

THE INDIA VILLAGE PROJECT

REGISTERED CHARITY SC039667

TRUSTEES REPORT

For the Session ending July 2013

The trustees submit their report together with accounts for the session ending July 2013.

Objectives

The objectives of the Project are: the physical improvement of the village of Mangamanuthu in Tamil Nadu, India and assisting the provision of education in three of the schools administered by the Marist Brothers in Tamil Nadu, specifically: St. Marcellin High School in Mangamanuthu and Marist Secondary and Marist Primary School in P.Udayapatti, a village which is nearer to Trichy.

Originally set up by staff and pupils of Lawside RC Academy, the India Village Project is now supported by St. Paul's RC Academy and St John's High School in Dundee and St. Ninian's Primary School in Hamilton. The project also has a commitment to support Operation Rainbow, which provides education for the children of some the poorest families in Tamil Nadu where AIDS is a problem and who are prevented from accessing mainstream education because of other people's misunderstanding of the mechanisms of HIV and AIDS..

Since the last report we have continued to raise funds for the project. We continue to foster our strong relationship with the local Bharatiya Ashram. The members of the Ashram have generously shared their Indian culture with St. Paul's by providing the pupils and staff with workshops on Indian dance, music and costume displays. They also demonstrated Indian cooking. The India Week was very successful, bringing together the staff, pupils and relatives to share their cultures. It is our intention to have another India Week in the coming session.

As part of the auditing process visits will continue to be made annually by representatives from the Project to Mangamanuthu and Trichy, to inspect and monitor the progress of the Project and bring back a report to the trustees to inform the next stage of the project.

Phase 7: A group of staff and pupils from St John's High School travelled to India in the summer of 2012, where they visited all four of the areas where the Project has an input. At the end of this financial year a joint visit will be made by the combined staff and pupils from St John's High School and St Paul's Academy to India, taking out funds to purchase more equipment and teaching materials for the three educational areas of the project and to continue the improvement of the village.

Phase 8: It has been agreed that a senior member of the administration in Trichy will visit us to report on the progress of the Project from the Indian point of view and to prepare for the visit of some key members of the teaching staff of the Indian school in the very near future.

Other Information.

During the course of the year we were approached for help in four specific areas. We had previously made a commitment to pay the school fees for a number of children in Operation Rainbow and this we were able to do in January 2013. Br Chinna asked if we would be able to help in the purchase of the last plot of land that was needed to enable the Brothers to complete the expansion of St Marcellin High School into a full S1 to S6 institution. There was one tract of land which was still available for sale. Its purchase would enable the new wing to be completed. We were able to do this with a direct transfer of the amount needed in February 2013.

We had agreed at the start of the Project that one of our objects was the provision of new housing in the village of Mangamanuthu. The last three plots of building land had been acquired in the village

and we were able to transfer the funds needed to build the last three houses still outstanding. This we did in April 2013. After the last visit in 2013 a need to provide funds for the refurbishment of the school in P. Udayapatti was identified and we were able to transfer funds to the Brothers for this in June 2013.

During the course of the year the funds were transferred directly to the projects in India by Direct Bank transfer. Test amounts of £10 were sent initially to verify the authenticity of the method, and were received and acknowledged by the trustees in India.

Accordingly we sent £4000 in January 2013, £8,500 in February 2013, and £12000 in April 2013, and a further £5000 in June 2013. These sums represented the payment of School Fees for Operation Rainbow, the purchase of the last plot of land to allow the completion of St Marcellin High School, the building of the last phase of three houses in the village of Mangamanuthu, and finally the refurbishment and provision of equipment for the school in P. Udayapatti.

The accounts appear to show that we have spent more money this year than we have raised. The principal reason for this is that we were carrying £12,000 over from previous years which had been earmarked for the building of the last phase of the housing in Mangamanuthu, and this amount was finally dispatched this year, so is included in this year's expenditure and revenue accounts.

As outlined in the last Trustee report, the membership of the board of Trustees has been updated. Brother Robert Welsh (Douglas), (Secretary), and Tony McLean, (Treasurer), were joined from September 2102 as Trustees by Fiona McLagan, Charlotte Jones, Charlotte McLachlan, and Frances McLachlan. Ade Brennan has demitted his Trusteeship from that date.

Fiona McLagan and Charlotte Jones have also become signatories to the India Village Project Bank Account, in the Bank of Scotland.

Brother Douglas will continue to work with both Schools in Dundee to further the aims of the Project. The curriculum of both schools has been enriched by liaison with their Indian counterparts, and the inclusion of the Indian community in Dundee in the development of Global Citizenship in the life of the schools.

February 2014