

www.asterias.org

Thank you from Karai!

Christmas was made special once again at Karai Children's Home last year thanks to the generosity of so many of you who donated through Asterias' Christmas voucher scheme. The money was raised by the purchase of vouchers to give to friends or family as an alternative Christmas gift. As a result the students, many of whom are orphans or are estranged from the families, were able to celebrate Christmas with a festive meal. In addition they each received a gift of new clothing, right down to shoes and underwear. While these are not the kind of Christmas presents chil-



dren in the UK might appreciate, the students at Karai were delighted with their new clothes, particularly because they were brand new. This contrast between their reality and ours is a real challenge to our attitudes to material possessions. It helps to focus us again on the true significance of Christmas, when God gave us the best gift ever, his son Jesus. On behalf of the children and young people at Karai, thank you for making a difference to their lives, at Christmas and long after.

Pampered Chef

Forget Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsey! Pampered Chef Carol-Anne Mayberry cooked for Asterias to raise funds for Christmas at Karai. Despite the snow, a good turn-out of people came along to sample the food, purchase the products and browse the jewellery, candles and knitted items provided by local crafters. An enjoyable evening was had by all and the total amount raised contributed to the purchase of Christmas presents and a dinner for the staff and young people of Karai.

Ballygrainey GB

When we ask family and friends what they want for Christmas or birthdays, it is often said, "Oh I don't need anything," but how many of us really mean this statement? The junior section of Ballygrainey GB really meant it when they took a decision about the money which would have been used by their leaders to buy them a Christmas present. They decided to donate it to the Asterias "Christmas at Karai" Project. A big thank-you to the leaders and girls for this thoughtful donation. If donating to Asterias is something you have thought of doing instead of receiving birthday, Christmas or wedding presents, please contact us and we would be happy to help arrange this and inform you of the rewards which would be involved for you also.

Favourable Wedding

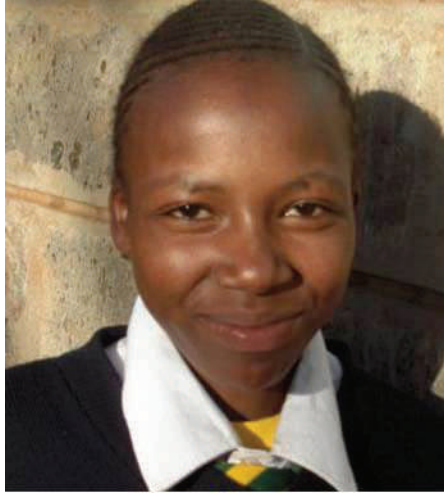
Congratulations to Aimee and James Boyle who got married on 4 May at Bangor Elim Church! Following James' return from Kenya in 2009 as part of the Asterias teams, the couple decided to donate the money they would have used towards wedding favours to Asterias. The generous total of £200 was gratefully received by Asterias and, in return, each wedding guest received an Asterias pin badge presented on a card at their place setting in La Mon Hotel. Both Aimee and James recognise the value that their donation will have in serving people in Kenya and we would like to thank them for their generosity and continuous support of Asterias. We wish them God's richest blessing in their married life together.

How you can help

If you'd like to help financially with the work of Asterias, please visit our website www.asterias.org or contact us at:

The Asterias Organisation Limited
79 Chichester Street
Belfast

WANTED



..sponsors for **Monicah Kanini**, born 4 September 1996, lives at Karai Children's Vocational Centre, Kenya. Orphaned, with only one older brother, no other relatives.

For four years now Monicah has been suffering from rheumatic arthritis. Especially during cold periods of the year she suffers from pains in all her joints: her legs, arms and shoulders. As Karai is situated well over 1,500 m above sea level, the days can be very cold during the rainy season and even more so during the nights and early mornings when she has to be on her way to school.

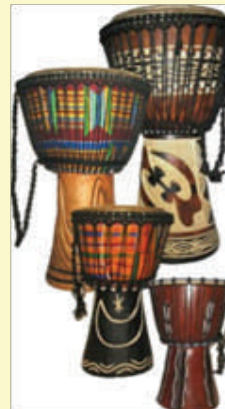
Monicah is a lively, resourceful and intelligent girl. She attends a local High School, Form 1. Her favourite subject is biology. She likes to sing and to act in a "drama group". She would very much like to become a journalist. She is writing little stories about life and her dreams at present.

She needs a lot of expensive medicine regularly for her pains. The costs are about £45 per month. An additional physiotherapeutic treatment would help her a lot - but this is not within the normal budget of the Home. The treatment in a nearby hospital and the transport to it are expensive. That's why we are looking for sponsors for Monicah. The sum of £80 - 100 per month would help to improve this girl's quality of life. Monicah would love to write letters to her sponsors to tell them about life in Karai Children's Vocational Centre. We are looking for individual or group sponsorship. If you can donate any amount per month to The Asterias Organisation to contribute towards Monicah's treatment, please contact rachel.boyle@asterias.org.

Big Bann Canoe Challenge

Are you up for a challenge? Are you ready to be banned? On Saturday 20 - Sunday 21 August 2011, Asterias will be involved in a canoe challenge, run by CANI (Canoe Association of Northern Ireland) along the length of the Lower Bann, from Toome to Coleraine. This is a challenge for all ages and abilities, run over two days, with an overnight camp at Portneal Lodge near Kilrea. It will be a great opportunity for families, friends, colleagues or just individuals to take part, with training and trial opportunities taking place in the run up to the event for the less experienced! Whether you own a canoe or not, if you want to "Be Banned," leaflets giving more details will be available shortly. This is a great opportunity for a personal challenge and to raise sponsorship for The Asterias Organisation, serving people in Kenya.

Drum Circle



Come along and join in our drum circle using African djembe drums and other percussion instruments led by Joe from The Gathering Drum (thegatheringdrum.com). Learn how to make music, African style, for all ages, followed by refreshments. Minimum donation of £4 on Saturday 17 September 2011, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Venue: Hamilton House, Bangor.

Please register your interest by speaking to Rachel, Robin or Valerie, or emailing:

rachel.boyle@asterias.org.

