

(ARTICLE ON LENT APPEAL 2008 for PARISH MAGAZINES
to go out in NOVEMBER DIOCESAN MAILING)

‘EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION’

has been the chief political mantra in the UK in the last decade despite our being a highly developed country (18th in the list of 177 countries in the Human Development Index)? Imagine then how much more important education is to countries, like Angola and Mozambique (160th and 168th respectively on the HDI), which are struggling to develop and release their people from endemic poverty. Education is the pivotal tool for development and poverty reduction but regrettably the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015 is not on track to be reached.

In Mozambique there are one million children without primary school places. In Angola in Uige province alone there are 100,000 children without schooling. Our link dioceses regard education as one of their chief priorities alongside malaria. ALMA, through ALMA’s Children and parish to parish links, has already helped build several schools – in Nacala, in Milange, in Zove, and in St Stephen’s Luanda. These schools are intensively used: in St Stephen’s, which opens in February 2008, there will be three school sessions each day – morning, afternoon and evening. However, many more schools are needed to address the chronic shortfall.

Next Lent in London, as part of our response to London Challenge 2012, we want to stand alongside our partners as they seek, step by step, parish by parish, to build primary schools to educate their young people. It is estimated that a simple school with three classrooms and an administration block would cost about £25,000. Our goal is to finance the building and equipping of a school in each of our link dioceses – Angola, Lebombo (Southern Mozambique) and Niassa (Northern Mozambique). There will be a Lent Appeal Leaflet, Poster and Gift Aid Envelope, with additional material and worship suggestions on the London Diocesan website www.london.anglican.org, and on the ALMA website: www.almalink.org. Samples of the materials will be sent to each parish in London before Christmas.

It would be so encouraging to know, via the responses section of London Challenge 2012, www.london.anglican.org/London-Challenge-Commitment_6, that your parish is going to take part in the

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