



LINK REOPENS FOR BUSINESS

It is very encouraging to report that the LINK in Lesotho is back up and running with many groups now coming to the site for a range of activities including conferences and training events. The accommodation is being well used, although covid restrictions has meant that numbers staying at the site have to be limited. Bookings are going well for what is the prime summer season in Lesotho and it is hoped that this increase in income will mean that some of the staff will be able to work, and be paid for, more hours. Currently all the staff are on 50% pay and working half time, though they are brought in to cover in busy times.

PREPARING FOR AN ELECTION

After the whole process of choosing a new bishop of Lesotho had to be halted due to coronavirus, a date has now been settled for the Electoral assembly, which chooses the new bishop. It will be held on February 16th & 17th next year. The Lesotho Diocesan electoral assembly involves 120 people (clergy and lay) who will be located in three different locations to allow for social distancing and the assembly will be conducted by Zoom. A date for the actual consecration has yet to be determined.



Last month Rob Bianchi was asked to address, via Zoom, one of the sessions at a clergy conference, which was meeting at the LINK site, the purpose of the conference was to help build cooperation and understanding amongst the clergy. Sadly, there were a few dissenting voices who decided not to participate but the general feeling was that clergy wanted to put aside their differences and work together. Please do pray for the electoral assembly that it might be a positive and constructive event and that the right person will be appointed to take forward the work of the kingdom of God



On the upside, from the LINK's perspective, using the zoom facility worked well and has encouraged both ends of the LINK to look at how this use of technology might be used to do training for different groups in Lesotho.

The Chicken Run – Revd. Mark Worthington’s reflections on GNR 2020

Taking part in the Great North Run has become a tradition for me and members of Saltwell Harriers. Some won't do it because it is too busy, too expensive and you can't get a fast time. Others of us just love the buzz and the shouting out and spraying the urchins on Sunderland Road after the drink stations. (Well they squirt you first). This year the race was cancelled but there was an invitation to run it virtually. Now you might think that means you sit on your sofa and watch a re-run or spend half an hour nostalgically thinking about GNRs you have known and run. But the idea was to run the same distance at the same time where you safely could and NOT with other people. I entered it. At the same time Margaret Bianchi's bulletin mentioned the plight of child-headed households in Lesotho in the pandemic. The need comes from the fact that schools closed in Lesotho and so school meals were gone and these households are very poor. The project in Lesotho is to buy chickens for child-headed

households so that they would have eggs and could also be taught how to rear and breed them. We have raised money before to support this group to give a weeks respite for the child-head and later for the keyhole garden scheme. Cause identified. I couldn't actually run on the set date so had to leave it a week. Donning trail shoes and trail pack I set out over Sunnyside Bank on country trails and decided to enjoy the day and not push it. I hadn't trained for a half-marathon anyway. It was a lovely run fuelled by several carb bars, carb drink and a Bounty bar (they are OK for Coeliac's!). I have a before and after photo and the after one reveals that it was quite hard. At the time of writing we have raised £490 (less JustGiving admin fees!). Thank you to all who donated.

So a good chicken cause and a good chicken run - virtually.



Before



After

Update from Lesotho

The layers project (providing eggs in Ha Mohatlane area) took off on 30th October with 400 chickens. Mpho, the LINK staff member who is based at Ha Mohatlane, is overseeing the work with two volunteers from the Child Headed Household programme.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sister Julia, the Provincial of the Community of the Holy Name in Hlotse (Leribe), who has been infected with covid. She is in a critical state but seems to be improving. It is hoped that the other sisters will be tested soon.

Joseph, who has restarted lay ministry training and will be running workshops in Qacha's Nek, the northern archdeaconry and possibly Mokhotlong over the next couple of months.

The Electoral college and those who are candidates for the episcopacy, that they will be prayerfully preparing for the election and truly seeking God's guidance in the decision-making process.

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