

Visit from Ruth Flores from CAFOD to St Alban's on Monday 22 February.

Ruth talked to us in assembly about her recent visit to Peru and some children involved in a CAFOD supported project there. She showed us photos of Lomas de Carabayllo and a children's commission that CAFOD's partner Warmi Huasi has helped set up.



The children took Ruth around their community showing her places that are important to them, but that they want to improve so that they are safer and nicer to be in.

There is a concrete maze that the children love, but Marta, who has just turned ten and has been elected as the leader of the children's commission, explained that it is dangerous to play there as it is very dirty with broken glass, rubbish and dog poo and you can get hurt.

The children also showed Ruth their park, which is now a dusty, empty bit of land with two goalposts, and explained that they want to turn it into a nice park with grass, plants, shade, somewhere to sit and nice play things.



Marta, and other children in the commission are involved in telling the adults in charge of their community what they want them to do to make things better for them and other children. Marta finds speaking in front of lots of people scary, but she does it to help her friends in the community.



Warmi Huasi who are a local partner of CAFOD, provide support to the commission and many other services. These include a number of homework clubs, which help children – especially those whose parents aren't able to help them if they get stuck. This is important as some Mums and Dads haven't had the chance to learn and read and write. Also lots of Mums and Dads work very long hours and very far from home.



There is also a reading club, Marta loves reading, and she is learning to help other children with their reading.

Ruth also gave us a quick update on Elvis, a boy in another community in Peru that she told us about on a previous visit. He is well, and still helping his Mum with her shop, which CAFOD helped her set up. Something new for Elvis and his family is that steps have been built to help him and his brothers walk up the steep hill to his house which makes things much easier. Elvis was a bit shy to hear that children in England were interested in learning about his life but very pleased too!



After assembly Ruth visited a number of classes and the children asked some very interesting questions. She appreciates the school's continuing commitment through praying and raising funds for CAFOD.