

## Wigmore's Supported Charity 2015-16

This was chosen by the votes of the congregation in April and May 2015 to replace our previous local charity - Friends of Luton Youth Music (FLYM) - we support a UK or local charity one year followed by an overseas charity the following year.

Seven charities were proposed: **Ebola Orphans** (run by *St George Foundation*, to help children orphaned by ebola in Sierra Leone), **Freedom Matters** (a charity that fights trafficking and helps free Nepalese children from slavery, abuse and exploitation), **Neema House** (an orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania set up by a retired couple from Texas, caring for children abandoned by their mothers because of health problems), **Peace Direct** (an international charity dedicated to supporting local peace building), **Shelterbox** (a charity supplying boxes of life-saving aid to families world-wide made homeless by natural or man-made disasters), **Sizanani** (a project of Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa, offering sewing training classes to help unskilled and unemployed people to gain skills for employment) and **Water Aid** (bringing clean, safe water to the poorest people and communities around the world).

After two rounds of voting **Sizanani** received the largest number of votes and will be our supported charity from July 2015.

**Sizanani Academy of Sewing and Design** (Sizanani - pronounced 'see-za-na-knee' - is the Zulu word for 'help one another') is a project of Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa and offers sewing training programmes to enable unskilled and unemployed people to obtain skills for employment. It needs to raise sufficient funding to offer a greater range of bursaries to attend courses, and loans for the purchase of sewing machines when students graduate.

As part of its income generation it produces clerical shirts; you may have seen some of these worn by Rev Jenny Spouge (our Methodist minister 2015 - 17).



You can follow the activities of *Sizanani* on their website ([sizanani-academy.org.za](http://sizanani-academy.org.za))  
- where you can view their latest newsletter

and on their Facebook page ([facebook.com/SizananiAcademy](https://facebook.com/SizananiAcademy))