

# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 288585

## Details

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**Other names** BOAT

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1984-02-01

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** <http://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/priory/groups/boat/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF CHRISTIAN PARISHES, ORGANISATIONS, AND SOCIETIES, SITUATED IN OR WORKING OUTSIDE EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, IN (I) THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND (II) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Activities:** BOAT (Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust) provides support for the charitable activities of organisations and societies in the relief of poverty and the advancement of education.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** OUTSIDE EUROPE,U.USA,CANADA,AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
- Brazil
- Burma
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Grenada
- India
- Iraq
- Kenya
- Nicaragua
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£85,591	£92,610	-	-
2023-12-31	£83,605	£96,554	-	-
2022-12-31	£83,222	£83,932	-	-
2021-12-31	£91,874	£76,060	-	-
2020-12-31	£75,489	£57,230	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Dr Geraldine Johnson</b>	Chair	2022-06-01
ANGELA MACKEITH		
DR FILOMENA NAVE		
Dr JOHN ERNEST THANASSOULIS		
Elizabeth Ann Robertson		2024-06-02
JENNIFER MARJORIE DYE		2013-07-10
Julie Lynch		2025-06-01
Mick Conefrey		2021-06-20
ROSALEEN OCKENDEN		
Rene Banares-Alcantara		2017-05-05

**BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST**

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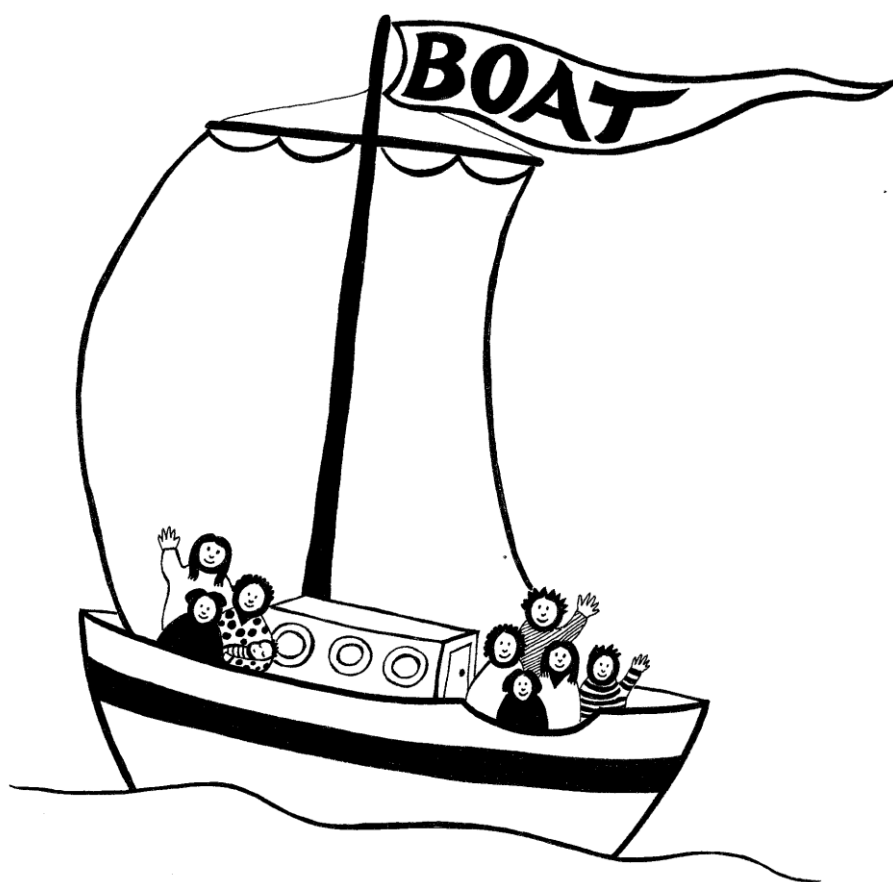
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# Accounts

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# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Founded 1984 by Members of 9.30 Family Mass Congregation



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2024

Registered Charity 288585

# BOAT COMMITTEE

## January to December 2024

### Trustees (voting)

Geraldine Johnson	Chair of BOAT
Liz Oberle-Robertson (took over from Anna Lucas in 2024)	Secretary
John Thanassoulis	Treasurer
Filomena Nave	Asst Treasurer, <i>Brazil</i>
René Bañares-Alcántara	<i>Ethiopia (Zizencho and Arekit)</i>
Mick Conefrey	<i>Zimbabwe and Uganda</i>
Jenifer Dye	<i>Ethiopia (Mission of Hope) and Sierra Leone</i>
Helen Ghosh	<i>Peru (Lima and Ayacucho)</i>
Ag MacKeith	Annual Report, <i>Nicaragua</i>
Rosaleen Ockenden	<i>Uganda (Bulindi and Kigumba parishes)</i>

### Committee Members (non-voting)

Anna Lucas	<i>Peru (Iquitos)</i>
Julie Lynch Bridson	<i>Myanmar, Philippines</i>
Rinaldo Caprotti	<i>Cameroon and India (Allapalli)</i>
Nicolette Michels	<i>Peru (Amantani), Uganda (Cancer Trust)</i>
Dominik Eynaud OP (took over from Augustine Chen OP in 2024)	<i>Jamaica and Rwanda</i>
Autumn Rowan Hull	<i>India (Sugandh)</i>

*Italics indicate the projects for which members are responsible.*

**Everyone in the 9.30 congregation has a part to play in keeping BOAT's large fleet of projects afloat. We are very grateful for the generous responses to our appeals for help and for our community's initiative, skill and hard work in raising funds in so many creative ways.**

**Registered Charity No. 288585**

## CHAIR'S REPORT 2024

Dear Friends of BOAT,

The Constitution of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT) includes as one of its objectives 'the advancement of education.' Reading through this year's Annual Report, it is striking to see just how many of the projects we support – thanks to your generosity – prioritise this goal. As Sr Silvy, a Bethany Sister working in Ethiopia with funding from BOAT, put it: 'Education is a powerful tool that can improve individual lives. Your support educates, motivates and gives our students hope, helping them to rise above social and economic barriers to achieve success in their lives.'

A number of the groups that benefit from BOAT's donations are directly involved in providing safe, nurturing, and effective education, including the Bethany Sisters who run kindergarten and primary schools with nearly 1,300 children in rural Ethiopia. Also in Ethiopia, Mission of Hope, under the guidance of Sr Mary Joachim, educates the children of some of the most vulnerable women, many with a history of prostitution and often infected with HIV-AIDS. In Sierra Leone, the school we support in Koindu has had remarkable success, with all the pupils it prepared for national exams in 2023–24 passing, despite often being in dire need of such basics as shoes, uniforms, and books.

In Jamaica's August Town, a vibrant but often violent community, the Christ the King Basic School supported by BOAT has recently been asked by a government agency to expand its coverage to include two-year-olds. The school is now converting one of its rooms into a 'Brain Builders Centre' to allow even the youngest children to begin achieving their academic potential. In the Philippines, the indefatigable Sr Winnie Apao uses funding from BOAT to run seven pre-schools for the indigenous Subanen people with instruction provided in the local language, thereby helping to preserve native traditions alongside ensuring that the children develop essential skills.

Rather than directly providing teaching themselves, several BOAT charities help to lay the groundwork so children can learn effectively in the first place and then make the most of the opportunities afforded by their education. For instance, in Nicaragua, BOAT underwrites a pre-school with a focus on providing nutritious food for children so they can fully benefit from their education. In Myanmar, where BOAT in 2024 underwrote the installation of three new 5,000-gallon water tanks, a very welcome bonus has been that children who used to spend hours walking long distances to fetch water can now instead spend the time learning, with new schools set up to accommodate the demand.

A number of BOAT-funded projects focus on helping older students and young people transition to higher education and employment. In 2024, for example, the Amantani programme in Peru developed a new initiative that helps disadvantaged students from Amazonian and Andean communities succeed in their exams and then apply for much-needed government scholarships to continue their studies. Also in Peru in the San Benito area, the Warmi Huasi project likewise is working with vulnerable teenagers to help them continue their education and find employment.

The 2024 Lenten Appeal similarly focused on empowering girls from some of the poorest migrant families in New Delhi to achieve their potential in school and beyond by equipping a new Computer Lab overseen by the Sugandh charity. We can already see the impact our donations have had, thanks to these resourceful and resilient young women learning essential IT skills, as well as serving as powerful role models for the younger children who attend Sugandh's tuition centres.

We are able to support these and many other projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America focused not only on education, but also on combatting the negative effects of poverty around the globe, thanks to your ongoing generosity through regular donations, responses to the annual Lenten Appeal, and contributions to our 9:30am Mass cafés – the latter also providing much joy to our own local community. Thank you for opening your hearts and sharing your resources to make all this possible.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees and BOAT Committee members for the care and effort they put into raising funds and communicating with our far-flung projects. I am particularly grateful to our Treasurer, John Thanassoulis, for managing our accounts so professionally and our Assistant Treasurer, Filomena Nave, for reclaiming over £16,000 in Gift Aid, as well as to Liz Oberle-Robertson, who stepped very ably into the role of Secretary in 2024. We are also grateful to Stefan Enchelmaier for taking on the crucial task of reporting on our accounts. Jenifer Dye and Joshua Dubin continue to provide lovely crockery for our cafés, complemented by Helen Ghosh's tablecloth-ironing skills, Autumn Rowan Hull's spectacular cakes, and Yinghui Carraro's fabulous breads. Gilli Robbins's weekly e-newsletter allows us to communicate with the Congregation about BOAT's work, and we thank Ag MacKeith for her skill in editing the Annual Report. Thanks also to the Dominican community and Br Dominik Eynaud for being so welcoming. In 2024, we established a new and productive connection with the Blackfriars graduate community through the efforts of Maura McKeon. But, as always, the most important thanks go to the dedicated, brave, and loving individuals 'in the field' who oversee the projects BOAT supports thanks to your generous donations.

### **BOAT's Public Benefit**

All charities, including smaller ones like BOAT, are required to report on the 'public benefit' they bring through their activities and to describe how they have achieved their objectives.

### **Our Purpose**

Under our constitution as a registered charity, which we updated at the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), the purposes of BOAT are to 'provide support for the charitable activities of Christian parishes, organisations or societies, situated or working outside Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in (i) the relief of poverty, and (ii) the advancement of education.' Everyone attending Mass at Blackfriars or giving to BOAT on a regular basis is regarded as a member of the Trust. The formal Trustees consist of up to ten people, elected each year at our AGM, with additional members of the Trust, together with the Trustees, comprising BOAT's Committee. A representative from the Dominican community – in 2024, Br Dominik Eynaud took over this role from Br Augustine Chen – also sits on the Committee, as a link to the Priory which is home to BOAT.

### **The Benefit We Bring**

We have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Under our Principles for Giving, updated at our AGM in 2007, we have a very clear set of criteria for the projects we support and for assessing the public benefit that support will bring. On the key principle that we want our funding really to 'make a difference,' we aim to support relatively small-scale or grass-roots projects with regular grants of £4,000. Some funding will be one-off, particularly in the case of our annual Lenten Appeal. But in most cases, projects will be funded for three years and then considered for renewal on a rolling basis.

We always look for projects with some link to the 9.30am Mass congregation or to the Dominican Order. Although most projects we support have Catholic leadership or a strong Catholic connection, this is not a requirement, and we do not fund any form of proselytizing. We ensure that there is regular personal contact with our projects, partly so that we can identify priorities and needs quickly, but also so we can better help the Congregation and other supporters understand the challenges faced by the charities we support. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes, even if, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergency situations. As you read through this report, you will see that our projects fall broadly into three areas:

**Health:** especially primary health care and preventive medicine;

**Welfare:** especially for children, people with disabilities, refugees, and victims of war, poverty and violence or exploitation of any kind;

**Education:** particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

Thank you again for your support of BOAT in 2024.

Geraldine A. Johnson, *Chair of BOAT*

9 May 2025

## Brazil

### São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church



The Centre for Children and Adolescents (CCA) São Paulo da Cruz is in the district of Pinheiros, in the city of Sao Paulo. This area attracts many domestic and other non-skilled staff who travel long distances to work there, often leaving their children unattended, many roaming the streets while the parents work. At CCA, children aged 6 to 15 years old, from low-income families, are kept off the streets outside school hours. CCA operates two half-day shifts, as schooling in Brazil is only half-a-day. Healthy meals are provided on each shift, breakfast and lunch, or lunch and tea, for the children that attend morning or afternoon, respectively. The children are occupied with social, recreational and educational activities in a safe environment that



complement state school education. The skills learned at CCA give them a real chance to escape poverty. The families are helped too, through regular talks and workshops. CCA's manager, Mrs Ida Oliveira, sends us very detailed reports about the children's activities (examples shown in the photos) and their achievements, noting the beneficial impact of BOAT's annual donation on the quality of meals and the activities provided. As mentioned in a previous report, BOAT's 2022 donation was used to adapt CCA's facilities to improve accessibility for children with disabilities. The number of children could then be increased from 106 to 127, to include 28 children with a wide spectrum of special needs. In 2024, these included children with heart problems, Parkinson's disease, alopecia, digestive problems, Down's syndrome, attention deficit and hyperactivity, learning difficulties and various levels of autism. CCA worked with the families to co-ordinate medical treatment. Specific activities were designed to help these children achieve autonomy and improve social participation.

*Filomena Nave*

## Cameroon

### ARCH, Dibanda

The Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) was founded in 1986 and provides professional rehabilitation services to people living with disabilities to enable them to become re-integrated into society. Some patients are disabled at birth or suffer birth trauma, others have developed disabilities or deformities because of malnourishment, disease or accidents. The centre has grown over the years. They now treat around 2500 patients, who come from the local community and from hospitals in the southwest region of Cameroon. Children account for nearly 50% of all the cases treated.

The activities range from preventing physical deficiencies and deformities, consulting and treating people with special physical needs, and counselling families and people living with disabilities to follow-up and follow-through activities for physically handicapped persons once they have been rehabilitated. ARCH also promotes, explains and furthers the rights of physically handicapped persons through local and national campaigns.



BOAT has supported ARCH over the years by providing funds to improve the facilities at the hospital, to increase food production used by carers and patients and to re-build their incinerator, now a modern furnace designed for burning hazardous materials and general hospital waste.

