



The Boys' Brigade

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.



Project Stedfast:

Back in July we found ourselves standing at Oloolua getting our first glimpse of the building work. It is difficult to convey the buzz of excitement and anticipation that flows through the Parish as this project makes its way from dream to reality. The first three classrooms are nearing completion now. The roof and windows / doors all in place work has commenced on the interior finishing and kitting out of these classrooms. Building has commenced on the sanitary facility and water filtration unit. In January a small group of us will return to Kenya once again to visit the site and begin planning for October 2008 when we intend to take a group of young men from the Companies involved in this project to Kenya for the 'Official' opening of the School and to spend time working with and teaching in this wonderful facility.



St Andrews School October 2007

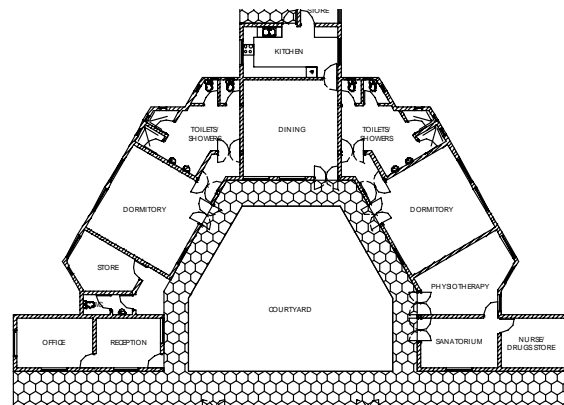
It has been important from day one that the young men of our Boys' Brigade here kept a close and valid link with the Project. October 2008s visit will offer them the opportunity to experience the life changing effect this Project has had on so many people in Kenya and in spending time there, teaching as well as learning, be able to gain some experiences which will set them in great stead for their own future lives as young Christian men.

The children of Oloolua will benefit from this facility for many generations to come, bringing permanent positive change to the lives of so very many children. There are a great many problems Africa has yet to surmount and there is no doubt this is but a small step on that road, however it is in many ways a giant leap for these children, with education their future is undoubtedly improved and many of these children already speak of what they will do for others when it is their turn. If Christian people four thousand miles away can find a way to do this for them when all they had to depend on was prayer, it is a fitting accolade that with this new future ahead, they themselves wish most of all to be able to answer someone else's prayer in their lifetimes and believe so strongly that through education they will have the skills and finance to do so.



The Girls' Brigade Tree being planted in the school Grounds

The foundations will be laid for the disabled children's centre during November (plan of centre shown opposite). The centre will include accommodation units (1 x male 1 x female) physio room, dispensary, nurses' room, toilets and showers and most importantly the kitchen facility which will be able to provide school meals for the whole school complex. This centre will by its very nature set a benchmark for many to follow in Kenya, currently access to education for disabled children is at best rare never mind the opportunity to be integrated into main stream school alongside able bodied children. There will always be children whose disability will make integration into a standard class unsuitable and a special needs classroom is outlined in the plans to accommodate any child who requires this facility for learning, though, regardless of this opportunities will be found to integrate in other ways. Disability will be no boundary.



The journey that began in November 2006 still has hurdles to pass, the fundraising continues apace with the work being carried out in Kenya. The target we set is drawing closer but we are not there yet. In the run up to Christmas we will be selling a calendar for 2008 which includes both photographs we have taken whilst in Kenya and also drawings given to us by the children of Oloolua, the children's drawings alone worth the purchase. For us the opportunity to buy a unique and special Christmas gift and also by doing so make a very special gift to the children of Oloolua by supporting this Project, It Can Be Done and with your help It Will Be Done.

www.projectstedfast.co.uk

Donations can be made directly to the 5th Livingston, 51st Bonnyrigg or 1st Loanhead Company of The Boys' Brigade. Alternatively you can donate by post to:- The Treasurer, 5th Livingston Company the Boys' Brigade, C/O 125 Bankton Park West, Murieston, Livingston, EH54 9BS.

(if posting please make your donation by cheque only. Cheques should be payable to Project Stedfast)