



Ahotokurom, also referred to as Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre, was set up 1983 near Cape Coast in Ghana as a centre of Christian hospitality for the disabled and disadvantaged. Friends of Ahotokurom support their work to provide health care, social care and education, encouraging personal growth and independence.

June 2019

## Welcome to our mid-year newsletter!

It is with gratitude we report on recent activities in the UK.

### **New Benefactors**

All at Ahoto are delighted that the parish of St Hugh of Lincoln in Knaphill has voted Ahotokurom to be their parish charity. There was great rejoicing when this was announced at mass in Ghana. The Parish Priest of St Hugh's – Fr. Gerard has recently suffered from a very serious illness requiring brain surgery, so his parishioners are currently engaged in praying 'a thousand rosaries' for his return to health.



When the elderly and disabled residents in St Clare's home heard about this– they promptly joined in the 1000 Rosaries for Fr Gerard! May he grow in strength and health.

We are also pleased to announce that Fr Paul Fennessy, from Holy Apostles, Swanley has decided to visit Ahotokurum with a view to proposing that Swanley parish consider adopting the work as part of their parish mission. We wish Fr Paul all the very best and look forward to hearing all about his first impressions in due course.

Children from Holy Cross RC School in Catford have been busy learning to knit in order to send some beautiful **sensory blankets** to the Special Unit at Ahoto.

Each blanket has buttons, tags, ribbons and other embellishments lovingly sewn into it, so that those with learning and visual disabilities can touch, hold and explore the exciting colours and textures. These blankets are sent with love! Well done all!

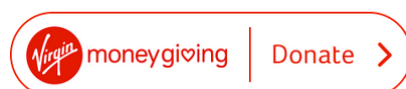


## Fundraising Activities

**Palm crosses** raised £1800 in donations from parishes here in England. Most important is the dignity it gives to those with disabilities – knowing that their work making the palm crosses contributes to income generation for the centre.

**Holy Cross Church Catford Sponsored Walk** is on 6th July if anyone wants to join they would be welcome..... contact Lesley via email: [lesleyaallen@btopenworld.com](mailto:lesleyaallen@btopenworld.com)

We have a new **Online Donation** account at [Virgin Giving](#) which makes donating by card easy and also makes it easy to set up your own fundraising events.



## The Farm

The Farm at Ahoto is very busy with planting, growing and harvesting all happening at the same time. The team have planted new coconut seedlings and harvested papaya, plantain and tomatoes. It is now time to harvest pineapples and watermelons! All of this offsets the foodbill for the centre but also leaves some left over to sell and raise much needed funds!



Plants aren't the only thing growing, the farm still growing too. New sections have been cleared for bananas and plantain. The pig herd has also grown to 24 and goats and sheep are about to arrive – once the centre has figured out how to fence them in, so that they don't destroy the fruit and vegetable crops. Ahoto has also started a prisoner rehabilitation project. The prisoners are doing valuable work on the farm at a reasonable cost. It was good news all round when the Ministry of Food and Agriculture awarded a 'Certificate of Merit' for the farm. Joe, Atta and Grace (PPRC staff) attended the ceremony and were presented with the certificate and a number of prizes, including a fridge!

## Bus Project

News that St. Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough had reached their fundraising target of £50K in support of a new bus was a great boost for the new year. With other donations in place Ahoto have been undertaking the procurement process. It takes time to ensure the best deal on a vehicle that can withstand the battering it will get on the bush roads. Ahoto are on the verge of placing the order and soon the disabled children and adults will be able to get to the centre by a reliable mode of transport! Ahoto says "sincere thanks to all of our friends who have made this possible. It's going to make such a difference!". We will provide further updates in our next newsletter.



## The Solar Project is LIVE!

The panels arrived from China in mid-February and have now been mounted, connected and fenced in by Naiko Engineering Ltd. Ahoto has a capacity of 20.8 kW DC and the solar-farm has been connected to the existing electricity meters, grid and generator. It is WONDERFUL to see the electricity meter going backwards. This saves so much money and is great news for the environment. Ahoto is very grateful to all the sponsors, including the Antrim Friends of Ahotokurom as well as Embassy of Ireland, ESB International and Future Perfect Ltd.



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[www.ahoto.org](http://www.ahoto.org)