In 2024 we sent money for the purchase of a second-hand 4WD vehicle, which enabled ARCH to visit remote communities and treat handicapped people that otherwise would have little or no support. Their objective was to treat an additional 1000 cases a year – over 80 a week. In the five months since receipt of the new vehicle, they treated over 600 cases, nearly 80% of them children under five. The healthcare benefit for persons with disabilities living in remote villages is clear to see. The conditions treated ranged from spina bifida and cerebral palsy to acute injuries such as fractures and amputations... I was able to witness via video call two clinics held in a remote village, where a queue



of people waited to be seen (see photo). ARCH normally uses the local church and the primary school as the treatment/meeting points. However, as usual in critical areas, success brings new challenges. The dramatic increase in the number of patients treated means that ARCH now needs more funds to purchase

materials and tools for making assistive devices – potential projects for BOAT to consider in 2025.

*Rinaldo Caprotti*

## Ethiopia

### Zizencho and Arekit

The Bethany sisters from the Zizencho and Arekit communities send greetings and thanks in the name of the students and families of their schools.

The congregation of the Sisters of the Imitation of Christ, commonly known as Bethany Sisters, was founded by His Grace Mar Ivanios in Kerala, India, in 1925. The sisters started their missionary

activities in Ethiopia in March 2005, at the invitation of His Excellency Abune Musie Gebregheorgese, Bishop of Emdibir.

The Lord Jesus Catholic Kindergarten and Elementary School located in the village of Zizencho was founded in 2005 and currently has 550 students; the Infant Jesus Catholic Kindergarten and Elementary School in the village of Arekit is more recent and has 710 students. Both schools provide free education and other services such as school uniforms, stationery and clothing items, shoes, medical help, and food. (The picture shows mealtime in Zizencho.)

Both villages are very poor. For instance, there is no electricity in Zizencho and the children have to read and do their homework by the light of oil lamps. Around 75% of the students from both schools come from very poor families, and many are orphans living with their grandparents or other family members. In many cases they have to work in the afternoon to help their families by carrying water, collecting firewood, feeding animals, or selling produce and bread in the market.



Despite these enormous challenges more than 3,000 students have finished school over the years in Zizencho, and the first batch of 8th grade students is graduating this year in Arekit. Students from both schools are obtaining excellent results; for example, this year all the 65 students from Arekit who sat the Ministry Exam in 6th grade passed, two of them obtained 1st and 2nd position in the district, and the school got a good performance award. The impact of these schools extends to improvements in the village after many of the alumni attend higher education in various colleges and get good jobs afterwards.

There are many challenges to overcome: financial problems to maintain the operation of the schools, high annual inflation rates (23.3% in April 2024), ripple effects from the civil war in other parts of the country, high unemployment in the region resulting in internal migration from the country to the cities (mainly Addis Ababa), etc.

In the words of Sr Silvy: "Education is a powerful tool that can improve individual lives. Your support educates, motivates and gives our students hope, helping them to rise above social and economic barriers to achieve success in their lives. We thank our donors for their compassion and kindness, it has touched countless lives and will continue to enrich future generations."

*René Bañares-Alcántara*

## **Ethiopia**

### **Mission of Hope, Gode**

Sr Mary Joachim and a group of volunteers provide housing, basic healthcare and education to destitute women in a rural part of south-east Ethiopia. These women often have a history of prostitution due to the absence of any prospects for employment, and many are infected with HIV-

AIDS. Some have young children – who might also be infected. Due to the very limited social and medical care in this part of Ethiopia, these women and their children have no-one to care for them. Much of this work is done via the work of the Mission of Hope.

The armed conflicts in Tigray and Somalia, along with the general global financial climate are causing additional local economic hardships in the area that the Mission of Hope serves.

This year BOAT gave £4,000 to the Mission. Due to generosity of BOAT and other donors, Sr Joachim and her volunteers can continue to provide support to the local people. This includes the following:

- Pastoral, practical, and healthcare provision for approximately 30 women.
- Education of 35 pupils, aged 3–13.
- Provision of a floating water pump to secure clean water for those supported by the Mission and its volunteers.
- Medical and personal care and basic convalescence for ill adults in the local community, who otherwise would be left to fend for themselves.
- Medical evacuation of seriously ill people (adults and infants) for treatment/ surgery in Addis Ababa. One example of this provides a clear illustration of the way in which the Mission operates, and how donors' funds are spent. Out on errands one day in October 2024, Sr Joachim was approached by two men and a girl, Birtukan. Birtukan had a large growth protruding from her right eye; the local hospital couldn't treat her because of its limited resources. Sr Joachim treated the eye as best she could, gave Birtukan and her family some food, and arranged for her to go to Addis Ababa, to be treated (for free) by Dr Kjell in his hospital, the Nordic Medical Centre. But this also required Sr Joachim and her community to advise the family on how to obtain the documents they would need for the journey; to buy Birtukan and her father clothes and shoes to wear in much colder Addis Ababa (16C rather than Gode's 32C); to arrange their flight; and to host them overnight before their flight and go to the airport to help them check in.
- Running a training programme in weaving to provide the women with a bona fide way of earning money.
- Ongoing progress to develop the Mission's kitchen garden, including irrigation projects, to increase the sustainability of their work.

It is worth noting that the Mission's administration costs in the UK amount to less than 0.3% of its current annual income (the annual subscription for the website/domain name registration); and Sr Joachim's costs in Ethiopia were the equivalent of £66), representing less than 0.2% of total expenditure, and were incurred in visa fees, driving licence, and similar.

Sr Joachim provides an occasional and moving newsletter, *Fragments from the Frontier*, to which supporters may subscribe. BOAT's UK link is Miles Maxwell, Chair of the charity's Board of Trustees.

*Jenifer Dye*

## **India**

### **Allapalli, Andhra Pradesh**

Allipalli Mary Matha Boarding Home and School is in the diocese of Eluru, in the Indian region of Andhra Pradesh, one of the poorest regions in India. It was established in 1989 with 15 children.

Today, some five hundred children who are orphans or destitute are given free shelter, clothing, food, and education. The aim of the centre is to help the children build a bright future for themselves. They also support the inhabitants of villages close by. The activities undertaken range, amongst others, from running health awareness courses, providing free health consultation and food to running women empowerment programmes.

The main 2023 project, an additional water well, is having a major positive impact. All at the centre are very grateful, as they now have enough water for their needs, particularly during the dry season.

In 2024 the project supported by BOAT was the refurbishment and modernisation of their kitchen.



The preparation and handling of the food had been sub-standard and generated a large amount of noxious smoke. Now, there is a purpose-built cooking area containing modern catering equipment like stock pots, hot cabinets and a large vessel that provides hot water and steam for the kitchen. As per the water well, the benefits will be enjoyed at the centre from now on, as the new equipment makes the preparation of the food more hygienic and reduces the level of air pollution from cooking. In the pictures you can see the contrast between the old kitchen and the new one.

Currently, all the rubbish generated at the Centre is burnt in two open pits, close to the buildings where children live. Smoke from plastic, discarded medical material and similar is harmful to inhale. Therefore, the project for 2025 will probably focus on the safe disposal of waste material using a new purpose-built incinerator.

*Rinaldo Caprotti*

## **India**

### **Sugandh, New Delhi**

Sugandh charity is a grassroots organisation working in some of the most disadvantaged urban slums of Delhi. Sugandh seeks to transform the lives of marginalised women, children, and families through holistic community development and self-empowerment. Its work focuses on the neighbourhoods of Madanpur Khadar and Holambi Kalan, where it supports child education, vocational training for women, healthcare access, and advocacy for basic rights. Through tuition centres, Sugandh continues to provide free educational support, school supplies, and a nurturing environment for children in these areas.



In parallel, more than 1,000 women are now active in 88 Self Help Groups (SHGs), receiving training in tailoring and crafts, and accessing microloans to launch small businesses and support their families.

Thanks to the generosity of BOAT supporters, the 2024 Lenten Appeal made a transformative impact by funding the establishment of a dedicated computer lab for teenage girls and children. This initiative was developed in direct response to the community's own vision: that digital literacy is now essential for both academic progress and future employment. The lab, equipped with refurbished computers and accompanied by IT training, typing classes, and online safety education, is already empowering young women to pursue higher education and career pathways previously out of reach. These girls are now not only acquiring critical skills but also becoming role models for others in their community – a powerful ripple effect made possible through the appeal.



In addition to its education and training work, Sugandh continues to offer vital advocacy support. Its staff make thousands of outreach visits each year to help families navigate India's complex systems and gain access to entitlements such as ration cards, pensions, and school admission. BOAT's continued partnership enables this deeply compassionate and practical work to thrive, and we are profoundly grateful for the hope and opportunity it brings to so many lives. (The photos show the author and her family on their visit in 2024.)

*Autumn Rowan Hull*

## **Jamaica**

### **Christ the King Basic School, Kingston**

Christ the King Basic School, located in August Town, Jamaica, serves approximately forty children aged three to six years. This community, while vibrant and full of potential, faces significant socio-economic challenges and limited resources. Despite these hardships, the school is committed to providing quality education and essential support to its students, fostering hope and opportunity in an under-served area.



A key aspect of the school's mission is to provide warm, nutritious meals to its students. Many children arrive at school without having had breakfast, which severely impacts their ability to

concentrate and learn. To combat this issue, the school offers balanced meals, ensuring that every student begins their day with the nutrition they need. This initiative not only enhances the children's health but also alleviates some of the financial burden on families who may struggle to provide adequate food.

Thanks to BOAT's support, Christ the King Basic School has maintained some of the lowest fees in the area, which allows more families to afford sending their children to school. This affordability ensures that education remains accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstance.

In 2023, the school benefited from significant improvements to its facilities, including the installation of a new roof and the resurfacing of the playground with asphalt. These developments, made possible through BOAT's generous support through the Lenten appeal, provide a safe and durable environment for children to engage in physical activities. These improvements have enabled the school to host successful Sports Days.

The school has received a request from Jamaica's Early Childhood Commission to accept two-year-olds. In response, they are in the process of converting one of the rooms into a nursery, a 'Brain Builders Centre'. However, this room requires repairs to its ceiling. Furthermore, ongoing support is needed for necessary repairs to the fence and the refurbishment of a second playground area, where the slides have become rusted.

BOAT's support is making a transformative difference in the lives of the children and families at Christ the King Basic School. The generosity of BOAT helps to support and feed the children attending the school, to maintain its affordability, and to improve the school's facilities.

*Dominik Eynaud OP*

## **Myanmar**

### **Living Water Myanmar**

*Bringing Life Through Water: BOAT's Support for Living Water Myanmar.*

Since 2017, BOAT has proudly supported the life-changing work of Living Water Myanmar (LWM), a grassroots initiative founded in 2011 by Rosemary Breen. LWM funds, builds, and installs water tanks in the Dry Zone of Central Myanmar, providing communities with a reliable source of clean water.

Under the leadership of coordinator Soya Toe, LWM collaborates with local communities to identify villages with the most urgent water needs. With the help of dedicated volunteers, water tanks are constructed on the grounds of schools and health clinics. These tanks – owned and maintained by the community – capture rainwater during the monsoon season or, in some cases, store water from boreholes.

Beyond providing year-round access to clean water, these tanks have transformed daily life. No longer forced to trek for hours along dusty paths to fetch water from distant rivers or streams, villagers now have the time and freedom to focus on education and community development. The presence of water has even enabled the establishment of local schools, allowing more children to attend classes.

To date, LWM has built over 495 tanks. BOAT's 2024 donation funded the construction of three new 5,000-gallon tanks. Tanks 493 and 494 are for the community of Si Yin Zu, a village of 405 people from 110 households. Tank 495 is for the village of Tran Nga Gan, with a population of 680 people, from 210 families.

Although Rosemary is no longer able to visit Myanmar, Hayley Rodgers has been going in her stead to check on the most recent tanks.

Rosemary Breen expresses her heartfelt gratitude to BOAT supporters: "Thanking all those donors who have supported LWM down the years – it has been a miracle from that first water tank built in a restricted area of Myanmar ... to nearly 500! I wish you could visit Myanmar and see for yourselves what you have helped to achieve ... and the difference you have made in a forgotten part of our world!"

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

## Nicaragua

### Guadalupe, Leon

Our project in Nicaragua is a tiny preschool run along Montessori



lines by our contact Gioconda and her team. Five different organizations from Oxford to Hamburg have a part to play, and between them cover the salaries, costs of registration, accountant, bills, building costs, etc. Our part is the provision of a

mid-day meal, and it is much appreciated by the 29 children and their parents.

Family involvement in planning and preparation of the meals gives an opportunity to expand parents' understanding of what constitutes a healthy meal. Parents help with keeping the kitchen clean, which has a knock-on effect on home hygiene, and they are encouraged to allow their sons and daughters to lend a hand in the food preparation, building confidence in both children and parents. The children really appreciate the variety of what they get to eat, often unavailable at home because of the extreme poverty of their circumstances.

Here are a few comments from grateful mothers: "I have two children in the project, they are twins, and I thank those who help us with the snack, it is a great help for our family economy. Life is getting more expensive every day, and it is difficult for me to guarantee a lunch box for each one every day when they go to school." And "my daughter loves the project because she can eat healthy food and there is always fruit, milk, cereals. On weekends she wants us to give her the same food, but we can't afford it."

And from the children: "the food is very tasty. I like the milk with cereal, my grandma can't buy that, I live with my grandma because my mum and dad went to work in another country" (age 4 years old) and: "here in the project I have learnt to eat fruit and vegetables, and chicken. At home we only eat rice and beans, that's why I like my project" (age 3 ½ years old).

Our little school has been asked by the Nicaraguan authorities to register as a place of education. After much discussion, the Ministry of Education gave them the name 'Hypatia'. We rather like this name because in ancient times Hypatia was the lady warrior who guarded the entrance to the library of Alexandria. Registration must be renewed every year, and it is no simple matter as the rules are constantly changing. Many well-intentioned organisations operating in Nicaragua have gone under due to not following the registration process to the satisfaction of the authorities.

The infrastructure of the country (such as communications, roads, schools and hospitals) is now much improved compared to just a few years ago. However, the family economy is still very tight as you can see from the children asking for milk and cereal at home and the parents saying that they can't afford it. Furthermore, many parents leave their children with grandparents or other relatives while they go abroad to find work.

The children love coming to the centre where they can receive an education in a safe and secure environment. We are glad to do our bit to help, and long may the little school continue to flourish.

*Ag MacKeith*

## **Peru**

### **Amantani**

The Amantani project that we support in Peru has a stated mission of promoting inclusion and equality for rural Peruvians through opportunities in education, employment, and fair trade.

In Peru, there is a huge rural–urban divide in the quality of education and in access to tertiary education. Amantani's work is delivered in Cusco and Loreto where the need is great. Loreto is eight hours by boat to the nearest city, Iquitos, and in Loreto 85% of rural residents live in situations of poverty, 80% of participants are from indigenous Amazonian communities and only 5% of rural residents in Loreto study after school. In Cusco, 97% of participants are native Quechua speakers, 85% live below the poverty line, and in the communities where Amantani work just 10% of rural residents in Cusco go on to further education.

