



Chester Diocese DR Congo Link update

Chester Diocese is linked to the Anglican Dioceses of Aru and Boga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Here are the latest news updates and prayer requests from the link.

Annual Grant

Whilst the most important and greatly valued purpose of the ABC Chester Link is through friendship, fellowship and support in prayer, each year Chester Diocese awards a grant of £5,750 to both Aru and Boga Diocese to help fund much needed projects to improve their infrastructure, buildings and community health and well-being.

Boga Diocese

The 2020 /21 grant has been used to support two projects in Boga Diocese.

1) Bishops House – Relocation, repair and renovation

The existing Bishop's residence was in a poor state of repair, with a leaking roof which had an inadequate fall for drainage, causing internal dampness, and the exterior was in need of considerable renovation.

The project was to relocate to another building previously used as an office, and upgrade the office building to provide improved living accommodation for Bishop William. There are now further plans to renovate the old residence and provide a guest house to generate income in the future.

The bishop's old house



Internal view dampness to ceilings



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New residence



Feedback from Bishop William: Quote:- " *To have a new house, comfortable and secure is a great privilege. It has a permanent water supply and electricity from a solar system. I am also so pleased that I can leave a good house to my successor when retirement comes*"

2) Girls Project

Sexual violence due to armed conflicts is a threat to the safety and public health of women and children across the Ituri Province.

The Girls Project has been running in Bunia throughout 2021 to provide medical, psychological and socio-economic care for girls who are victims of sexual violence in order to enable them to regain their status in their respective families and communities.



One element of the project has been supporting beneficiaries in learning the activities of the local trades in their respective communities so they can continue with their skill, and contribute to their community at the end of the project. The Chester grant has been used to help complete this objective, training beneficiaries in sewing cutting, embroidery, basket weaving and knitting. The photograph below shows girls awarded with achievement certificates.

Both these projects have been undertaken despite extremely difficult circumstances in Boga Diocese during 2021.



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Bishop William reported that the year took off with a lot of challenges, with COVID-19 on one side, and insecurity with rebel attacks and many atrocities on the other side. The impact of the two has been so disastrous in the life of the Diocese of Boga. They have experienced lockdown, limitations of travel, churches and schools closed for some time. The insecurity has caused displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. The Archdeacons of Boga, Mwitumbe and the Deanery have been totally displaced. The archdeaconry of Kasenyi has been partially affected. And more recently people in the Archdeaconry of Komanda have been on the run. Only the Archdeaconry of, Badzanga, Bukiringi, Bunia and Isura have remained relatively calm

Aru Diocese

The 2020 /21 grant has been used to help rebuild a village primary school in Uma village.

The school is situated in Kumuru Archdeaconry, about 12 km from the border with South Sudan. The local community had been mobilised to build the school as they were doing well in a national test recognising that the quality of teaching was good. A local committee was established to work with the community to construct the walls and make the new bricks themselves. The Chester grant has been used to fund the roof. The new school now has 6 class rooms.

Old school buildings



New building under construction

Pupils in old school with holes in the walls and roof prop.



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Pupils lining up at their new school



New classroom



The 2021/22 grant will be used to support the following projects

Aru Diocese

1. A motor bike for the Archdeacon of Djalasiga to help communication and access across the archdeaconry.
2. A computer to help administration in the Kurudu Archdeaconry.
3. New roof for a primary school at Diocesan headquarters in Aru.
4. Helping poor families to support young church members with academic fees.
5. Administration fees to help in providing transportation to parishes / villages

Boga Diocese

1. Diocesan budgetary support, as all church contributions have been greatly affected by rebel activities across the region
2. Continue supporting the Girls Project.
3. Renovating the education department former office to relocate their Diocesan office.

Progress on these projects will be reported later in the year.