

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

(robandsuemartin@gmail.com)

December 2022

Dear Friends,
Greetings.

Firstly, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in 2023!

I am sorry we have delayed so long in sending a newsletter, but we were waiting until we returned from our first visit to the Diocese since 2019, kept away by the Covid



Gabra evangelists graduation

restrictions. But now we are back, we can share some of the wonders we saw and experienced. It was a brilliant, but exhausting time! We were in the Diocese for 10 action-packed days. We visited 9 parishes and 5 schools, consecrated two new churches, helped with the graduation of 17 young evangelists in the desert village of Bubisa, and met with the clergy chapter. We looked at 4 possible sites for the new Girls High School, and were soaked by a rare and miraculous shower, while visiting a water harvesting project! It was wonderful to see our old colleagues again after so long. With this letter, I'll send the latest Voice of Hope magazine, that Huqa, the Communications



Bishop Daniel Qampicha

Secretary, has already produced, which includes some of our activities.

And this week, Jomo, the Diocesan Youth Coordinator, has organised a Youth conference, to which 300 youngsters have come from across all the people groups. How promising for the future!

Thank the Lord for all the life and energy in the Diocese, despite the challenges.

Please pray all these encouraging initiatives may flourish, and especially for the Girls High School, that a suitable plot can be chosen, and the school begin

****And huge challenges there are: FAMINE RAVAGES**

THE LAND. You can hear about it on the news: in the Horn of Africa - Somaliland, Somalia, N. Kenya and on to N. Uganda – the rains have failed or been poor for over 3 years. Over 80% of livestock in N. Kenya have died – camels, cows and goats, which are the assets and savings of the different nomadic and Pastoralist peoples, who criss-cross this arid and semi-arid land. It is a mystery how they survive. And the few farmers in the North are just as desperate. There has been some famine relief from the

Government, but it barely tides people over. People may be dying from starvation, but who knows?

Because few governments will admit that their people are dying. The Diocese has received and given out about £61,000 relief through two donor organisations, but the Bishop is at his wit's end to know which way to turn for relief. For many, it is a matter of life and death; for parents it's almost impossible to pay school fees; and for the church it impacts on paying Parish share and clergy salaries.



WILL YOU HELP? We hope some of you might be able and willing to provide support to send to Marsabit. If so, the details for giving are at the end of this letter.



Burned Gabra Village

We know it is Christmas time. We know there's a Cost-of-Living crisis for many. We know there are many other organisations hoping you'll help their very worthwhile projects. We know all this, but we do pray that some of you might spare something for the people in these remote regions, whom you've been supporting and praying for over the years. And even if you are unable to help financially, please would you...

Pray for rain, that the Lord would open the heavens, and pour out the life-giving water that the people, the land and the animals are crying out for.

The other challenge is Insecurity. It had been causing so much fear and distress. We saw burnt out villages and

houses; we heard how people ensured they were home by 5pm because the streets of Marsabit were too dangerous; we met old friends who had fled to Nairobi because they were on a hit list. It was thought the General Election on August 9th, and the rivalry of powerful politicians jockeying for position, was causing the unrest.

But, Hallelujah, the elections went off peacefully! Now, newly elected President Ruto is calming things down and security is much improved. While staying at St. Stephen's, the Diocesan Training Centre, there was a gathering of people from different faith communities and people groups, who were wrestling with post-violence reconciliation. There is peace, but it is a fragile thing, and it can be lonely and frustrating being a peacemaker



Internally Displaced People

Please pray for them, the peacemakers, and that peoples might be and remain truly reconciled

Financially, this year we have sent out £52,630. Thank you so much for all your support. The latest transfer included £2000 for a Christmas bonus for all the Diocesan clergy, evangelists and lay workers

For those of you who have prayed for Bishop Qampicha: Firstly, his back is still sore at times, but better, thank the Lord, so travelling isn't quite so tough.



Sue with the beaded goods makers



The Cathedral send you greetings!



Secondly, we hope to organise a visit by him and Safia to the UK in June/July 2023!!! – more news later, but please let us know if you would like to meet them?

GDPR. You are receiving this email because you have previously told us you would like to receive regular updates. The only details we retain are your name, email address, and any hard copy Gift Aid forms you may have sent the treasurer. If you do not wish to receive these updates in future, please let us know, and we will remove your details.

Friends of Marsabit: (Reg. Charity No. 1169552 - tax relief reclaimable).

Reliance Bank, Sort Code 60-01-73, A/c No 00215697, A/c Name: Friends of Marsabit.

Treasurer Phil Gray has Gift Aid forms: 33 Blackberry Road, Frome BA11 5DF: philgray295@aol.com