Amantani believe that everyone deserves access to decent education and work opportunities, regardless of where they come from. The team support passionate, resilient and talented young people, who have so much to give back to the world, working alongside them and their families to achieve their dreams.

We have reported previously on the ‘Transitions Project’ which supports young people from rural communities to prepare for life after school, continue their studies, and access fair/formal employment. The project has three main strands: ‘Pathways’; ‘Scholarships’ and ‘Employability’. ‘Pathways’ prepares young people in the last two years of school to study away from home and pass entrance exams, through personal development workshops and academic reinforcement. The workshops strengthen identity and resilience, as well as helping young people to develop the skills and knowledge needed for independent life. The ‘Scholarships’ Programme supports young people to access and complete tertiary education courses through providing financial aid and psycho-social support. It also involves parents at the youth hub. (The photo shows David and Ada on their graduation.) Amantani also offer a safe space to live in Iquitos, for students whose communities are very remote. The ‘Employability’ Programme empowers participants to enter the world of work through group workshops and individual tutoring. It helps them develop essential tools and supports them to find relevant work experience, as well as jobs after graduation. Last year’s evaluation shows that 85% of project finishers are in employment, and that 86% of those who are working earn at least the minimum wage.

The Transitions project has been running for eight years, and has started to log how the Amantani project has affected the lives of the people it was set up to support. Some key achievements identified so far over this period are: over 160 young people have accessed tertiary education; 59 young people have completed their studies; 95% of parents have seen improvements in their children’s confidence and social skills; 100% of graduates contribute to improving their families’ financial situations. People now place more value on tertiary education, particularly for young women.



This year, the Amantani team have focused on working with their communities and partners to expand their reach. A new initiative this year is the ‘Beca 18 Support Programme’ which seeks to reduce the barriers preventing many young people from applying to the government’s scholarships programme as well as helping final year students to apply for government scholarships. With Amantani support, 92 students from 51 Amazonian and Andean communities applied and took the government preselection exam. Of these, 22 passed and are moving on to educational institutions as part of the next stage in their journey.

Amantani also offer two further strands of support: ‘Ethical Trade’ and ‘Meet My World’. The ‘Ethical Trade’ strand aims to support women in the fight towards equality against a background of illiteracy, domestic violence and limited earning potential. The Ethical Trade Project supports Quechua-speaking women from rural communities. It empowers them to strengthen their skills and build a more secure future, through the production and sale of artisanal products and personal development workshops. ‘Meet My World’ draws on the deep-seated cultural traditions of the indigenous communities that Amantani work with. It encourages young people to connect with and celebrate their cultural identity, sharing personal experiences through film and photography. During 2024, they

compiled photos and text that will be used to showcase their work in 2025, through exhibitions and a book.

As we can see the aims and work of Amantani stretch deep into the needs of the rural communities in Peru and it is a pleasure to hear of the impacts we help make possible. In a recent report from Amantani and from personal emails from Jenny, our contact, the Amantani team express warm and heartfelt thanks for our support in helping them achieve their mission.

*Nicolette Michels*

## Peru

### Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos

BOAT has been supporting the work of Fr Miguel Fuertes of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos since 2021. That was the year when, thanks to your Lenten generosity, BOAT was able to send £7,500 to Fr Miguel to help him in his mission to ensure young people in his “parish” were provided with solar-powered radios so they could continue with their education during the Covid crisis. Fr Miguel’s “parish” is in Amazonian Northern Peru and covers an area approximately the size of Scotland, with parts only accessible by river.

The following year, in 2022, the committee decided to support Fr Miguel’s long-standing fight to ensure that women and girls in the vicariate are safe, honoured, and able to lead full and dignified lives. BOAT’s commitment was renewed for a further three years in 2024: testimony to the committee’s understanding of the continuing and extreme challenges faced by women and girls in Peru (especially if they are of indigenous origin).

According to INEI (Peru’s ONS), in 2022, 55.7% of women aged 15 to 49 had experienced Intimate Partner Violence in their lifetime; this went up to 59.5% among women of indigenous origin. Another disturbing statistic: the number of femicides in Peru nearly doubled from 84 in 2015 to 146 in 2023. Of course, these numbers are far worse in reality: women and girls who join the ranks of the *desaparecidas* are not included in the femicide statistics; moreover, there is a commonly held view that violence against women is acceptable and normal, certainly not something to be reported to the authorities. Thus, according to an INEI survey in 2019, 33.2% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that an unfaithful wife/partner should be punished by her husband/partner, and 26% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that a wife/partner should never refuse sex to her husband/partner.

Human trafficking is another huge problem in Peru, with women and girls primarily targeted for sexual exploitation. According to a 2024 US Department of State Report on human trafficking in Peru, traffickers lure Peruvian, Venezuelan, and Bolivian women and girls to remote communities near mining and logging operations by promising lucrative employment opportunities; victims then find it impossible to escape and make their way home (and some, especially when their past lives are, if possible, more miserable, have no desire to return home). Indigenous women and girls, living in isolated parts of the country, are especially vulnerable to being trafficked due to marked economic and educational disadvantages as well as language and employment barriers.

Fr Miguel and his team have been tackling these problems for many years. *Proyecto Mujeres Loretanas* runs workshops and discussion groups where women and girls are taught about self-esteem, Human Rights (women’s, children’s, and indigenous people’s), women as leaders, and women in business. Engagement with the wider community is also an important part of the project: raising awareness of the problems of violence against women and intrafamilial violence, and making such

violence unacceptable at a societal level. In 2024, 989 people participated in the various workshops and groups.

In addition, three lawyers are employed in the vicarial Office for Justice and Peace to give free legal advice on child maintenance payments, division of assets, protection orders, rape, assault, domestic violence, and other matters.

Dra Rita Ruck, a highly-respected lawyer who has been part of the team for over twenty years, writes that 2024 marked “32 years of service to the community of Loreto [Peru’s largest department]”. She reports that, as part of *Proyecto Mujeres Loretanas*, legal advice was given in 1,600 cases (of which



876 were new cases and 724 continuing cases). Of particular note are the 369 successful applications for child maintenance undertaken by the team. (*The Women’s Day float in the photo shows women who have fought for their rights with the Vicarial Office’s help.*) Fr Miguel writes that the legal office’s work “is given very positive recognition by the local population, manifested in particular by the 2024 case of the Leader of the Council of Maynas (Iquitos) who suffered domestic violence at the hands of her husband and who, instead of engaging a private lawyer (whom she would have easily been able to afford), came to our office to be defended by us – which we did with absolute dedication. Why did she come to us? Because of the lack of credibility of the state’s judicial system and the complete confidence which people have in our office and the service we offer.”

It is a tremendous privilege to be involved in Fr Miguel’s mission – albeit from afar. His energy and dedication are evident in all he says and does; BOAT could not ask for a more efficient and responsive project leader or a more inspiring example of Christian service to others.

Fr Miguel sends his greetings to our community: “Once again, thank you! – and we will work towards ensuring that the joy of the Resurrection reaches more people [...] we will continue to fight for the right to a life of dignity for all God’s children.”

*Anna Lucas*

## Peru

### Lima (San Benito) and Ayacucho

Despite his retirement last year, Columban Father Ed O’Connell continues to keep us in close touch with the great work done by the Warmi Huasi project, which works in the San Benito area of northern



Lima, and in the mountainous region of Ayacucho. BOAT has supported Warmi Huasi for many years, under Fr Ed’s leadership, and continues to do so now that he has handed over to the very experienced local team and returned to Ireland. The project is focussed on children and young people, providing safe and supportive spaces for reading clubs and libraries, homework and other after-school activities, in areas where the streets are not safe and there is a high incidence of domestic violence.

The project also enables and encourages the children and young people to take an

active role in local democracy to ensure the provision of the services they and their families need, using information collected from the children themselves in a survey called “My Voice Matters”. Fr Ed reports that in 2024, Warmi Huasi directly reached 1,540 boys and 1,960 girls, but that doesn’t take into account the wider communities who will benefit from the policy changes and safeguarding measures made by their district and provincial councils as a result of children’s activism. Giving these children and young people an early experience of how to bring about change is a sign of a healthy future for the community and the idea is being imitated at national and well as regional level.

Fr Ed has reported in past years on the devastating effect that the COVID outbreak had in Peru. He says that these last few years has seen the Warmi Huasi team, and indeed the children and young people themselves, tackle the after-effects of the two-year period of social isolation, which left a considerable number of frustrated children with behavioural difficulties and others lacking confidence and behind with their studies.

Warmi Huasi’s programmes to grow social skills have since helped the children enormously, as has the “Life Project” which challenged and encouraged teenagers to get on with the next phase of their lives, helping get them ready for higher education and/or work options. The project enabled the young people to return to structured educational services through something called the Alternative Basic Education Center (CEBA). This has given them the chance to improve their own quality of life and future prospects as well as that of their families.

Other highlights of Warmi Huasi’s work this year include information and awareness-raising activities aimed at teenage girls on sexual and reproductive health, with special emphasis on menstrual health care. These sessions not only contributed to improving their knowledge on the subject, but also encouraged self-care and well-being practices. And project workers have given local schools specialist advice on the inclusion and participation of neurodivergent children.

The range and impact of the work carried out by this project is so impressive. Fr Ed will be back in Peru for a visit this summer and has promised to come and see us at Blackfriars in the Autumn. We look forward to hearing more about the wonderful work of Warmi Huasi then.

*Helen Ghosh*

## Philippines

## Midsalip, Missionary Sisters of St Columban

For many years, BOAT has supported the Subanen Mission in Midsalip, Philippines, currently led by Sister Winnie Apao of the Sisters of St Columban. The Mission plays a vital role in empowering the indigenous Subanen people, providing access to education while also protecting their ancestral lands from the threats of mining, natural disasters, and unsustainable agricultural practices.

BOAT's funding directly supports the Mission's seven pre-schools, all now officially recognized by the Department of Education. Located in remote barrios, these schools offer culture-based learning in the local language to 194 students, ensuring the preservation of Subanen traditions while equipping young learners with essential skills. The picture shows a pre-school feeding programme.

BOAT's contributions also aid the Mission's Youth Programmes, which provide leadership and literacy classes for selected high school and college students, as well as youth camps for approximately 400 elementary and high school students. The Mission also runs seminars focused on empowering women to recognize their value, dignity and rights, while offering a safe environment where women can share stories and build friendships. At the forefront of the Mission's education outreach are their biodiversity and farming programmes, that teach sustainable agricultural practices such as composting, natural fertilization, and tree planting – efforts that help prevent landslides and preserve the environment.

The Mission is also deeply committed to defending the Subanen people's rights, standing in solidarity against destructive mining operations. It further fosters cultural pride and unity through celebrations on Indigenous People's Sunday and the Subanen Day Festival, where individuals of all faiths come together to honour and strengthen Subanen traditions, language and heritage. The Mission recently opened a new space called the School of the Living Tradition (SLT) where children come together to learn the traditional Subanen language, music, and dance. The SLT is committed to fostering unity within communities, whilst ensuring the Subanen culture continues to thrive.

A new member of the Mission's staff described the Mission's work.

'I've had the opportunity to witness first hand the Mission's efforts to promote culture and uplift those in need, especially the Subanen people. One of the most impactful experiences has been how the Mission supports the preservation and development of Subanen culture. I've also observed the Mission's holistic approach in helping the Subanen community, going beyond material assistance. The Mission offers knowledge on sustainable livelihoods, such as organic farming, which empowers the Subanen to become more self-



sufficient. Moreover, I've seen how the Mission organizes seminars, meetings, and educational programmes that focus on educating the Subanen about their cultural rights, laws, and heritage, giving them the tools to protect and advocate for their community. These experiences have shown me the vital role the Mission plays in both cultural preservation and community empowerment, and I'm proud to be a part of this meaningful work.' The Mission have sent too many vivid photographs of all aspects of their work for us to show more than a few of them in this account. The two photos above show interpretive Subanen dance, the upper one at the summer youth camp, the lower one with a message about preserving biodiversity.

In her Christmas message, Sister Winnie shared a powerful reflection on faith, perseverance and gratitude: '*A Song of Gladness* is not only a reflection of the season, but also a tribute to the hope, peace, and love that we are able to share through your generosity. We are filled with gratitude and joy as we look back on the year, and we eagerly anticipate all the good we will continue to do together in the coming year. I want to express my deepest thanks to each of you for your continued belief in our mission. Your support makes everything possible, and we are excited about the future we are building together. In the coming year, we aim to expand our educational programmes, reach more communities, and further preserve the Subanen culture. Care for the earth and hearing the cry of the poor is always our mission to carry on forward. With your continued support, we hope to make an even greater difference. May this Christmas bring you and your loved ones the same joy and peace that you so generously share with us and others. May the New Year be filled with abundant blessings, and may we continue to work together to make the world a brighter place. Rest assured of our constant prayers and thoughts. Once again, *Gembegal Palad-palad*, thank you very much. More power and may God bless you all."

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

## **Rwanda**

### **Network For Africa**

Network for Africa helps the survivors of the Rwandan genocide through a programme of economic empowerment and mental health support, in collaboration with Survivors Fund Rwanda (SURF) in both aspects of the programme. SURF's counselling team run peer-counselling sessions that have a significant impact. Each two-hour session allows individuals to share their experiences in a confidential and supportive environment. The counselling promotes resilience, self-esteem, and a focus on positive life aspects. Testimonials, such as this one from KM, illustrate the programme's efficacy. KM, who lost her family during the genocide, expressed how participating in group counselling, along with securing a microloan for her business, had helped her focus on healing self-care and gave her a new determination to succeed.

In 2022, it became clear that addressing the economic challenges faced by participants was crucial for sustainable recovery. With BOAT's support, SURF launched an entrepreneurship training programme, integrating it into the existing peer-counselling framework. This programme not only provides essential business skills but also enables small businesses to access loans that enable them to get started.

Participants receive comprehensive training, covering essential topics such as business planning, market analysis, and customer care. As of 2024, 713 graduates from the peer-counselling programme have completed the entrepreneurship training. No less than 229 of them submitted business proposals to microfinance institutions. The loan initiative has facilitated access to funds for 99 participants so far, enabling them to launch various businesses, including restaurants, coffee shops, and service-based enterprises.



Entrepreneurship serves as a pathway to economic self-sufficiency for survivors, fostering a sense of dignity and community.

The participants are not only able to generate income but they also contribute to local economies, creating jobs for themselves and others. The collaborative nature of many business initiatives helps rebuild social networks that are vital for psychological healing.

The results of the combined counselling and entrepreneurship programmes have been remarkable. A survey conducted by Network for Africa indicated that participants experienced a dramatic decrease in feelings of despair – dropping from 82% to just 8% after completing the counselling course. At the same time, the percentage of individuals struggling with traumatic flashbacks diminished from 72% to 8%.

