

# Helping Others



## Wigan's Sportsman's Dinner

Over 90 brothers from Province 1 attended **Wigan Circle's** Sportsman's Dinner in aid of the President's charities, Missionary Vehicle Association and the Bursary Fund. £1093 was made on the night. Guest speakers were Luke Robinson and Martin Aspinwall (Wigan Rugby) and Tony Peach (Salford Circle).



*Pictured (back, l to r) Kevin Wall, Entertainments Officer; Bernard Griffin; (front, l to r) Vice President Albert Eckersley; President Bob Dittman; Tony Peach, Salford Circle*

## Presentation to Willow Wood Hospice

Immediate Past President Brian Roberts accompanied by fellow brothers of **Ashton & District Circle** and Father Bernard Forshaw, Chaplain to the Hospice, attended the monthly Coffee Morning where a cheque for £500 collected during Brian's year of office, was presented and gratefully received by staff members, two of whom are shown in the photograph.



## North Wales Circle Assist Emma

**North Wales Circle** sponsored a St Asaph Girl Guide to assist her to attend the International Guide Camp in Canada last July. Emma Lovegrove, an Altar Server at St Winefrides Church was selected to represent Wales and joined with 14 other Guides to go on a 'trip of a life time'. Based in Vancouver, the UK party joined Guides from groups around the world. As well as sight seeing they undertook public service projects - Emma's task being maintenance work in a local park. As this was a self financing trip, North Wales Brothers agreed that this was a worthwhile project and decided to support Emma to reach her target which was in excess of £1600. North Wales circle was one of a group of local organisations to sponsor Emma.

## Touching the Heart

Thanks to the generosity of the Association's Bursary Fund, Chris Jones was able to work as a volunteer in Nyeri, Kenya from 4th July - 10th August 2004. Here he writes a short account of how he was able to help others.

Upon arrival in Nairobi airport there were mixed feelings amongst our group of eight volunteers, none of us quite sure what to expect. After what seemed to be an eternity driving along bumpy, half built roads in a mini-bus that would almost certainly fail an MOT, we arrived in the lively market town of Nyeri, situated in the rolling hills of the Kenyan highlands. Any last minute doubts vanished instantly as we were surrounded by a sea of smiling faces filling us with warmth and joy; the school children were certainly pleased to see us!

Although our task was to assist in the building of houses for teachers at St. Mary's Boys Secondary School, there is also a "junior" programme set up by the current head teacher around six years ago, the American-born Brother Dominic Jordan. At this time Nyeri had a large problem with street-children whose only escape from the hardships of their lives was a pot of glue, which they sniffed at incessantly. Numbers were estimated to be at 200, however, with the help of other members of staff, Brother Dominic approached these children promising them food, a bed, education and most importantly the opportunity to simply be what they are - young children. This is a promise that he has kept to this day. During our project it was the "juniors" who touched our hearts the most, now

numbering around 180. A lot of our time was spent talking with them, playing games and teaching them, but I believe we have learned more from them than we could ever hope to give. Always smiling, always laughing, they were the life and soul of our project.

When the time came for us to leave, our houses had almost been completed, the remaining work left in the very capable hands of the local workers. We all had a truly fulfilling experience. It was a delight to see that, in the face of poverty, joy and hope shine through. We have learnt many things but perhaps of most value, we have learnt that life is all about "hakuna matata".

Chris Jones,  
Lasallian Developing World Projects