



# Association of Friends Newsletter

Sept 2023

## News from Nigeria

This year Nigeria elected a new President; Bola Ahmed Tinubu. As in many other countries throughout the world, Nigeria has been impacted by the global recession. This has led to widespread insecurity, high unemployment, rising inflation and a country more divided along ethnic lines. The projects supported by NHCP continue to function but in a more challenging environment.

The NHCP continues to work closely with its partner, the Methodist Church Nigeria, to support projects in rural areas of the country.

Edawu in Aina has seen an increase in the provision of mental health services in the community, reporting 158 new clients and 1598 under follow-up care.

The Methodist College of Health Technology at Ebenta has welcomed its new cohort of students.

The Motherless Babies Home at Uzuakoli currently has 29 resident children. They have reported that they are making very good progress with their relationship with the adjoining school and have received a new water tank generously donated by another charitable organisation.

## Happy Birthday Ros

This year our friend Ros (Nkechi) Colwill celebrates her 70th birthday. Ros first came to Nigeria as a young social worker at the Leprosy Colony at Uzuakoli. Ros went on to set up Amaudo, a centre for the mentally ill in Itumbauzo. For many years the Nigeria Health Care project supported the work at Amaudo which has become an inspiring blueprint for the care of mentally ill people throughout western Africa.



## Deaconess Ibrinke Oworu

Ibrinke (Ronke) Oworu, the Health Secretary of Methodist Church Nigeria, has been elected President of Region Africa Europe, one of the three regional groups of the DIAKONIA World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities. Ronke is the first black president for the Africa and Europe region. Congratulations from all at NHCP!



## NHCP AGM

This year's AGM will be held at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church, Leeds, LS7 4NB on the 4th November. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Deji Okegbile, Chaplain of the Nigerian Methodist Mission.

## Trustees visit to Nigeria

It has been five years since NHCP trustees visited Nigeria, due to the pandemic and worsening insecurity in the country. Three trustees plan to visit in mid-November. They will stay in Lagos and meet with church leaders, managers and clinical leaders from all the facilities supported by NHCP. Working in partnership with Nigerian colleagues, they will focus on improving monitoring, evaluation and shared learning.

## Prayer Focus

- Those involved in the numerous projects striving to improve mental health in Nigeria
- Our partners on the Medical Board of Methodist Church Nigeria working to improve health care across the country
- For a safe, productive and inspiring trustee visit to Nigeria to strengthen and refresh our work in partnership

**Thank you for your continued support of the Nigeria Health Care Project "Working in partnership to support health care and training in Nigeria"**