*Dominik Eynaud OP*

## Sierra Leone

### Koindu

2023/24 was the sixth year in which BOAT has supported this orphanage in the north-eastern Kailahun district of Sierra Leone. Founded and run by Mary Sesay, the orphanage takes in local children, many of whose parents had died from AIDS and were denied support from family or other sectors of the community because of the stigma attached to their parents' illness. The orphanage now also takes many children who have been abandoned for other reasons, and are subject to abuse or neglect in their domestic settings. Many have multiple needs, including impaired vision and hearing problems. Due to the orphanage's reputation, the number of children placed there continues to grow.

Sierra Leone is a desperately poor country, its poverty exacerbated by the international financial crises which have also affected the UK. Abandoned or orphaned children are among the most vulnerable groups in Sierra Leone. The orphanage struggles on a daily basis to provide the basics for the children



who live there. Our money makes a real and fundamental difference to the lives of these children. Readers may recall that previous BOAT donations helped to build a well, build and furnish a dining room,

fence off the orphanage compound; to provide food, cutlery, and medical supplies; to pay for medical bills, uniforms, textbooks, pens, exercise books, extra lessons for those taking public exams, monitors' allowances, transport costs, Christmas entertainment and daily breakfasts.

Our donation to Smile With Us last year was £4,000. Over that year, the orphanage continued its mission despite a number of challenges. At present, the orphanage's school (open also to non-resident children) has ten teachers, only four of whom are fully qualified; but none is paid a salary by the government. The volunteer teachers receive some donations by way of incentive, given by some parents via Parent-Teacher Association meetings. Our money supported one of the teachers with college fees for a year. Others are waiting for the same opportunity, and BOAT's donation was used to pay for the volunteer teachers.

Nevertheless, the school continues to improve on its remarkable results. In 2023/24 the school sent 19 pupils to sit the National Primary School Examination (NPSE) and all of them made it through. (In the previous two years, 13 and 16 candidates respectively achieved this standard; in 2022/23, Smile With Us was rated among the best-performing schools in the district.)

The school's success means more children attend, so that it was overcrowded and lacking in classroom accommodation. This year's BOAT sponsorship was used to construct a new classroom. There are 85 vulnerable children in the school, in dire need of footwear, uniforms and books. Our gift was spent in providing uniforms and shoes. The Headteacher has also requested a laptop and printer to prepare the children's report cards at the beginning of the academic year.

BOAT's sponsorship has enabled the creation of the school garden. Its harvest fed the children during their long break. Afterwards, as it was not possible to provide the children with home-grown breakfasts, BOAT's money was spent on food and condiments, as well as continuing to tend to the school garden.

BOAT communicates with the orphanage via a WhatsApp group and we receive information particularly from Tamba and Timothy, the social workers involved. They say they continue to be proud of the school and orphanage, and that there are always positive stories in the life of the children. They told us of the children's happiness when they shared with them the news of BOAT's continued support, and all involved at Smile With Us send their best wishes to us and all our families. They write: *They're sending their love and appreciation to the Boat family in the UK. ... Thank you and we love you all.*

Our UK link to the Smile With Us Orphanage is Penny Boreham, a producer, presenter and writer, who works for the BBC World Service. Penny has longstanding links in Sierra Leone and knows the orphanage well.

*Jenifer Dye*

## **Uganda**

### **Cancer Trust**

Uganda Cancer Trust (UCT) is a UK based charity, supporting cancer treatment, education and care in Uganda. Our donation makes possible the critical role of the palliative care nurse Liz Nabirye. As clinical lead of the palliative care team she has a vital role to play in supporting patients, carers and the team. In addition, Liz provides important mentorship to the work of volunteers, who have grown in number and significance over time, and are now increasingly involved with children and their needs.

Under the mentorship of Liz, five volunteers now form part of the UCT's multidisciplinary team and actively offer support to patients that is practical, psychosocial and spiritual. Each volunteer comes twice a week for 4-5 hours, depending on the needs of patients. To give a sense of the scale of support they provide we are able to share that every month the team provides each of the following services some 20 times: Psychosocial Assessment; Counselling and Emotional Support; Communication and Facilitation; Collaboration with Healthcare Teams; Education and Advocacy; Spiritual Care and Support. In addition, they conduct some 140 follow-up calls to patients and their families. The volunteers also bring joy through activities such as organizing Christmas hampers for patients and their care-givers and celebrating events such as World Hospice and Palliative Care Day with children on the paediatric oncology ward as shown in one of our photographs.

Liz reports movingly on her pride in the team at MMPCU which, although small, is becoming increasingly skilled. A rewarding aspect of being involved with the team over the years has been seeing them grow in confidence and capability, and hearing feedback from the institutions they work with showing the high regard for the work they do. Some of the volunteers have gone on to train specifically in social work, while those with clinical backgrounds are taking Masters degrees or being involved in research programmes relating to palliative care. Funds to continue with such studies, of course, remain a challenge for these individuals.

Illustrating the increasing focus on the care for children with cancer, Liz explains that the volunteers in particular expressed desire to be able to do more to support children having long periods of treatment in hospital. Little things could improve their quality of life such as occasional treats, or extra meals, airtime to connect to family or friends, or art materials or stories to amuse them. The team have agreed a fund specifically for children, to be spent at their discretion. They also highlighted that children can be desperate about missing long periods from school, so UCT's latest appeal is to raise funds for educational support to provide access to online classes or educational games and possibly even dedicated teaching if appropriate. We will keep close communication via Liz and Michael to see how this progresses.

In addition to clinical lead of the palliative care team and mentor for volunteers, Liz Nabiryie also acts as information officer. She writes in a recent update about the importance of providing access to appropriate information to alleviate the devastating sense of uncertainty, fear and loss that a diagnosis can have on the physical and emotional wellbeing of patients', and hence their treatment and outcome. Access to information enables patients and families to make difficult decisions regarding the treatment options and potential side effects, and improves the quality of life, not just of patients, but of families too. Communicating with the patients about their lives and wishes during hospitalization and afterwards is one way of empowering the patient and enabling them to feel autonomous and respected. As Information Officer, Liz bridges the information gap for patients, as well as working alongside the social work volunteers to offer mentorship and clinical modelling in aspects of communication especially with children and bereavement support. Liz also advocates for patient's wishes with the primary teams.

It is always a privilege to act as BOAT link person with UCT and with trustees Michael and Liz Minton, and always humbling when without fail every time we communicate there is heartfelt gratitude expressed for our donation that enables the work of nurse Liz Nabiryie and her wider team.

*Nicolette Michels*

## **Uganda**

### **Church of St John the Baptist, Bulindi**

Father Sebastian writes with news of his parish and with further details of the mosquito net project. He reports that this second phase of the project has been successfully completed. The price of good durable mosquito nets has risen since the previous year because of the high demand. This year's grant provided 617 mosquito nets. Malaria is still rampant in the area and remains a deadly threat. Particularly susceptible are new-born babies, expectant mothers, especially in the early stages of pregnancy, and mothers in labour, so the majority of nets are allocated to women. A slight decrease in malaria cases has been noted this year among the parishioners, despite its continued prevalence in the area, and this is thanks to the provision of mosquito nets. Malaria lessened in June, July and August. It has intensified since September and this increase will continue until December, due to the heavy rains they are experiencing. Because of the floods there is a lot of stagnant water, an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Within the parish of Bulindi there are 17 chapels or out-stations, and every chapel is administered by a Catechist. The Catechist can contact or be contacted by people living in each out-station who need a mosquito net, who are poor and vulnerable, or are pregnant, about to give birth or have young babies. They can then go with the Catechist to Father Sebastian's office on Tuesdays. 250 mosquito nets were given to expectant mothers, and 300 nets to breast-feeding mothers and those in the first months of pregnancy. Mosquito nets have also been provided for single mothers caring for families and for 30 elderly women and 37 children. Some people in great need who have not yet received a net are hoping to be given one next year.

The mortality rate in the parish due to malaria decreased slightly this year. Between June and October 31 parishioners died from malaria, of whom 18 were babies, nine were expectant mothers, and four were elderly. In addition, 146 parishioners were admitted to various local hospitals. Without the mosquito nets, the death toll and the rate of illness would have been much higher. The treatment of malaria in the health units continues, but is prohibitively expensive for many, as a dose of quinine and Panadol costs UGX140,000, the equivalent of £30 sterling. Catechists do a great job following up all those who are beneficiaries of the BOAT mosquito nets and ensuring that the nets are washed frequently with Omo detergent and mended if damaged. The parishioners are very grateful to BOAT for this project and there are still many who hope to benefit from mosquito nets next year.



## Karungu Convent, Kigumba

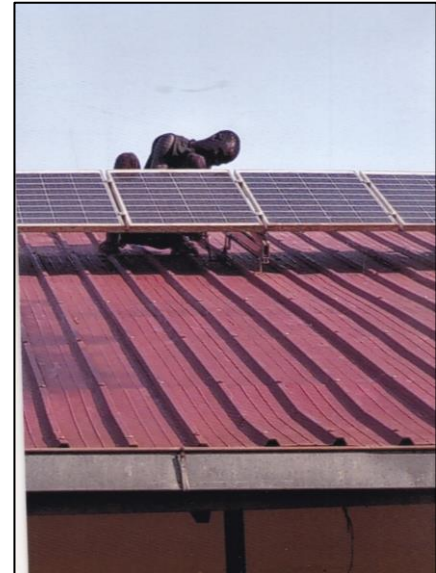
Sister Clemensia writes from Karungu Convent to report on the completion of the second year of the project to instal solar panels to provide lighting for the three buildings of the Karungu Community. The first year provided solar lighting for the Infant Jesus Nursery and Primary School. This year it was the turn of the Health Unit, a vital part of the community. All those living in and around Karungu are treated here when they are ill, including the sisters in the convent and the children in the school, as well as the displaced people from northern Uganda.

In March 2024 the technician visited the Health Unit and listed all his requirements for the work and gave an estimate for the costs. In April all the items which needed to be bought in Kampala were confirmed and ordered. Three new original 75W panels were ordered, as these are more durable than second-hand ones, and six heavyweight batteries and all the accessories. In May the components were delivered according to plan. In June the work started and continued until the solar system was installed and then the technician spent four weeks monitoring and testing the efficiency of the system. By August solar energy was already being used in the Health Unit.

The provision of reliable energy has transformed care for the patients. Now there is power at night providing light and making dangerous hurricane lamps unnecessary. The patients now have adequate light if they are admitted overnight, and doctors and nurses have electric power to continue their work. Patients can be monitored effectively by nurses and treated by doctors. Electric power is constant and dependable, so the refrigerators work reliably. Vaccination is available, because vaccines can now safely be kept refrigerated. In addition, there are now security lights operating at night and this deters thieves.

The whole village of Karungu and our convent plus the schools around are very grateful to BOAT because the Health Unit cares for everyone and everyone benefits from the new source of light and power. The third and final year of BOAT's grant for this project will come in 2025, when our Convent will have solar panels fitted and will benefit from solar electricity.

*Rosaleen Ockenden*



## **Zimbabwe and Uganda**

### **African Mission**

African Mission is a well-established small charity, which has been running now for just over 20 years. They had a challenging year in 2023, losing a major donor and around one third of their income, but things improved in 2024.

There are two aspects to their work: medical training in Uganda and supporting schools in a Franciscan mission at Fatima in Zimbabwe. Over the years most of our money has gone to Zimbabwe, but a few years ago we gave them a one-off grant towards a portable anaesthesia kit, which is now in use in Uganda. In Zimbabwe, the main expenditure is to cover the living costs of 23 young people with special needs, whose disabilities ranged from Downs Syndrome to deaf-mutism. Disabilities make lives difficult everywhere but particularly so in rural Zimbabwe, where in the past these children have lived very impoverished lives.

African Mission's aim is to both educate and maintain their children whilst they are with them, and to prepare them for life post school. Though for some of them it is always going to be difficult to get jobs, a number have gone on to work as builders and helped at the Mission.

In a country where power cuts are now regular, they have put a lot of emphasis on increasing self-sufficiency. Our money has helped support a vegetable garden and a new chicken coop. They are also trying to establish a piggery and now have 90% of the money to make that happen. They have also invested in solar panels for their water pump, which has proved to be a wise investment.

We have been supporting them for many years, and in that time they have made great progress, though the need remains high.

*Mick Conefrey*

## 2024 Lenten Appeal Project

### Computer Lab for Sugandh



Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Blackfriars community, the Lenten Appeal of 2024 raised £9,508.10 in support of the Sugandh charities vital work with marginalised girls and children in the most deprived regions in New Delhi. These funds have established a dedicated computer lab, providing crucial digital literacy training to teenage girls and children. In a world where computer skills are essential for education and employment, this initiative will and already has opened doors to academic advancement and future career opportunities. Beyond the lab, Sugandh's integrated approach ensures broader impact to directly address educational inequality, and the educational **project has** equipped women with literacy and rights awareness to create sustainable change through education.

The Lenten Appeal's success reflects the 9.30 community's deep commitment to global justice and empowerment. By investing in these young women, we are not just funding computers – we are nurturing confidence, breaking cycles of poverty, and empowering future leaders. The ripple effects will be profound: educated girls and children become role models, skilled women uplift families, and entire communities grow stronger.



*Autumn Rowan Hull*

## BOAT Greetings Cards

This year, these raised £466, about half the sum raised last year, and rather less than in previous years. The reason, we believe, is the exorbitant price of stamps, which now cost more than the cards themselves. But the card factory is a social occasion, and the team take comfort from the understated

but effective publicity BOAT gains from our efforts. We would welcome more hands to stick the boxes, once the mounts have been printed and the cards trimmed to fit. Many thanks to those who created, packaged and sold the cards, as well as to Joshua Dubin and Jenifer Dye who generously funded the costs.

*Ag MacKeith*

## **BOAT and Blackfriars MCR**

Members of Blackfriars Hall's graduate student community (MCR or Middle Common Room) started supporting BOAT's activities in October 2024. Some of our students took part in a mammoth baking session, organised by Theology student Anna-Wera Wilms, for the BOAT Advent Café, during which we made dozens of German Christmas cookies, as can be seen in the photo. Our students have also attended BOAT's monthly meetings to maintain a close link between the organizations. We look forward to continuing our support for this excellent charity as part of the Blackfriars family.



*Maura McKeon, DPhil candidate and Blackfriars MCR Link to BOAT*

# Reserves policy and risk management

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £24,000. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies by covering the outlay for the entirety of two projects. It provides a buffer so that even severe changes in our financial conditions can be cushioned for the projects that we support.

