

# Friends of Ahotokurom

*Ahotokurom, also referred to as Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre, was set up 1983 by Franciscans and the DMJ Sisters 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.*

## Rewind the clock!

**The worst Christmas present of 2019 was a 2020 year planner!**

In **January** the first signs of Covid-19 occurred in China and by **March** this year the whole world began to be affected in one way or another by the Pandemic.

It has been an impossible year to 'plan' for anything; all of us have had to learn to live day by day. It is an experience we all share and it unites us with our friends in Ghana in a way we never could have imagined.

**The work in Ahotokurom has continued in the face of exceptional challenge.** Operating care homes and special schools here in the UK has presented tremendous problems and these same problems have been faced by our friends in Ghana.

They have risen to the challenge – initially they had absolutely no PPE, limited handwashing facilities, and an open compound with vulnerable children, young people and adults coming and going.

They have adapted: sadly closing down some of the work, restricting access, developing new outreach, and focussing on trying to generate sustainable income.

It has been a hard year and their capacity to generate income has been severely

impacted. They have cut costs, made redundancies, tried to increase their own food production etc.



*A good watermelon crop!*

You can read about the amazing things they have achieved here: [please click on this link to see the newsletter](#)

If you have difficulty connecting directly, take a look on our website [www.ahoto.org/newsletters](http://www.ahoto.org/newsletters)

Here in the UK you have continued to support us and we thank you most sincerely for that.

We know it is hard for all our supporters here too. All of our lives have been impacted in some way, touched by loss, by restrictions, by reduced income, by the inability to meet for mass.

### We THANK YOU:

**Our parishes** for buying palm crosses they have not been able to use and for continuing to appeal & pray even though you cannot celebrate mass together.

We mention especially St James the Great, St Hugh of Lincoln, St Columba, Holy Apostles, St Thomas of Canterbury, for continuing to adopt us as your parish charity.

**Our many loyal individual donors** for continuing to give regularly despite facing great financial needs here in the UK also.

**Our fundraisers**, for trying to think of new ways to generate funds even though we cannot have events.

**As Christmas approaches, we ask you please to continue to support in whatever way you can.**

If you are shopping online please ensure you have signed up to **Easy Fundraising** and linked to Ahotokurom and also **Amazon Smile**. It is amazing how much money we can make with a small percentage of all your online purchases coming to us. See here for details on how to link: [www.ahoto.org/support](http://www.ahoto.org/support)

You can also **send your donations** to:  
DMJ Friends of Ahotokurom  
c/o The Treasurer, St John Fisher,  
48, Thanet Road, Bexley, DA1 5AP

In these strange times we keep all our supporters in prayer and offer these words of inspiration from the poem 'God Knows':

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*