



August 10th 2014

Minister Rev. Dolly Purnell Email [church.office@old-and-abbey-church.org.uk](mailto:church.office@old-and-abbey-church.org.uk) tel 01241 877068

## I HAD A MISSION IN AFRICA

**As a member of the Eco Group I was keen to visit the Kpohe Mission Field and to see anything else that I could report back on during the visit to Ho.**

By Vicky Fraser

This is a project strongly supported by Elom E.P Church and we, Neil and I, were taken to the Mission Field about an hour away from Ho in the minibus which frankly I am surprised wasn't damaged given the road had disappeared in places. On the way, we passed through the farmers' village with a population of about 900, a marked contrast to the buildings we had seen so far in Ho.

We parked at the school and were formally introduced to Chief Shilling and his elders who welcomed us then we were taken to the Mission Field where we planted two orange trees each. There are about 50 orange and 50 mangoes planted in the field and it is planned that every time a delegation from the Old and Abbey Church goes out to Ho they will be taken to the mission field to see the progress of the trees.

The rest were already planted and they were ready to start clearing the surrounding soil of weeds. All of the crops are attended to by hand, no machines are involved, which must be difficult given the size of the fields and the dry conditions.

We then visited the Junior High School, and until it was built, the children had to walk miles to attend the nearest one. This school also doubles up as a Church and several acres have recently been given to the Mission Field to enable them to grow more crops which include pineapples, yams and maize. It is also hoped that an Eco-Club will be started in the Junior High School, perhaps linking up with a school in Arbroath.

Continued overleaf.

## Snippets

- It was reported last month that Angus residents will have to change their attitudes and 'think recycling' if the local authority is to avoid stringent landfill fines. Council chiefs have admitted that achieving tough new government recycling targets by 2025 'will be challenging.' However, scrutiny and audit convener Bob Spink said it is achievable if they can get the support of the Angus public and change recycling attitudes. A scrutiny panel set up to consider the progress towards zero waste has issued a report following a year-long intensive investigation. A 70% target has been set for all waste to be recycled by 2025 and a maximum 5% target for all waste to be sent to landfill by the same year.
- Smog is set to become an increasing cause of illness and death around the world as a result of climate change, a study has shown. Scientists predict 55% of the global population could be affected by rising numbers of smog events characterised by regions of stagnant 'dead air'.
- Scotland has missed its target for reducing greenhouse gases for the third year in a row. Emissions rose slightly (0.8%) in 2012, bucking a general downward trend over the last decade. In 2012 emissions were estimated to be 56.6 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent, above the target of 53.226





## ***I HAD A MISSION .. Cont.***

The primary school has around 200 children on the roll but one of the classrooms is still outside with thatch for a roof. This is a big problem during the rainy season, often disrupting the classes. A fresh supply of drinking water is also a concern of the Chief. I was particularly taken with the school kitchen.

### ***Other Eco Matters***

While visiting one of the local senior schools, we saw some Bio Gas structures being built. A top is then put on and that is it ready to start working.

There are very few solar panels in Ghana which might seem surprising as we tend to think “lots of sun, you must have panels” but it is as expensive to implement in Ghana just as it is to do across here. There are a few panels here and there on the phone booths, etc.

They do have massive drains along the sides of the roads that are built to cope with the rainy season. Maybe it is time we should rethink our drainage systems given the increase in sudden heavy rainfall we are experiencing ?

On our way back to Accra, we spent a long time in the queue for the ferry and watched people buying food while waiting.

As I was sitting in front beside Sebastian (the driver), I could see people throwing litter out of their cars and the amount lying on the roadside.

Households are encouraged to grow some crops to feed their families and you could see yams in the garden and a couple of rows of something at the front. The host I was staying with was growing watermelons and I took a photo of one but I’ve since heard that they have sadly all been eaten by pests.

I would like to return, particularly to see how the Mission Field is progressing but also to find out about recycling, water conservation and other things I suspect happen, but I ran out of time. It was apparent, however, that while the conditions (living, temperature and soil) may be vastly different, we do have a lot of things in common— global warming, concern about intensive farming, increasing lack of resources and pests munching our crops— and that we can all benefit by sharing knowledge and experience.



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