## Risk Management

In the light of the Trustees' desire to deliver funds to good causes as expeditiously as possible, any surplus cash is held on a bank deposit until needed. The Trustees monitor the level of cash held and would review this policy if the levels of cash held were to increase significantly.

## Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed or explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

*Signed:* **Geraldine Johnson,**

BOAT Chair, for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT

9th May 2025

# **Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2024**

I am delighted to report that BOAT has again finished 2024 in good health and is getting the money generously donated out of the door and to the poor who need it as fast as possible. In 2024 we received £85,591 and we were able to send all of this out, plus a little more so that our reserves are at the level we target. Thus £92,610 went out. This is only possible because of the generosity of our donors and so on behalf of the many people we help in education, health and wellbeing in the developing world – thank you.

The incoming resources are predominantly received through monthly direct debit donations (£55,738). The next largest contribution is from gift aid: £16,378. Filomena Nave organises our gift aid and it is clearly very valuable. Next some donations are received reserved for particular projects. In 2024 most of this (£9,508) was for our Lenten Appeal which was for the Sugandh Foundation. We also received donations reserved for Operatori de Pace in India.

Our costs continue to be as low as it is possible to get. All of us are volunteers and so there are no salaries. We have to pay the bank charges to send money overseas (£290) and we pay to print the annual report (£312). Everything else is given to the causes we support.

We continue to have a rich interaction with the 9.30 congregation at Blackfriars, many of whom support BOAT. This is evident in all of the events that we run: Harvest Auction, Christmas café, Mothering Sunday café, and the summer café. There are a team of volunteers, with Ag MacKeith and Josh and Jenifer Dubin prominent among them, who sell cards in aid of BOAT and so allow even more people to hear of us.

Finally, I am honoured to be able to play my part in getting the sums we raise to the projects we support. This year there were 19 projects, all of which received at least £4,000. In some cases, they received even more for specific capital projects (e.g. a medical assistance truck for ARCH Cameroon). My colleagues work hard to follow the story of that money and how it is converted into good works. Stories you can read in this report.

Thank you for your generosity and with prayers of kindness,

*Signed:* **John Thanassoulis**

BOAT Treasurer

## **Further Reference and Administrative Information**

BOAT address: Blackfriars Priory, 64 St, Giles, Oxford. OX1 3LY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Carfax, Oxford. OX1 4AA.

Charity Number:288585

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust ("the Charity")

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 December 2024 which are set out on the following pages 27 to 32.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ◆ Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- ◆ Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- ◆ State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## Independent examiner's statement

I am therefore happy to declare that in the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Signed: Stefan Enchelmaier*

23rd March 2025

# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

## Balance Sheets as at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash at Lloyds Bank</b>	26,047	33,066
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	26,047	33,066
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£26,047</b>	<b>£33,066</b>
 <b>The Funds of the charity:</b>		
<b>Restricted Income Funds</b>	-	
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	26,047	33,065
	<b>£26,047</b>	<b>£33,065</b>

# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations	72,116	11,008	83,124	79,856
Events and Sales	2,467	-	2,467	3,750
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>74,583</b>	<b>11,008</b>	<b>85,591</b>	<b>83,605</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Fundraising	312	-	312	358
Charitable Activities	81,000	11,008	92,008	95,971
Governance Costs	290	-	295	255
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>81,602</b>	<b>11,008</b>	<b>92,610</b>	<b>96,554</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources</b>	(7,019)		(7,019)	(12,949)
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	33,065		33,066	46,015
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<b>£26,046</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£26,047</b>	<b>£33,066</b>

The notes on pages 29 to 32 form part of these accounts.

# Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### General

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in 2005.

### Income

- (1) Donations and grants are included in the accounts when they are received.
- (2) Interest income is included in the accounts when it is received.
- (3) Tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid donations is included in the accounts when it is received.

### Expenditure

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure are included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

### Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received for the objects of the charity without a specified purpose and are available as general funds. From time to time the Trustees may establish Designated Funds out of the Unrestricted Funds to meet contingencies.

### Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

## 2 DONATIONS

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	55,738	55,934
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	-	
Other Donations (unrestricted)	2,467	3,750
Other Donations (restricted)	11,008	8,576
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	16,378	15,346
	<b>£85,591</b>	<b>£83,605</b>

### **3 EVENTS AND SALES**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Harvest Auction	589	517
Christmas café	582	410
Card Sales	466	895
Mothers' Day Café	388	495
Summer café	242	367
Donations from the 9.30 coffee team	200	
Donations in memory of Anna Baidoun	-	
Bread Sales	-	366
	<b>£2,467</b>	<b>£3,750</b>

### **4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Nicaragua, Leon	4,000	4,000
Jamaica, Christ the King School	4,000	10,000
Uganda Cancer UK	4,000	4,000
Uganda Fr Sebastian	4,000	4,000
Cameroon Arch	9,000	4,075
Ethiopia Jean Grove Trust	4,000	4,000
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	4,000	4,000
Philippines, Columban Sisters	4,000	4,000
Zimbabwe, African Mission, Dungu	4,000	4,000
Peru, San Benito, Br Ed O'Connell	4,000	4,000
India Sugandh	4,000	4,000
India, Operatori di Pace	4,000	4,000
Rwanda, Network for Africa	4,000	4,000
Myanmar Living Water	4,000	4,000
Brazil, St. Paolo	4,000	4,000
Ethiopia, Mission of Hope	4,000	4,000
South Sudan, Anaesthesiology	-	2,820
Sierra Leone	4,000	6,050



## 8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at January 1	0	450
Incoming Resources	11,008	8,576
Expenditure	(11,008)	(9,026)
<b>Balance at December 31</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

## 9 GENERAL FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at January 1	33,066	45,564
Incoming Resources	74,583	75,029
Expenditure	(81,602)	(87,528)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>26,047</b>	<b>£33,066</b>
Represented by:		
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>26,047</b>	<b>£33,066</b>

**A Standing Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.**

## **BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST (BOAT)**

### **HOW TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER**

- With most banks and building societies, you can set up a Standing Order online or by phone.
- Alternatively, you can go into your bank to complete a Standing Order form. You'll need the BOAT account number and sort code (as well as some personal identification).

*Beneficiary Name:* **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

*Beneficiary Account Number:* **00087533**

*Beneficiary Sort Code:* **30-96-35**

*Beneficiary's Bank:* **Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Street, Oxford OX1 4AA.**

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### **GIFT AID DECLARATION (FOR REGULAR OR ONE-OFF DONATIONS)**

**Boost your donation to BOAT by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.**

*giftaid it*

**Just tick this box  Yes! I would like to Gift Aid this donation and any other donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to BOAT.**

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

### **PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS**

Title: ..... First name(s): ..... Surname: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

**Signature** ..... **Date** .....

Please notify BOAT if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Please return to: The Gift Aid Treasurer, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge, Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY. Alternatively, you can email it to: [boatblackfriars@gmail.com](mailto:boatblackfriars@gmail.com)**

**IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO FOR US TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT BOAT'S ACTIVITIES, PLEASE TICK THIS BOX  Please see the BOAT website at [tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford) for an explanation of why and how we use your data, and your rights in respect of that data.**

**Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

Registered Charity No. 288585

**c/o Blackfriars Priory**

**64 St Giles**

**Oxford OX1 3LY**

**[tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](https://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford)**

**BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 288585

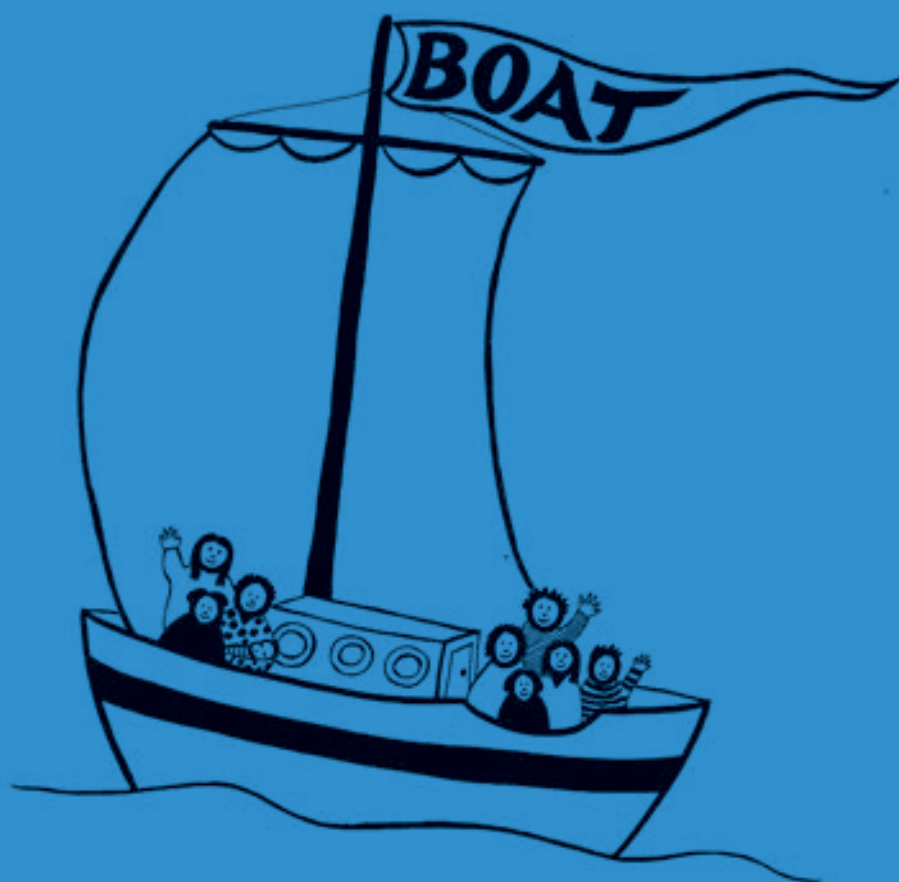
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# Accounts

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# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Founded 1984 by Members of 9.30 Family Mass Congregation



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2023

Registered Charity 288585

# **BOAT COMMITTEE**

## **January to December 2023**

### **Trustees (voting)**

<i>Chair</i> Geraldine Johnson	Chair of BOAT
<i>Secretary</i> Anna Lucas	<i>Peru (Iquitos)</i> (Secretary until November)
<i>Treasurer</i> John Thanassoulis	Treasurer
<i>Asst Treasurer</i> Filomena Nave	Regular Donations, <i>Brazil</i>
René Bañares-Alcántara	<i>Ethiopia (Zizencho and Arekit)</i>
Mick Conefrey	<i>Zimbabwe and Uganda</i>
Jenifer Dye	<i>Sierra Leone</i>
Helen Ghosh	<i>Peru (Lima and Ayacucho)</i>
Ag MacKeith	Annual Report, <i>Nicaragua</i>
Rosaleen Ockenden	<i>Uganda (Bulindi and Kigumba parishes)</i>

### **Committee Members (non-voting)**

Katherine Backler	<i>Ethiopia (Mission of Hope); Peru (Amantani)</i>
Julie Lynch Bridson	<i>Myanmar, Philippines</i>
Rinaldo Caprotti	<i>Cameroon and India (Allapalli)</i>
Nicolette Michels	<i>Uganda (Cancer Trust)</i>
Thomas Mannion OP/ Augustine Chen OP	<i>Jamaica and Rwanda</i>
Autumn Rowan-Hull	<i>India (Sugandh)</i>

*Italics indicate the projects for which members are responsible.*

**Everyone in the 9.30 congregation has a part to play in keeping BOAT's large fleet of projects afloat. We are very grateful for the generous responses to our appeals for help and for our community's initiative, skill and hard work in raising funds in so many creative ways.**

*Registered Charity No. 288585*

## CHAIR'S REPORT 2023

Dear Friends of BOAT,

Here in Oxford, where rainy days can seem endless and we don't think twice about going to the tap to fill a teapot, it can be hard to imagine a world in which safe drinking water is a scarce commodity. But reading through the Annual Report, I am struck by how many of the projects supported by BOAT include as a key objective ensuring access to clean and plentiful water.

The importance of water is seen in the 2023 Lenten Project, which focused on raising funds for a new water well for the Allipalli Children's Centre in Andhra Pradesh, India. The old bore hole could no longer provide enough water for the children and surrounding community during the drought season, when temperatures can reach 50 C. The old well also did not have a proper filtration system. Thanks to the 9:30am Congregation's generosity, an impressive £8,500 was raised to drill a new bore hole. This has now been completed, down to a depth of 130 m, and the children and local community finally have access to clean and plentiful water all year round.

Water is also central to the mission of another project supported by BOAT, Living Water Myanmar. This initiative is dedicated to installing water tanks in Myanmar's dry zone. By collecting and storing rainwater, villagers (including children) can avoid daily multi-hour treks to fetch fresh water. The time saved has allowed the children to attend newly-established community schools, with life-changing educational benefits. In 2023, BOAT's donation allowed four new 5000-gallon tanks to be built. In the words of the founder of Living Water Myanmar, Rosemary Breen: 'Water is life. Giving water is giving life.'

BOAT also supports the 'Smile With Us' Orphanage in Sierra Leone, which provides a home, education, and activities for children whose parents have died of AIDS. In 2023, funds from BOAT allowed a technician to be hired by the orphanage to help drill a new well in the most appropriate location. The technician is now overseeing the installation of a hand pump, which will provide a more robust way to pump water than is currently possible. Thanks to BOAT, the lives of these children and their carers have been made safer by having access to clean water.

Water plays a very different role in Bulindi in Uganda where Fr Sebastian oversees a large parish. Here, in the rainy season, stagnant water becomes a breeding ground for mosquitos who transmit malaria. Thanks to BOAT, Fr Sebastian purchased over 700 mosquito nets in 2023, which were distributed to the most common victims of this deadly disease, namely, young children, expectant mothers, and the elderly. Fr Sebastian reports that all those issued mosquito nets are alive and well, another example of the life-saving work made possible by BOAT.

All of BOAT's current 19 projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America continue to receive annual donations of £4,000, which are used not only for water-related initiatives, but also to tackle many types of health, educational, environmental, and social challenges. The amazing ongoing generosity of our supporters in Oxford and beyond has allowed us to maintain this level of funding and thereby continue to improve the lives of some of the world's most deprived people.

BOAT's activities also benefit all of us in the 9:30am Congregation by opening our eyes to the difficulties faced by our fellow human beings around the world. In November, we were blessed to hear Fr Clifton Harris OP tell us about the challenges that



confront the community where one of BOAT's beneficiaries, the Christ the King Basic School in Kingston, Jamaica, is located. Fr Clifton spoke movingly at Blackfriars about ministering to the young people of August Town, one of Kingston's most deprived and violent neighbourhoods (*see photo*).

