

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019



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 a lot 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. We were particularly touched by the work being done by the Yoann Foundation to support widows.

A difficult time for the people of Burkina Faso ...

As those of our supporters who live in the parish of St Edmund in Godalming will know, in June we made an emergency appeal. This came about due to the acute difficulties and suffering of people directly affected by the increasing number of attacks being carried out by terrorists. Many thousands of people are being displaced and taking refuge in towns such as Kaya, where our good friend Fr Lambert lives. With his help, we are using the money we raised in our appeal to reach out to the refugees (**right**) by giving them basic supplies to improve their lives. This includes the provision of food, survival kits (mats, clothing and cooking facilities) and cash for basic needs. Fr Lambert will let us know how it goes in due course, and we look forward to passing that information on to you in our next newsletter.



In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the background to the difficulties in Burkina Faso and the wider Sahel region, and about what the situation is now, then do visit our website (under Emergency Appeal), particularly the link to the Al Jazeera website.

Despite the growing problems of terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso, not only are none of our projects adversely affected, but we are keen to do even more.

There's nothing like being given cash when you're really hard up ...



One of Gillie's favourite things to do when she is in Burkina Faso is to give money away to complete strangers who clearly have hard lives, mostly women. Despite not being able to do this herself this year, Fr Lambert was happy to help. **Left** is a woman doing work which is common for women: thrashing the hard earth to collect rubble for builders. It is back-breaking work and very badly paid. Women who do it are always poor. **Right** is Fr Lambert with a couple of women who are disabled and who will benefit greatly from that bit of extra cash.



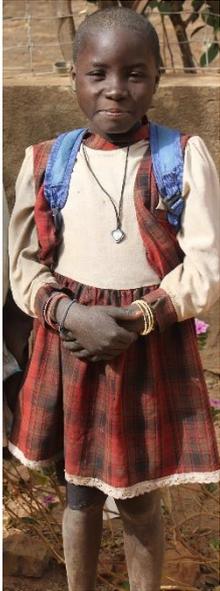
A dream come true ...



In February we told you that, thanks to a donation from Mrs Joan Morris, in memory of her late husband, Albert, we were able to realise the dreams of the seamstresses at St Joseph's Training Centre (in Fada) to build a workshop. In this workshop the trainee seamstresses can work and meet their clients. When we last reported on this in February it was half finished (**left**). Look at it now (**right**) it is finished and looking really great!



Seeing things through ...



When Ophelia first arrived at the Baskouré Home for girls some years ago, she was just a little girl (**left**). Rejected by her family, it was our privilege to look after her and ensure that her future held some hope. Look at her now (**right**), so grown up and with everything to look forward to. She has worked hard at school and is doing well. We recently asked her carers at the Home if they thought she had the potential to go on to university, and if this was something she'd like to do. She does, and she would! Humbled by her determination and tenacity, we are very happy to assure her of our support in the coming years. Ophelia got lucky; there are so many young girls in Burkina Faso whose fate it is depressing to contemplate. Please help us to help more girls like Ophelia.



Our new website!

We are delighted let you know that we have completely revamped our website. From our perspective, it is very much easier to edit and maintain than the previous one. We are hoping that you'll enjoy looking at it and that you'll find it easy to navigate, particularly as it converts very well to being opened on a smartphone. Do feed back to us if you encounter any problems in finding your way around it.



Lots of gratitude ...

Since Gillie gave a couple of talks this year, followed by the emergency appeal in June, we have seen a welcome increase in standing orders. Thank you! 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

Any changes to your circumstances that we should know about?

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Have your circumstances changed since you started making donations to us? If you are no longer able to Gift Aid the 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. They do a fantastic job and we are very grateful to them.

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 do not hesitate to let us know. 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.

A personal message from Gillie ...

It was a great pleasure to welcome Fr Paul Nazotin to Godalming for an all-too-brief weekend in August. Fr Paul was key to the very beginnings of Les Amis, to its success then and its continued success. Although we have had big projects such as the construction of schools and other significant buildings, our favourite way of giving is to individuals in dire need. The reports that are sent to us in August and which make up the 'How is your money spent?' newsletter remind us of why we do what we do: people are helped at moments of crisis in their lives. Do take a look at our website (About/About our Helpers) which shows photos of our wonderful helpers without whom our work would be very much harder.



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

Les Amis – Burkina Faso

11 Mare Lane • Hascombe • Godalming • GU8 4JH
01483 208432
www.les-amis-bf.org.uk
lesamis@btinternet.com
Registered Charity number 1120772

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)