OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH HARPENDEN

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP PROJECT REPORT FOR 2025

How YOU are helping in Nepal, Eastern Uganda and East Kenya

Thank you for your continued support of the Developing World Group (DWG), a charity within the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Harpenden, through your generous donations and by attending our social events. This has enabled us to work with Charity Partners to continue to support many small-scale projects in the poorest areas in the world. We are able to help communities build their own pathway out of poverty by nurturing enterprise, developing self-sufficiency and changing lives.

We ensure thorough diligence on our Charity Partners. Any money donated is used for the specific project in question. We make sure we have a direct line of sight on progress and receive feedback on the impact of our support. Here is feedback on the projects that you made possible:

1	KHIRAULE, NEPAL	BUILDING OF FOUR METAL BRIDGES	*DONATED £5,120*

Khiraule Education and Health Project (KEHP), a charity based in the UK, raises funds to support Khiraule, a remote village in Nepal.

Your support has funded the building of four metal bridges, replacing the existing wooden bridges constantly at the mercy of the harsh climate. Our contact, Lhakpa Sherpa, kept us informed at every stage: from measuring, designing and building the bridges by hand in the workshop in Kathmandu to testing, transportation by truck and manpower, and the installation of the bridges before the monsoons.

The metal bridges are more sustainable, reduce deforestation in the area and importantly bring the community back together again.



Old wooden bridges



Metal bridges under construction in Kathmandu



Installation

2	BUDAKA DISTRICT, EASTERN UGANDA	SUPPORTED 'VILLAGE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATIONS' AND 'REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES'	*DONATED £4,896*

We continue to support Just Small Change because of the impact our donations have on villagers in the Budaka District, Eastern Uganda. The Budaka District is recognised by local government as an area with limited development interventions. Most households rely on subsistence farming, a livelihood that has become increasingly challenging. Approximately 70% of the population face chronic food insecurity and over 30% live below the Ugandan poverty line of US$1 per day.

With our funds, eight 'Village Saving and Loan Associations' (VSLA) (each with approximately 35 members) are being set-up to provide skills training and essential resources, giving members the confidence and opportunities to improve their livelihoods. Members work together by combining their small savings so there is enough for some members to borrow. This enables them to invest in micro businesses, purchase seeds or plants, pay school fees or rent land for cultivation. They learn to manage their money, save regularly and pay back the loan.

The groups, consisting of 280 women (head of households), were also enrolled in a two-day 'Regenerative Agricultural Training Programme' to strengthen food security and improve household resilience. Both projects are self-sustaining.

The photo below shows how grateful the community is for the support of the Developing World Group.





Here Peter Donaghue (Just Small Change) is discussing the importance of clearing the ground as the first step

3	ULLANI, KYANGALA, EAST KENYA	CONSTRUCTION OF A BOREHOLE	*DONATED £6,000*

In conjunction with the Kyangala Trust, our financial support has enabled the construction of another borehole (120 metres deep) and water storage, in Ullani, Kyangala, near a school. There has been a water shortage for a long time causing farm animals to starve, pastures to wither and wells to dry up, threatening the lives of the families living in the area.

The photos below show the Kyangala team from the UK with the water storage units and the Water Well Head. Also the sign confirming the commissioning of the borehole by the Minister for Water in the Machakos region.

John Harrison, from the Kyangala Trust, reported: *'This additional borehole has been a huge success. It provides plentiful clean water, in an accessible location, making a huge difference to the lives of many families in the local area. They are so happy and grateful to the Developing World Group'.*



John Harrison and his team from Kyangala Trust with local school children



Water Well Head



Kyangala Trust commissioned borehole and storage units

DWG 'SOCIAL EVENTS' YOU SUPPORTED IN 2025: * TEA IN THE GARDEN * QUIZ NIGHT * DWG FEEDBACK EVENING * CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

- Following popular demand, we ran more 'Christmas Wreath Making' events. Our parishioners were delighted with the workshops and enjoyed the social gathering.
- We also held another lovely 'Tea in the Garden' event at Sheila Greenwood's home. Our team served tea and coffee with cakes donated by the Parish. Despite warnings of bad weather, and the Council cancelling local events, our intrepid team went ahead. It gave us a great chance to socialise with members of the Parish.
- Thank you to those who attended our special 'DWG Feedback' evening. John Harrison, from the Kyangala Trust, provided first-hand feedback on how our financial support and the construction of another borehole is making a really positive difference to the lives of the villagers in Kyangala.
- Finally, our Quiz night was a sell out and great fun - thanks to Quiz Leader Ginny St John Glew.





Christmas Wreath Making led by our DWG member Julie Moroney

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT IN 2025 WITH OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The ongoing generosity of our parishioners, and the wider community of Harpenden, enabled us to raise £16,131.56 through the following:

MONTHLY DONATIONS*	£6,202.00
ONE OFF DONATIONS	£860.00
LEGACY	£3,000.00
GREEN BOX & CHURCH WALL DONATIONS	£183.68
DWG CHURCH APPEAL	£1,464.71
TEA IN THE GARDEN	£818.40
BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER DONATION**	£1,100.00
QUIZ NIGHT	£1,301.79
CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING	£1,200.90
TOTAL	**£16,131.56**

* Should you wish to donate on a one-off basis, by regular standing order and/or register for Gift Aid please see the DWG Finance page on the Parish website or contact Noel Whittle, our treasurer, at nfjwhittle@gmail.com

** A special thanks must be given to the 'Ladies Group' for donating the funds raised from the 'Banish the Blues Supper Night' to the DWG. And thank YOU for coming along and supporting the evening.

Finally, we want to thank Melanie in the Parish Office and our Parish Communication Team for helping us promote our fundraising events. And Rachel Lee for formatting this Report.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events in 2026.

Keep a look out in the Parish Newsletter.

And if you are interested in finding out more about the Developing World Group's objectives, projects and even joining our team of volunteers, please contact our chair, Betty Hines elizabeth.hines@gmail.com or view the Parish website.

Supporting small projects to make a BIG difference

https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/community/dwg

Registered Charity Number: 233699