

Lambeth Palace Conference on Modern Day Slavery

On 11 May I attended a conference on modern day slavery at Lambeth Palace.

Many thousands of people in the UK are victims of modern day slavery. Often as a result of illegal trafficking, people are turned into commodities, without rights, having their passports confiscated, and receiving little or no pay. They are vulnerable and their humanity is crushed. Examples of this are found in labour exploitation in areas such as food processing and warehousing, and in enforced prostitution and sexual slavery.

The conference was run in partnership with the CLEWER Initiative, a three year Church of England project designed to bring Dioceses together to better inform and look to develop and implement a community based national strategy to address this problem. The church is at the heart of the community and can help facilitate the multi -agency response required by the Modern Day Slavery Act. More information about possible ways to take this forward will be available later this year.

Carol Mansell

Dates for your Diary:

1. 19-25 JUNE 2017 is Refugee Week.
2. Thursday 22nd June at 7.30—Quaker Meeting House, Bury, an illustrated talk from 2 volunteers helping refugees in Calais

Prayers:

1. For all candidates standing for election in the U.K.
2. For the 250,000 residents of Kibera and for those who are helping to educate them to improve their lives.
3. For the 16 million people across South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia who urgently need food .

If you would like one of us to speak about issues in developing countries then please contact Richard Stainer at richard.stainer14@gmail.com or Carol Mansell at carol.mansell@btinternet.com .



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



March 2017

World Development Newsletter

World Development and the Election

I am sure many of you will have read the Archbishop of Canterbury's letter regarding the General Election. He asks us to pray for those standing for election and to participate in the process. He also has this to say that speaks directly to the area of world development:

"The United Kingdom, when at its best, has been represented by a sense not only of living for ourselves, but by a deeper concern for the weak, poor and marginalised, and for the common good. Abroad it is seen in many ways, including the 0.7% aid commitment, properly applied in imaginative ways, standing up for those suffering persecution on grounds of faith, and our current leading on campaigns against slavery, trafficking, and sexual violence in conflicts.....We must affirm our capacity to be an outward looking and generous country, with distinctive contributions to peacebuilding, development, the environment and welcoming the stranger in need.

It is encouraging that in the three major party manifestos there is a commitment to maintain our aid budget at 0.7% of GNI. As a wealthy country we should be helping those nations who are struggling to feed and house their people. We should also be providing emergency assistance when drought and other disasters strike. In 2015 (the latest year for which figures are available) the UK provided £12.1bn of aid to developing countries.

On admittedly a cursory reading, there seems to be little in these manifestos about climate change, probably the single greatest threat to God's creation, or about trade justice. These issues, although of great concern to many, do not seem to have registered with our major political parties. Yet both bring the threat of instability and consequently increased migration in Africa, Asia, Oceania and South America. As the Archbishop says, as Christians we need to be fully engaged in the democratic process and so we need to make sure that politicians are speaking about all the issues that allow or prevent all people from experiencing 'abundant life'.

Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya.

Kibera is 5 kilometers from the centre of Nairobi. It is the largest urban slum in Africa with 1.2 million dwellers at the last count. It is composed of 13 villages.

I visit Kibera twice a year with a group of people from Southampton. I met the Group Leader, Dave, years ago and he contacted me to say he wanted to set up a group to travel to Kibera. He needed someone to head up the Community Health Care Teaching and thought of me as I am a retired Midwife. I have now been 5 times.



As you can see in the picture, the dwellings are mostly made up of corrugated tin and mud walls. They are very close together, the 'street' allowing just enough room to walk between the rows of dwellings in some places. They consist of one or two small rooms for families as large as 8.

Growing children share their sleeping spaces with parents

which is not ideal. Cooking is on open fires with high risks to young children. There is high unemployment in Kibera and mobile phones are very important, as it might mean a job, when a call comes. There is high alcohol and drug misuse, and high rates of sexual crimes against women and children.

Toilets are rare and locals use 'flying toilets' where they use a plastic bag and throw it. It is supposed to be thrown onto the roof for the sun to sterilise the contents, but lots end up on the ground - the bags are everywhere, as is rubbish. There are some 'roads' but a lot are tracks, and not maintained, but lined with rubbish. Kibera is on the slopes of a river and there can be devastation when the rains come as the dwellings have no foundations. Recently the 'slum lords' re-directed the river to enlarge the slum area. Water supplies are very few and far between and not safe. Poverty is everywhere. The Government have begun building flats on the edge of Kibera for people to move into, but once allocated, the people will often rent this out and move themselves back to the slum to make some money

Each trip we have different members join us and the teams soon 'gel' and support each other as the week progresses. We are also very aware of each others safety. The New Community Church in Southampton have provided mobile phones for our groups to keep in

touch during the days we are working there.

We started with 2 groups - Community Health Care (CHC) and Football Coaching. The CHC were in the community centre / church hall, for our teaching sessions. At that time, the church hall was not completed. It had mud floors, unfinished walls, a large tarpaulin for the roof, no windows and no electricity. Each time we go we see improvements - they even have the internet available now and let villagers come in on Saturdays to use it.



The Football Coaches were using the Scouts field situated just before Kibera. We now have 3 groups, having been joined by people who can teach about 'Micro Enterprise Development' which is starting a small business with a very small loan. A committee is set up to administer this locally and have been taught by our group how to continue this. It is progressing well.

The Bishop of the Church arranges for the people to attend the classes but of course the numbers are always more than we expect and we are still having lots of new people. We try to get the people involved by having small group discussion and feed back or having a quiz, we have even had the people portraying teaching in drama form. The participants get fed whilst they are attending our courses so often become sleepy as they are not always used to good meals.

We go to make relationships and to give information. We expect that the people will go back, and spread the information they have learned. We do ask them to plan WHO they are going to teach, WHEN, HOW and HOW OFTEN. When we return we ask for information about their planned teaching and it's effects.

We were in the local paper on one of our trips and this recent trip, in April, we were on the Radio - Pamela FM99.9 - on Sunday evening There is a Facebook page that Dave administrates called New Community Kibera for people to keep up-to-date with our trips and for further information or you can enter New Community Kibera into the search engine on the internet.

Irene Hendley

Irene is the manager of Just Traid, the Fairtrade shop in St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds