revd. Tabitha Ddembe, who was with us for the day, started dancing for joy in the middle of the arena. One of the older boys approached her, tapped her on the shoulder and danced energetically with her during the last song.

The Vice-Principal's fears were laid aside; not a single member of staff complained. In fact many admitted to having a tear in their eye, the Principal told me afterwards. The Academy was pleased to be able to showcase the occasion to a visiting group of head-teachers who arrived part-way through.

"They think we are wonderful now!" said the Vice -Principal. Perhaps it was that we had given the young people, "The chance to show a different side of themselves," in the words of my youngest son.

Perhaps, but I have no doubt that the Spirit moved among us on that unforgettable afternoon; and BBA rocked!

It is easy for us to imagine that our link with Uganda is about **us** helping **them**, but it is not just one-way – it is about so much more! That day we were treated to a demonstration of how infectious the Christian faith can and should be and of how the power of God is at work among us to do more than we can ask or imagine. What an inspiration for us as we work to release energy in the Diocese of Bristol!