



# "CAROLS DOWN THE LINE" on the South Devon Railway

(Heritage Railway of the Year 2007)  
Coordinated by Paignton (Palace Avenue) Methodist Church



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## 'Carols Down the Line' 2009

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 saw 831 joyful passengers singing Carols, eating a hot mince pie and drinking tea/coffee as they travelled the South Devon Railway.

The occasion was the annual 'Carols Down the Line' coordinated on behalf of the South Devon Railway by Paignton (Palace Avenue) Methodist Church. Stations were beautifully decorated as was the train with SDRA volunteers at Buckfastleigh entered into the spirit of the occasion as did SDRA volunteers at Totnes and Staverton with passengers got off the train to sing carols on the platforms. Salvation Army bands played for the carol singing on Tuesday and Wednesday whilst Totnes Town Band played for the Thursday. Plympton Clangers (handbell ringers) delighted us with their tuneful ringing at Buckfastleigh Station before departure on the Thursday. BBC 'Spotlight' travelled with us on the Tuesday, filming and talking to passengers and volunteers. The results were broadcast on 'Spotlight' slots during Wednesday with a longer 'piece' during that evening's 'Spotlight' programme.

The event gives an opportunity for the South Devon Railway to provide a service which raises money for nominated charities and good causes. This year, thanks to the generosity of passengers the following donations have been made –

Action for Children - £1250.00  
World Vision Projects in Senegal and Zimbabwe - £1160.00 (see below)  
ShelterBox - £557.57  
Railway Mission - £668.50  
Salvation Army (two bands) - £300.00  
Totnes Town Band - £200.00  
Plympton Clangers (Handbell team) - £50.00

This gave a grand total of £4186.07 to charities and good causes.

Paignton (Palace Avenue) Methodist Church looks forward to coordinating the event again in 2010 subject to a satisfactory agreement with the South Devon Railway being concluded.

# **WORLD VISION PROJECTS – TOTAL £1160.00**

**We have identified the following projects as worthy of support**

## **1. Rehabilitate a Water Point And Make It Safe**



### **Rehabilitate a Water Point And Make It Safe - Cost £450.00**

Community water technicians can assess a contaminated water source, treat it and then seal it to permanently restore clean safe water to a community.

#### **Part of Protracted relief programme, Zimbabwe**

how this helps...

#### **Zimbabwe - Protracted relief programme**

Zimbabwe has been through a tough time in recent years with a food and economic crisis in the country impacting the most vulnerable people. This protracted relief programme will help the most vulnerable people in the Area Development programme. Food shortages have led to people selling their animals and training a goat farmer to make the most of the livestock they have will help them improve their livestock. Water quality and availability is low and needs support and by providing taps to keep the water points safe, aqualabs to check the quality of water sources and rehabilitating water points that need it the community sickness levels can be improved and the elderly can be helped. The simple gift of some water containers can help the elderly and vulnerable keep the water they get safe and clean so they do not get sick.

## **2. School Toilet Block**



### **School Toilet Block - Cost £450.00**

Building a school Toilet block dramatically improves sanitation, reducing the spread of disease that prevents children attending lessons.

#### **Part of Better Education for All, Senegal**

how this helps...

#### **Senegal - Better Education for All**

In Mbellacadio there is a large drop-out rate in schools. Education can really help a village to prosper, so World Vision is working to improve 13 local schools. With the help of our supporters, we're making schools a place where children want to be. We're renovating classrooms, developing five canteens, kitting out seven schools with audio visual equipment and filling libraries with colourful books. Improving schools is also about improving the teaching, so we're training teachers on managing classes and State Education policy. In addition, we're empowering the best students by training 90 of them to teach reforestation and irrigated gardening. We will also be giving parents an extra reason to send their children to school by encouraging lessons on livestock management – with practical hands on education of goat, sheep and chickens meaning they will also come out of school with practical skills that benefit the community while the children are at home. All in all, we'll be helping 3100 children to enjoy a brighter learning environment and a brighter future.

### **3. Train 4 Teachers**



#### **Train 4 Teachers - Cost £260.00**

Improving a teacher's skills enables them to inspire and educate the next generation, dramatically improving children's chances in life as they grow up.

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how this helps...

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