We also received a first-hand report about the Sugandh Charity in New Delhi from Autumn Rowan-Hull, a member of the BOAT Committee who visited the project with her sons. This gave us new insights into the important work undertaken by Sugandh with BOAT's support.

BOAT's fund-raising activities in Oxford provide wonderful opportunities for our own local community to gather at events like the Harvest Auction and our cafés. We are enormously grateful to the Dominican community at Blackfriars for hosting these events and Br Augustine Chen for serving on the BOAT Committee. Ag MacKeith continues to go above and beyond by producing the Annual Report and leading a merry gang of card-makers who recycle cards for sale on behalf of BOAT. Gilli Robbins faithfully includes BOAT notices in the weekly Newsletter, while Adam Hodgkin very kindly served once again as the Independent Examiner of BOAT's finances. Jenifer Dye and Joshua Dubin heroically bring their collection of vintage china to our cafés, while Yinghui Carraro bakes the most amazing bread. In fact, Yinghui's breads are such a success that they merit their own separate entry in the BOAT accounts!



I would also like to thank the BOAT Committee for their invaluable help and expertise. This includes our dedicated Treasurer, John Thanassoulis; Filomena Nave, who as Assistant Treasurer reclaimed Gift Aid worth over £15,000 in 2023; and Anna Lucas, who after so many years ably chairing BOAT, very kindly continued to serve as Secretary until November 2023.

My final and most heartfelt thanks go to everyone reading this report for your very generous support of BOAT in so many different ways and for your ongoing belief that by funding small, local initiatives around the world, we can make a real difference to the lives of others.

## **BOAT's Public Benefit**

All charities, including smaller ones like BOAT, are required to report on the 'public benefit' they bring through their activities and to describe how they have achieved their objectives.

## **Our Purpose**

Under our constitution as a registered charity, the purposes of BOAT are to 'provide support for the charitable activities of Christian parishes, organisations or societies, situated or working outside Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in (i) the relief of poverty, and (ii) the advancement of education.' Everyone attending Mass at Blackfriars or giving to BOAT on a regular basis is regarded as a member of the Trust. The formal Trustees are a committee of ten people, elected each year at our Annual General Meeting. A representative from the Dominican community – Br

Bede Mullens from January 2019 until October 2022, with Br Thomas Mannion stepping in from November – also sits on the Committee, as a link to the Priory which is home to BOAT.

## **The Benefit We Bring**

We have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Under our Principles for Giving, updated at our AGM in 2007, we have a very clear set of criteria for the projects we support and for assessing the public benefit that support will bring. On the key principle that we want our funding really to 'make a difference', we aim to support relatively small-scale or grass-roots projects with regular grants of £4,000 in 2022. Some funding will be one-off, particularly in the case of our annual Lenten Appeal. But in most cases, projects will be funded for three years and then considered for renewal on a rolling basis.

We always look for projects with some link to the 9.30 Family Mass congregation or to the Dominican Order. Although most projects we support have Catholic leadership or a strong Catholic connection, this is not a requirement, and we do not fund any form of proselytizing. We make sure that there is regular personal contact, partly so that we can identify priorities and needs quickly, but also so we can better help the Congregation and other supporters understand the challenges faced by the projects we support. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes, even if, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergency situations. As you read through this report, you will see that our projects fall broadly into three areas:

**Health:** especially primary health care and preventive medicine;

**Welfare:** especially for children, people with disabilities, refugees, and victims of war, poverty and violence or exploitation of any kind;

**Education:** particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

We are always looking for new projects to support both regularly and on a one-off basis. Thank you for putting BOAT in touch with so many dedicated people and please keep your suggestions for possible new projects coming in.

**Geraldine A. Johnson**

*Chair of BOAT*

1st May 2024

## Brazil

### São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church



BOAT has supported the Centre for Children São Paulo da Cruz in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, since 2005. This continues to be a worthwhile project where children aged 6 to 15 years old, from low-income families, are kept off the streets outside school hours, as schooling in Brazil is only half-a-day. In a safe environment the children are occupied with social, recreational and educational activities that complement the state school education. The skills learned in the Centre give them a real chance to escape poverty, some of them continuing to higher education. Most

important, the children receive three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and tea), with emphasis on a healthy diet and hygiene. BOAT's 2022 donation was used to adapt the Centre facilities to improve accessibility for children with disabilities. The manager, Dona Ida Oliveira, has confirmed that the building work was completed. In 2023, as planned, the number of children increased to 127, including 28 children with special needs. In addition to the activities for children (examples shown in the photos), there are regular talks and workshops for the families who are encouraged to participate in the development of their children.



*Filomena Nave*

## Cameroon

### ARCH, Dibanda

The Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) was founded in 1986 and provides professional rehabilitation services to people living with disabilities, with the aim of enabling them to become re-integrated into society. Some patients are disabled at birth or suffer birth trauma, others have developed disabilities or deformities because of malnourishment, disease or accidents. The centre has grown over the years. In 2023 they treated over 2,400 patients, over 20% more than in 2022, coming from the local community and hospitals located in the southwest



region of Cameroon. Children account for nearly 50% of all cases treated.

The activities range from consultation and treatment of persons with special physical needs, counselling families and persons living with disabilities, prevention of physical deficiencies and deformities to follow-up and follow-through activities for physically handicapped persons who have been rehabilitated. ARCH also promote, explain and further the rights of physically handicapped persons through local and national campaigns.

BOAT has supported ARCH over the years, providing funds to improve the facilities at the hospital, increase food production used by carers and patients and re-build their incinerator, now a modern furnace designed for burning hazardous materials and general hospital waste.

The new project for 2023/24 aims to treat patients with disabilities and provide general health education to people who live in rural areas and are unable to reach the hospital due to the poor road conditions. There is an increasing need for this activity as many families have been forced to abandon their homes and flee into the bush to escape the hit-and-run attacks, ambushes and raids that flair up from time to time. BOAT is in the process of supporting the purchase of a four-wheel drive van that can tackle tough terrain. This will allow ARCH to reach these remote communities where the need is most acute as people with disabilities have no support.



*Rinaldo Caprotti*

## Ethiopia

### Zizencho and Arekit

The Bethany Sisters, who are in charge of the schools at the villages of Zizencho and Arekit, send their greetings to all BOAT's donors.

Zizencho is a very rural village where all families depend on farming. They cultivate barley, potatoes, and false bananas. Their main food are false bananas (also known as Abyssinian bananas), which are Ethiopia's most important root crop – the fruits of the plant are inedible. The roots of false bananas provide staple food for around 20 million people in Ethiopia.

Most of the families in Zizencho are very poor and do not have enough food, potable water, clothing, or other essential facilities. Many children come to school on an empty stomach, so the Bethany Sisters provide a midday meal for the kindergarten children.

It is common for people to live in expanded families, with unwanted mothers and unwanted children, and this results in many children living with their grandparents who are old and have limited opportunities to find work. Families in general are suffering from lack of work, food, and water.

Ethiopian political problems also affect the people's day-to-day life. On top of this, the inflation rate is very high (around 30%), making everything in the market very expensive, and many adults have lost their jobs in the city where some of them have had to migrate.



With the help of BOAT and the Jean Grove Trust, the Bethany Sisters are doing something for these villages by providing quality education. Some students who have graduated from these schools are now studying for higher degrees, some are working in the schools as teachers, and most of them have found good jobs. The picture shows Bishop Abune Musie with the Bethany Sisters at the Zizencho school.

Sister Prashantha sends her gratitude to BOAT for its continuous help.

*René Bañares-Alcántara*

## Ethiopia

### Mission of Hope, Gode



The Mission of Hope in Gode, Ethiopia, supports women who have been coerced or compelled into prostitution to escape the sex industry and build better lives for themselves and their children. The project, run by Sr Mary Joachim with the support of a social worker, Bethlehem, and occasional volunteers, provides these women with healthcare, childcare, and training, and helps them rebuild their sense of dignity and significance. Women who are well enough weave scarves for sale, and

are helped to set up individual bank accounts for the proceeds. This year they exported 300 woven scarves to Austria and Poland. The project is currently supporting 27 women, 11 men, and their 47 children, but still has to turn women away every day.

This year the project's weekly football club, which offers local children, who are being drawn into gangs, somewhere safe to play instead, expanded into a summer programme and then an informal Sunday League. They do some training, play a match, and eat ice cream before going home at the end of the afternoon.



As well as their weaving, the women are also being taught basic literacy, which they are enjoying: 'There has been much joy and laughter, as well as the painstaking efforts they put into learning to write their

names,' Sr Mary Joachim writes. 'These women are thirsty to learn, to acquire a skill, to discover their capacities.

After a long wait for rain, the crops flooded, and the banana plants had to be dug out of the mud. It has been possible to rescue about two-thirds of the banana crop, and everyone was delighted with the 44kg sweet potato harvest earlier in the year. A new irrigation scheme will give the other crops a better chance, now that the dry season has begun again.

Currently the project's most acute need is better education for the children. Schools in the area are prohibitively expensive or would not accept the children because they are not from the 'right' tribal group (their mothers having come from outside Gode to find work there). The children receive some teaching at the project from overseas volunteers and flourish under their attention, but it is frustrating to think how much more they could learn with professional teachers. Sr Mary Joachim is seeking retired teachers to come out to volunteer, even if only for a few months.

Sr Mary Joachim thanks BOAT, and BOAT thanks all its supporters, 'for all the financial help, prayers, and love given to us over this year.'

*Katherine Backler*

## India

### Allapalli, Andhra Pradesh

Allipalli Mary Matha Boarding Home and School is in the diocese of Eluru, in Andhra Pradesh, one of the poorest regions in India. It was established in 1989 with 15 children. Today, more than four hundred and fifty children, all orphans or destitute, are given free shelter, clothing, food, and education. The aim of the centre is to help the children build a bright future for themselves. The school

also supports the inhabitants of villages close by: activities undertaken range, amongst others, from running health awareness courses, providing free health consultation and food, to running women empowerment programmes.



The challenge in 2023 was to maintain the same level of support to the children and the local community, despite reduced donations due to the economic crisis. There is also an urgent need to boost the supply of clean water. In Andhra Pradesh the average daily temperature in the dry season ranges from 30C up to 50C on the hottest days. The Mary Matha well provides water for drinking, personal hygiene and for other uses like irrigation, but during the dry season it is insufficient to meet even the most basic needs. Even so, during times of drought, water from the well is also supplied to

the surrounding villages. A capital project is under way, supported by BOAT, to drill a new well, deep enough to ensure a constant supply of fresh water, and to fit a modern filtration system that makes the water safe to drink. When complete, it will provide a safe and secure source of life-saving drinking water for many years to come (see the section on the Lenten appeal).

*Rinaldo Caprotti*

## India

### Sugandh, New Delhi

Sugandh Foundation is a not-for-profit organization based in New Delhi, India. The organization was established in 2014 with the aim of helping underprivileged children, particularly those from economically weaker sections of society. Sugandh Foundation works towards the betterment of these children by providing them with education, healthcare, and other essential services. The organisation is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

The Foundation has several ongoing projects aimed at improving lives. These include:

**1. Education:** The organisation provides education to children who cannot afford to attend school. It has established several learning centres across the country where children can receive free education. The programme was attended by 1,323 students, of whom 60 also received uniforms and shoes. Seventy-two children went on to mainline school. The organisation runs a mid-day meal programme for school-going children. This programme ensures that children receive the nutritional meals that are so important for their overall health and well-being.

**2. Healthcare:** The Foundation runs healthcare programmes for people, especially children, who do not have access to proper medical facilities. Regular health camps in slum areas provide basic healthcare services. As many as 1,910 women and men received vitamins and medicine from the programme last year.



**3. Skill development and Self Help:** The Foundation also runs skill development and self-help programmes which teach skills to help people earn their living. In particular, these are aimed at helping women. Forty-two students who attended the sewing centres are now able to support their families. Twenty-five sewing machines have been handed out, and 13 women have started small businesses. Self-help groups (SHG) were introduced by India's government to empower women at the grassroots, and 469 women have now joined a group.

**4. Advocacy and relief work:** The foundation has supported people, especially women, to express their views and wishes, and stand up for their rights. Interest was expressed by 1,456 people, and 365 were helped to acquire government documents such as birth certificates, death certificates,

bank documents, voter ID cards, ration cards and labour cards. A further 481 people received blankets, and 45 people, who had lost their jobs due to Covid-related issues, were given rations.

The Sugandh Foundation has made significant progress. The organisation has been able to reach out to 5,620 families in the slum area and provide them with essential services to make a significant impact. They have also provided opportunities for communities to be able to get together to celebrate Independence Day, Republic Day, Cancer Day, Tuberculosis Day and International Women's Day, as well as a social picnic for the children and training for the staff. BOAT's ongoing support has been vital in helping the Sugandh foundation reach these ongoing aims in providing support for these communities.

*Autumn Rowan Hull*

## **Jamaica**

### **Christ the King Basic School, Kingston**

Christ the King Basic School, August Town educates children aged 3 to 6. The school is located in a community centre in August Town, one of Kingston's most violent districts. Prior to 2020, when BOAT support commenced, the school was overwhelmingly reliant on the generosity and goodwill of its wider community – one permeated by a lively and generous spirit despite threats posed to it by serious poverty and violence.



The school undertook to provide teaching and daily meals to 40 children, at a termly charge of 6,500 JMD (£40). This raised an annual income of £4,800, which paid for the salaries of five staff-members, the overheads and food costs for the 40 children.

BOAT's annual contribution of £4,000 is a crucial contribution to the school's endeavours, to the health of the children, and to the well-being of the wider community (by relieving pressures on local families). The parish in which the school is located is served by the Dominican friars and is regularly visited by the Oxford brethren, who have duly noted the school's encouraging progress, thanks to BOAT's contributions. The school is now able to provide twice-daily meals to its pupils and is in the process of constructing a secure playground for them.

In 2023, BOAT contributed £10,000 towards capital expenditure. This allowed the school to install a badly-needed new roof over part of the building and to repair paving, fencing and windows. The school is grateful to BOAT and its individual members for their assistance.

The school has further plans to develop a computer centre for pupils which could be used by members of the wider community outside school hours, who would otherwise lack computer access. The school would be grateful for help to acquire new storage-containers to prevent wildlife from interfering with school supplies and food, and filing-cabinets for school records. The school would also appreciate assistance towards the preparation and maintenance of its playground, integral as it is to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of its pupils.

*Augustine Chen OP*

# Myanmar

## Living Water Myanmar

*“Water is life. Giving water is giving life”.* Rosemary Breen, founder of Living Water Myanmar

Since 2017, BOAT has supported the life-giving work of Living Water Myanmar (LWM), a grassroots initiative begun in 2011 by Rosemary Breen, which finances, constructs, and installs water tanks in the Dry Zone of Central Myanmar. Coordinator Soya Toe and his dedicated team work with local communities to identify areas with the most pressing water needs. The tanks are then erected with help from local volunteers in the grounds of schools or health clinics. The tanks – which belong to the community – collect rainwater during the monsoon season, or water from boreholes in some cases.



