

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018



Dear friends and supporters of Les Amis,

We are pleased to be sending you this year's '**How is your money spent?**' newsletter, written by those who work with us in Burkina Faso, which will give you lots of information about how we use your donations. Reading their reports is always wonderful as we realise just how much is being achieved thanks to you and your support.

Lovely links!



At the St Joseph's Training Centre in Fada we look after and pay for the training of disadvantaged girls as seamstresses. When Gillie paid them a visit in February she took the opportunity to ask them if they needed anything other than the usual support. Yes, they did! The roof over the girls' dorm was very leaky and during the wet season the girls were getting wet as they slept at night. Who



should come to the rescue, but the 'Lichfield Soroptomists' (**left**), a group of women who sew things to benefit others. They sent us a donation to cover the costs of the repair. What a lovely link this is for everyone. **Above** is a picture of the roof being repaired. Sister Angèle, who takes care of the girls, says: *"I want to express my gratitude to you for the help you gave last May for the repair to the girls' house. The work consisted of the replacement of the old canvas of the ceiling of their bedroom and kitchen and then making it all watertight. They are now very happy and at ease because, before the repair, when it was raining they couldn't sleep because of the water running into the house. No more worries now! They sleep quietly and peacefully when it is raining. They want me to express their gratitude to you."*

As you will read in the attached newsletter, our new project in Tenkodogo is going well. This is overseen by Fr Vincent, whom we have known since he was just a young lad at the seminary. He is a talented young priest who, upon his ordination, became the Bishop of Tenkodogo's secretary. He has told us about the group of eighteen girls whom we are helping through difficult circumstances; a picture of nine of them is **right**.



We have a lot of dreams

Thanks to you we have achieved more than we could ever have imagined possible in towns and villages spread over Burkina Faso. Here are some of the projects in the pipeline, some achievable and some a bit more financially challenging. If there are any with which you'd like to help, then we'd be happy to hear from you.

- In the village of **Gounghin** we'd like to be able to help the nursery school with the provision of water and toilets. They also need tables and chairs. In the same village, the primary school needs a kitchen in order to provide a lunchtime meal for the children.
- In the town of **Fada** the St Joseph's Training Centre needs to construct a workshop/shop where the girls can meet clients and from which they would sell the clothes they make.
- Following hard on the heels of the terrific success of our providing the young people of the town of Manni with their much-needed and long prayed-for **collège** (secondary school, for children aged 11-16), we have been asked about the possibility of helping the town of Fada with a similar project of just two buildings, each with three classrooms.
- In the town of **Goalga** they'd love to install a solar powered water pump and water tank.

We have sometimes been faced with seemingly impossible mountains to climb and, by the grace of God and generosity of others, have often been able to climb them. We're therefore keeping our fingers crossed for future funding and success.

Lots of gratitude ... and a reminder

Thank you so much to everyone who has set up a Standing Order. Without these we would not have been so successful in all our projects to date. They are the backbone of the charity. Equally, all those one-off donations are absolutely invaluable. Please keep them coming if you can, but if you can't, then keep us in your prayers.

Thank you

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Have your circumstances changed since you started making donations to us? If you are no longer able to Gift Aid donations you make, then please don't forget to let us know.

Our continued and heartfelt thanks to **Headline Design & Print** in Woking for printing this newsletter for us.



You will probably have heard about GDPR, the new laws concerning data protection which came into effect in May of this year. We send you our newsletter twice a year because you have made a donation to us at some time in the past. If you no longer wish to receive our news, then please complete and return the slip below and we will ensure that your details are deleted from our mailing list. You may also be interested to read our Privacy Policy which sets out exactly how we use your data; this can be found on our website. **In a nutshell, we use your data to send you our newsletters and to claim Gift Aid where you have given permission for us to do so. It is as simple as that.**

A personal message from Gillie ...

August is always a busy month as the reports come in from all those who work with us in Burkina on our many and varied projects. In reading and translating them I never cease to be amazed by how many lives you – our wonderful benefactors – are touching and changing for the better. One small example is Amelie. The last time I saw her, during my trip in February, she was sitting scrunched in a tatty old wheelchair which she had clearly outgrown. I am therefore very happy to see the photo of her with such a beautiful beaming smile in her new and much more comfortable wheelchair. Thank you for making this possible.



I'd love to be giving more talks! This is one of the best ways of gaining support for our work, especially as the new GDPR regulations are likely to make it harder to reach out. We are therefore always pleased to give illustrated talks to groups however big or small. If you are a member of a group and feel this is something in which you would be interested, then please get in touch.

The Trustees of Les Amis-Burkina Faso: Gillie & David Nicholls and Jude O'Mara-Spicer

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The poor will never cease out of the land;
therefore I command you to open wide your hand
to the needy and to the poor. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

In so far as you did this to the least of those brothers of mine,
you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40-41)



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