In addition to ensuring a stable source of water throughout the year, the tanks have transformed the lives of local communities. People no longer have to travel several hours a day along dusty, rugged paths just to fetch fresh water from the nearest rivers or streams. As a result, these tanks have freed up time for communities to establish local schools and for children to attend them.

To date, over 446 tanks have been constructed by LWM. Rosemary’s hope is ultimately to reach 500 tanks. BOAT’s 2023 donation to LWM was used to construct four new 5000-gallon tanks: two tanks for the community of Ay Gyi, a village with a population of 1300 in the Chauk township; one tank for the village school of Kyaung Du, near Kyaukpadaung; and one tank for the village school of Kyauktan village, also in the Chauk township.

Rosemary sends her love and heartfelt gratitude to BOAT supporters: “Please thank the wonderful Oxford folk who have been so generous to LWM. I hope someday you will go to see the difference you have made in a forgotten part of our world!”

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

# Nicaragua

## Guadalupe

With the support of BOAT, the Nicaragua Education, Culture and Arts Trust (NECAT), a UK-registered charity based in Oxford, has been working with its contacts in Nicaragua to provide meals for school children from low-income families living in areas suffering from extreme levels of poverty. The meals project has been running for over a decade. Although the project always takes the same form – the feeding of hungry children – it has moved between sites for various reasons. Its most recent base was at the NECAT ‘Learning Reinforcement Centre’ in Guadalupe.

The main project at the Centre is now early education for 2- to 5-year-olds following the Montessori method. This is a rare initiative, in a country where learning by rote is the norm. Our contact is Gioconda, who sent an interesting insight into the way the school works. 2023 saw 28 boys and girls on the roster, who were helped to establish routines, develop security, independence, concentration, coordination, order and academic learning in various fields. All the children persevered in school throughout the year, apart from one child whose family emigrated. The number is now up to 29, and they hope to reach 30 soon.

They organized four enjoyable and educational trips around the high spots in the local community, to the Leon University Veterinary School, to the University Botanical Garden and to El Xólotl farm. They were also able to provide psychological care to 11 children, three with autism, one with developmental delay, one with Downs Syndrome, one with socio-emotional problems, and five in need of speech stimulation.



They also established an alliance with Viva León Leyendo (a project that promotes a culture of reading in homes and schools, and holds weekly story hours with puppet shows, etc, in public spaces – hugely valuable in a culture that rarely sees children’s books), who paid them 29 visits in 2023. Stories focussed on moral values, good habits and the consolidation of general knowledge, especially colours, animal names, the importance of sharing, respect for others and solidarity, the importance of telling the truth and not having secrets from our parents, and respect for our bodies. And, of course, the children learned to love reading and strengthened their oratory skills, vocabulary and confidence when speaking in front of the public.

The food programme continues to benefit the children in all sorts of ways, not just in ensuring a healthy diet, but in instilling habits of hygiene and good table manners, as well as involving the parents in the cooking rota, which promotes healthy eating at home as well. The picture shows that the children take the cooking seriously too!

*Ag MacKeith*

## **Peru**

### **Amantani**

2023 was BOAT’s second year supporting Amantani, a project which works with young people and women artisans in Ccora and Huanoquite in the Peruvian Andes. Poverty and difficulties accessing schools have meant that most of these young people’s parents and grandparents were unable to finish primary school. Through its ‘Pathways Programme’, Amantani is supporting the next generation to finish secondary school and go on to access further education and fair employment. This year, the Pathways Programme offered workshops and residential courses to over 250 secondary-aged students, covering topics including self-esteem, resilience, drug and alcohol use, relationships, options after leaving school, independent living, and work opportunities, as well as maths and communication.



It also supported 90 young people through tertiary education, mostly on vocational courses, offering practical support and advocacy to help them complete their courses. 25 of these students graduated this year, including three young mothers. Pictured is Yulisa at her graduation with her son; Amantani helped her stay on her Industrial Food Processing

course even after she and her son got ill, by liaising with her, her tutor, her parents, and the educational institute's councils to get her the practical and emotional support she needed.

As well as its Pathways Programme, Amantani runs an Ethical Trade Project, which supports 39 women handweavers to foster their cultural traditions and maintain financial independence through their craftwork. Weavers make traditional bracelets which are sold through commercial partners including Shoezone. This year, Amantani also offered personal development workshops to its artisans, covering topics from health (including breast cancer screening) to budgeting. The workshops are given in Quechua, participants' first language.



*Katherine Backler*

## Peru

### Lima (San Benito) and Ayacucho

An era in BOAT's support for the Warmi Huasi project in Lima and Ayacucho has come to an end with the retirement of Columban Father Ed O'Connell. We have been supporting this project for many years, under Ed's inspirational leadership, but he assures us that he will continue to be closely involved with the community and the work of the project.

Warmi Huasi provides support in the form of reading and homework clubs for children and adolescents in some of the most economically and socially challenged communities in Peru, who would otherwise be at risk of violence and bullying while their parents are at work. From its origins in the San Benito township in Lima, the project has now grown to include two towns, Lampa and Pausa, in the mountainous Ayacucho region. Just as importantly for the long-term future of these communities, the young people are encouraged and enabled to take a full part in local decisions about services and the environment they live in.



A wonderful video which you can find on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/Z876vKaSW9o?si=wtQqiTgsj4gw2UA8> describes the experience of some young “agents of change” supported by Warmi Huasi. As you can see from the photo, in Lima this has included the “reclamation” of a local park as a green space for recreation, and the creation of an organic garden for growing flowers and vegetables.

Father Ed writes:

“Many thanks for your support which is very important to the Warmi Huasi team and to me. But even more so to the families with whom we work and of course especially the children and adolescents in North Lima and Ayacucho. It is much appreciated.

After the pandemic years, the work is now back at full pace with children and adolescents, their parents, community leaders, municipal officials and authorities, as well as Government sectors such as Education, Health, Women and Vulnerable People, the Judiciary and Police. In this work Warmi Huasi has gained ground in getting the public sector authorities to fulfil their statutory roles.

As well, parents and community leaders are exercising their rightful roles as citizens, by accompanying the young people in their activities and themselves holding the authorities to account. All of this was possible because of the formation and accompaniment received by the children and adolescents from the Warmi Huasi team. This has enabled them to develop their potential as individuals and as an organisation.

2023 has also seen my return to Britain, but nevertheless I attend by Zoom the meetings of the Executive and full Board meetings. I am contact regularly by Whatsapp with the new president of Warmi Huasi and with the Institutional Coordinator, especially with regard to the financial side, and I help with the translations of the reports and project applications.

I plan to visit Peru next year, to celebrate my 80th birthday and to visit the project both in North Lima and in Ayacucho. I am still the link with yourselves and I forward the funding through the Columbans in Britain to the Columbans in Peru and there the funds are placed in the Warmi Huasi bank account for immediate use.”

We wish Fr Ed a very happy retirement, and look forward to a continuing relationship with him and communities supported by Warmi Huasi.

*Helen Ghosh*

## **Peru**

### **Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos**

BOAT has been supporting the work of Fr Miguel Fuertes of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos since 2021. That was the year when, thanks to your Lenten generosity, BOAT was able to send £7,500 to Fr Miguel to help him in his mission to ensure young people in his “parish” were provided with solar-powered radios so they could continue with their education during the Covid crisis. Fr Miguel’s “parish” is in Amazonian Northern Peru and covers an area approximately the size of Scotland, with parts only accessible by river.

The following year, in 2022, the committee decided to support Fr Miguel’s long-standing and ongoing fight to ensure that women and girls in the vicariate are safe, honoured, and able to lead full and dignified lives. Sadly, in Peru as a whole, women and girls face horrible and frightening difficulties: violence of all kinds is rife, including domestic abuse, sexual abuse, rape, trafficking, kidnapping, and femicide. Indigenous women and girls have to deal with additional aggression and discrimination

(and it is shocking that many are yet to receive justice for the rapes and forced sterilizations carried out during the government of Alberto Fujimori).

Fr Miguel and his team have been tackling these problems for many years. *Proyecto Mujeres Loreтана* runs workshops and discussion groups (see photo) where women and girls are taught about self-esteem, Human Rights (women's, children's, and indigenous people's), women as leaders, and women in business. Engagement with the wider community is also an important part of the project: raising awareness of the problems of violence against women and intrafamilial violence, and making such violence unacceptable at a societal level.



In addition, three lawyers are employed to give free legal advice on child maintenance payments, division of assets, protection orders, rape, assault, and other matters. In 2023, advice was given in 1,459 cases (of which 722 were new cases and 737 continuing cases). Many of the women and girls helped were referred to the legal service by local parishes and other organizations – but word of mouth is also proving an effective referrals system (with women who have received help themselves, sending other women in difficulty to the team). The photo shows a young mother at the free legal advice centre.

Fr Miguel is a very efficient and resourceful team leader, skilled at managing all the administrative demands that such a project and such a huge parish imply. However, he is no bureaucrat: the love he feels for his flock and the sorrow he shares with the oppressed and maltreated are absolutely true and humbling. He writes of his discouragement at times but of the overriding example of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who urges him to carry on “fighting for Life”.

“It was at the beginning of the 1990s that we started to focus more specifically on the prevention of violence against women (both in the home and in other areas of life), from childhood onwards (in some indigenous groups it was customary to hand over little girls, as young as 10, to the future husbands). We pushed for the same educational rights for girls as for boys. The setting up of the vicarial Office for Justice and Peace was key to raising awareness of and offering help to the victims of violence, by giving talks in the different parishes.



“We have of course witnessed huge advances in the fight for equality for women and in the observance of women's rights and dignity. However, it is also true to say that other social ills, afflicting women and girls in particular, have been emerging, human trafficking being one such; we are confronting this problem with determination, our aim being to help and rescue little girls and young girls from the traffickers of human beings, the traffickers of ‘human flesh’.

“It is humanity's lot that when mortal dangers are overcome, new ones immediately appear. Joys and defeats succeed one another – and sometimes even arrive together. We have seen many, many improvements and much progress, but we cannot lay down our arms. We have continually to renew our hope in humanity and in the work we have undertaken. It is not always easy and we sometimes feel like throwing in the towel; but the certainty that we are following the giver of life and that we must fight for Life – and a life of dignity, for everyone – along with the awareness of the many, many

people who help us... this is what gives us the strength to continue to fight the good fight (which is never the same but is always necessary).”

*Anna Lucas*

## Philippines

### Midsalip, Missionary Sisters of St Columban

For numerous years, BOAT has supported the Subaanen Mission in Midsalip in the Philippines, under the current leadership of Sr. Winnie Apao from the Sisters of St. Columban. The Mission provides ongoing essential support to the indigenous local Subaanen people, facilitating access to education and healthcare, as well as safeguarding the ancestral lands of the Subaanen against mining operations, natural calamities, and harmful agricultural practices.

Specifically, BOAT’s funding helps to support the seven pre-schools run by the Mission and which are all now recognized by the Department of Education. These schools are located in seven distant barrios and currently educate 207 students, using culture-based learning in the local language. BOAT funding is also used to support the Mission’s Youth Programmes, providing leadership and literacy classes for selected high school and college students from the local barrios, and youth camps to a

wider group of children. The Mission also run Biodiversity and Farming Programmes to help to educate local people about sustainable farming practices, including promoting the use of natural fertilizers, composting and tree planting to avoid landslides. In addition to standing in solidarity with the local community in active protest against mining companies, the Mission also organizes interfaith celebrations for Indigenous



People’s Day (*see photo*), where people of all faiths come together to promote and strengthen Subaanen culture and practices.

I share Sister Winnie’s inspiring and moving words from her Christmas letter: ‘As I am reflecting of our year 2023 journey, I could not stop praising and thanking the Lord for His great mercy and generosity to us here in Midsalip Subanen Ministry. There were many, many good things happened and abundant blessings we received. Like Mary in her pondering, “How can this be?” I also asked God, “How can I continue the ministry here in the Subanen Ministry?” In my prayer, I was inspired by what St Paul said in *Romans 15:13*, “May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” I kept on clinging to God’s gift of Hope. This Hope enabled me to trust in Christ’s promises, to trust in the power of his love, his friendship, and divine providence. This also opened a new door for me and my companions to renew our service and commitment, especially to our most insignificant, discriminated and poor brothers and sisters. With the gift of Hope we were inspired to persevere through difficult times, pursue our dreams and goals, and had the strength and resilience to overcome challenges and setbacks. Hope enabled us to see that there is light, despite all of the darkness of poverty, landslide and other

natural calamities, mining threat to our ancestral and agricultural lands here in Midsalip and most of all the diminishing of the Subanen cultural practices and identity. But with Hope, it contributed to our well-being and happiness and motivated us with positive actions by continuing serving with our different programmes and activities geared for the development of our Subanen people.'

She concluded her letter by saying, 'As we celebrate this Christmas season, we continue to pray for the gift of Hope to carry us forward to another year of blessings and service of love and mercy. On behalf of the Subanen Ministry I would like to express again my sincerest gratitude for all your support and prayers to us. May the Christmas season bring you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the enduring peace of His love, not just for now, but always!' The photo above shows dancing at the Christmas celebrations.



*Julie Lynch Bridson*

## Rwanda

### Network For Africa

Network for Africa works with communities in Rwanda, Sierra Leone and northern Uganda devastated by war, particularly with the survivors of conflicts long-past, forgotten once disaster relief efforts stopped. They provide training in specialised trauma counselling so that survivors can navigate the long-term psychological consequences which often inhibit the recovery of their communities. Those trained as counsellors are often themselves survivors.

The Network's model of 'de-colonising aid' is key to its engagement with its beneficiaries. Rather than directing everything from London, it equips its local partners with the skills necessary to take charge wherever possible, especially by training counsellors. This is particularly pertinent given the charity's small size. The Network's role is financial management and planning, reporting (monitoring and evaluation), ensuring its partners are trained in and adhere to safeguarding and other policies, fundraising for projects, and supporting local partners when requested.

BOAT's assistance focuses on the Network's support of survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Of the 49 participants recruited to the entrepreneurship training programme in Rwanda as per last year's Report, 34 have now secured loans. In Rwanda alone, 12 new peer-counselling groups, with 300 members, are being supported in the east and south. Across its three countries, the Network's projects have provided counselling to 1,782 people (an increase from last year's 1,286). The involvement of beneficiaries in self-help groups has increased; members are trained in financial literacy, village savings and loans and enterprise selection before receiving livelihoods, enabling each person to save £49-£68 a year on average. BOAT's assistance has also contributed to the range of other initiatives undertaken, which include: psycho-education, work-readiness training, mental health clinics, maternal mental health sessions, community awareness-raising sessions, drug banks and funding medication, and mental health clubs in schools.

In June, the Network will visit Burundi, which neighbours Rwanda, to assess the possibility of replicating its Rwandan projects there. It will be accompanied by Dr Shelly Evans, an American psychotherapist and volunteer for nearly 20 years. She will train an initial cohort of war survivors to become lay counsellors. Burundi is one of the areas in Africa most neglected by aid projects. It has suffered greatly from ethnic-based conflict for decades. BOAT's support would significantly empower the Network and its partners to establish in Burundi their tried-and-tested model of peer support counsellors, group and individual counselling, support groups and savings schemes and, once beneficiaries feel able to manage their PTSD, offering them enterprise training.

*Augustine Chen OP*

## Sierra Leone

### Koindu

2023/24 is the sixth year in which BOAT has supported this orphanage in the north-eastern Kailahun district of Sierra Leone. Founded and run by Mary Sesay, the orphanage takes in local children, many of whose parents had died from AIDS and were denied support from family or other sectors of the community because of the stigma attached to their parents' illness. The orphanage now also takes children who have been abandoned for other reasons, and are subject to abuse or neglect in their domestic settings. Many have multiple needs, including impaired vision and hearing problems. The children's two greatest needs at the orphanage are food and water, but Smile With Us is really the children's 'whole world', where they receive nourishment,



medical attention and clothing, and also academic, social and physical support. Due to its reputation, the number of children placed there continues to grow.

Sierra Leone is a desperately poor country and abandoned or orphaned children are among the most vulnerable groups in that country. The Orphanage struggles on a daily basis to provide the basics for the children who live there, such as food and medicine. Stratospheric food prices make the Orphanage's work very difficult. Our money makes a fundamental difference to the lives of these children. Previously our donations helped to build a well and a dining room, to furnish the dining room, and to fence off the Orphanage compound; to provide food, cutlery, and medical supplies; to pay for medical bills, uniforms, textbooks, pens, exercise books, extra lessons for those taking public exams, Monitors' allowances, transport costs, Christmas entertainment and daily breakfast. The Orphanage emphasises education so that the children achieve well academically, including in external exams. The children have been cultivating a cassava farm since 2022.

Our past donations enabled the Orphanage to introduce games and sport as regular features of Orphanage life to improve the children's health and confidence. In the last year, the children have been given sports kit and T-shirts in house colours (red, yellow and green). The Orphanage staff say

sports events have contributed to making the pupils bold and assertive through competition and cooperation. The photo shows them lining up in their new sports kit

The current challenge is to ensure that the well can reliably provide clean water. Earlier attempts to drill a well had struck impenetrable rock; and the Orphanage had insufficient funds to install a solar pump. Thanks to BOAT's recent donations, Smile With Us has been able to engage a senior employee of the Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) to assist in surveying and advising (*see photo*), and further construction has continued. Good progress has been made: water is now rising through the rock into the well. The next stage, following the technician's advice, is to install a hand pump. This is a more robust system and will be easier to maintain over the long term than a solar pump.



BOAT's donations in the last year totalled just over NLe 90,000 (leones). Just under 20% of that was spent on sporting activities, including the sports days and about 55% was spent on the well project. The remainder of the money continues to provide breakfasts and clothing for the children. We communicate with the Orphanage via a WhatsApp group and we receive information particularly from Tamba and Tim, the social workers involved with the Orphanage. Without their support, the orphanage would be in a very precarious position. Our UK link to the Smile With Us Orphanage is Penny Boreham Saban, a producer, presenter and writer, who works for the BBC World Service. Penny has longstanding links in Sierra Leone and knows the Orphanage well.

*Jenifer Dye*

## Uganda

### Cancer Trust

All our friends at UCT express sincere and regular thanks for the continued support provided by BOAT to enable Liz Nabirye and the medical and volunteer team at MMPCU (Makerere and Mulago Palliative Care Unit) to continue to provide vital care to patients and their families: engaging cancer patients in their treatment and working to better outcomes.



BOAT monies in particular enables UCT to employ nurse Liz and to provide additional support for the volunteer team. Liz is key to the project and we are delighted to report that she is now the clinical lead at MMPCU. We highlighted last year the increasing importance of the volunteer team. Whilst the team is small, we can positively report that it is becoming more skilled, indeed some of the volunteers have gone on to train specifically in social work.

To give a flavour of the work, here are some photos of volunteers with patients, sharing information, giving gifts, providing moral support.

The key focus this year is looking at ways to support the sustainability and extension of the volunteer team, as the demand for specialist paediatric support seems to be growing. The basic costs that need to be covered are travel to different sites, airtime, and lunch, and the volunteers receive no other remuneration.



Once again, this year the report on tangible updates on achievements through the year is powerful. There has been identification and support of 154 patients as follows: 118 patients given food and nutritional support, both adults and children, 14 patients helped with transport to travel back home after discharge for reviews, 14 patients aided with drugs and 3 patients with investigations including an ECHO & ECG.

At Christmas-time, UCT was able to organise hampers for the most needy patients spending Christmas on the wards. The hampers included; sugar, soap, bread and a bottle of soda.

UCT was also able to respond to requests to support the costs of urgent surgery for two people with albinism. This is needed when the skin cancer is too advanced to be treated with cryotherapy in the regular mobile skin clinics. To highlight the critical need, Advantage Africa made the following comment, underlining the difficulties faced by these very vulnerable people: ‘The dire economic situation is having a devastating impact on the lives of marginalised individuals and families in Uganda. Increasing numbers of people are missing regular skin clinics because they can’t afford public transport to reach them. Many vulnerable families affected by albinism are eating one meagre meal a day and that rates of severe depression are rising.’

The work and development at UCT doesn’t stop. Upcoming plans focus on training and mentorship in paediatric palliative care, with shadowing at Kawempe Home care, in Kampala, to provide more practical experience with children. Also, going forward, plans are for regular CMEs by the clinical team on ethics and boundaries, self-care management, communication skills, story writing, and bereavement support, all ongoing on a regular basis.

To conclude it feels important to say many thanks from us at BOAT to UCT for giving us the privilege of supporting the amazing work that Liz and the team do. In addition, a huge thanks to Michael and Liz Minton who enable us to have such regular and deep insights into the work of the team in Uganda and the great need for our support.

*Nicolette Michels*

## **Uganda**

### **Church of St John the Baptist, Bulindi**

In his report Father Sebastian describes the ravages caused by malaria among the people in this region, and particularly those in his parish. From March until June there were frequent heavy downpours which caused malaria cases in almost every home in the parish. There were 45 deaths from malaria

between January and the beginning of August, 30 were children and the others were elderly. Also 158 malaria patients were admitted to hospital, either at Masindi or Hoima, in the same period.

In June and July there was some dry weather, but this year the rains resumed early in August. From September to December 2023, which is always the rainy season, the rains were more intense, causing floods and leaving stagnant water behind when the floods subsided. This hugely increased the mosquito population and the cases of malaria among the parishioners. In some cases, Father Sebastian himself drove the ill parishioners to the health centre at Mparangasi, three miles away. The parish covers a wide area and has 17 outlying chapels, where pastoral work is done by catechists and Father Sebastian visits to say Mass. From September to December there were 49 further deaths in the parish, of which 21 were young babies, 15 expectant mothers, and 13 elderly people. In addition, 196 parishioners were admitted to the referral hospital at Hoima due to severe malaria.

The grant given by BOAT has been lifesaving. Father Sebastian reports that he was able to buy 707 mosquito nets, of which 200 were distributed to children, 200 to expectant mothers, and 307 to elderly men and women. All who received a net are alive and well, and very grateful to BOAT. Many have given public testimony that the malaria attacks are far fewer when mosquito nets are used. They have also been spared the expensive treatment, which they cannot afford. In hospitals and health centres the cost of treatment for malaria is now UGX 120,000 per dose, that is £24.42, an impossibly large sum. Father Sebastian writes that when he goes to say Mass in the 17 outlying chapels, he is told that 85% of his parishioners cannot afford to buy their own mosquito nets and suffer a great deal in the rainy seasons. For these more distant areas his method is to ask his catechists, who know the people well, to identify those with the greatest need among the parishioners and bring them to his office on the first Tuesday of the month, when he will supply the nets.



It was understood by all those who benefited from the mosquito nets provided by BOAT that they should maintain them by frequent washing with Omo, and that they should be mended with needle and thread if any holes developed. Thanks to the grant from BOAT the incidence of miscarriage by expectant mothers has lessened, the number of patients travelling to hospital has been reduced, and the mortality rate from malaria has fallen. Father Sebastian looks forward to seeing the same benefit next year.

## **Karungu Convent, Kigumba**

Sister Clemensia started to carry out her plans for the solar project as soon as the grant arrived last year. She reports that of the three buildings in the project she decided to begin with solar panels for the Infant Jesus Nursery School, because living with paraffin lamps was dangerous for the young children, many of whom are boarders. There are 350 young children in the school and the danger of fire is ever-present. In addition, the smoke is harmful to the children's health. The solar technician checked the project from mid-March to June 2023 to make sure everything was ready for the work. In April all the items which were to be bought in Kampala were confirmed. The solar panels ordered were new ones, not pre-used or second-hand, which is often the case in



Uganda, and they come with two heavy-duty batteries of 150AH and all accessories. Original panels are far more durable. In May all items arrived on site according to plan. In June the technician began the installation and tested everything on site as the work progressed. By the end of August 2023, the solar lighting was already working in the nursery school. This has transformed the lives of these young children and their teachers and matrons, as there is now an adequate light system throughout the whole school, and they can learn and play without danger when darkness falls. In addition, the security lighting on the exterior of the school deters thieves, a real benefit. Solar energy means there are no more paraffin expenses, which is a great saving.

Sister Clemensia writes that they are looking forward to the next two phases of the work, when solar energy will be installed for their convent and, future installation costs permitting, for the health unit at Karungu.

*Rosaleen Ockenden*

## **Zimbabwe and Uganda**

### **African Mission**

Most of our funding over the years has gone to Fatima mission, a Franciscan-run project in western Zimbabwe with several schools and a clinic. Though the mission's needs are great, it seems to be doing pretty well, with upgrades in the hot water system at the pastoral centre and a new television set. The group most in need are the disabled children, who in the past were often rejected by the local community. As well as housing and educating a group of disabled children, there is a large garden, seen in the photo, where they work hard growing a lot of the food that they eat, both increasing the centre's self-sufficiency and teaching the children life skills.

The other element of African Mission's work, a hospital in Uganda, is again making progress. Dr Ray Towey, the London medic around whose work the charity was originally conceived, has been focusing on the Intensive Care Unit at St Mary's hospital in northern Uganda. Healthcare outcomes are improving in Uganda with overall life expectancy rising from 50 in 2000 to 67 in 2022, but that is still well below the average in Europe. BOAT supported the purchase of a portable anaesthesia kit which is being put to good use. The photo shows it being explained to the staff.



The charity's biggest problem is funding. Between March 2022 and March 2023 their income went down from £47,000 to £35,000 after the loss of an important single donor. BOAT's annual donation continues to play an important part in African Mission's finances, and with the economic situation in the region continuing to be challenging, support will be needed for many years to come.

*Mick Conefrey*

## 2023 Lenten Appeal Project

### Additional Water Well for the Allipalli Children's Centre

The 2023 Lenten appeal is a significant capital project aimed at drilling a new well at the Allipalli Children's Centre in Andhra Pradesh, India. In the dry season, this area experiences 4 to 5 months of high ambient temperatures with little to no rainfall. Water, abundant in the rainy season, is not captured for later use, by dams or aqueducts for example. In the past the Centre got water for personal hygiene, cooking, laundry and irrigation of the crops that provide much needed food from its bore hole. However, the amount of water available is insufficient to meet even the most basic needs during the dry period. The water extracted is also shared with local villages during periods of extreme drought. The current set-up also lacks a water filtration system, now required by law to treat water used for human consumption.



The money raised by the Lenten appeal has allowed the construction of a new well, over 120 metres deep, to ensure enough water is available throughout the drought period. Additionally, a modern filtration system has been installed to prevent water-related diseases with a new 15,000-litre water storage tank.

*Rinaldo Caprotti*

## Boat Christmas Cards

This year, these raised £895, not a huge sum, considering the many hours of work involved. But the card factory is a social occasion, and the team take comfort from the understated but effective publicity BOAT gains from our efforts. We would welcome more hands to stick the boxes, once the backs have been printed and the cards trimmed to fit. Many thanks to those who created and packaged the cards, as well as to Joshua Dubin and Jenifer Dye who generously funded the costs.

*Ag MacKeith*

# Reserves policy and risk management

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £24,000. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies by covering the outlay for the entirety of two projects. It provides a buffer so that even severe changes in our financial conditions can be cushioned for the projects that we support.

## Risk Management

In the light of the Trustees' desire to deliver funds to good causes as expeditiously as possible, any surplus cash is held on a bank deposit until needed. The Trustees monitor the level of cash held and would review this policy if the levels of cash held were to increase significantly.

## Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed or explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

*Signed:* **Geraldine Johnson**

Chair  
for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT

February 2024

# **Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2023**

With the magnificent support of our very generous donors, BOAT has been able to do a great deal of good work in support of our core aims: health, welfare, education and community building in some of the least fortunate parts of the world. We received £83,605 in donations during 2023. We had also finished 2022 with a little above the reserves level we were targeting. We were therefore able to send out £96,554 in donations during 2023. We have many supporters, and the good works we donate to would not be possible without them. I, and all involved in BOAT, are incredibly grateful to these many donors.

During 2023 we supported 20 projects around the world. Most of these projects are annual receivers of aid. Amongst these annual sums are also some one-off capital projects. Noteworthy donations in this category include the building of a well for water for the Allapalli project in India, the purchase of an anaesthesiology machine for use in South Sudan, and school improvement works for the Christ the King basic school in Kingston, Jamaica.

It remains very much the case that we are all volunteers and so our costs are solely the bank transfer charges, and a small fee for printing the annual report for governance purposes. The minuteness of our costs is a source of pride to us, as it maximises the amount our projects receive.

Another volunteer is our external assessor, Adam Hodgkin. He has again signed off on our accounts, and I and the whole committee are very grateful to him for his diligent work. Adam is retiring this year and so we will be securing a new independent assessor for next year. I would like to repeat my thanks to Filomena Nave, who prepares the application for Gift Aid from HMRC. This year we secured £15,346 through this route, which is very welcome.

It is important that we continue to interact with our donors whenever the opportunity arises, and one good way to do this is through our events. A highlight of the year is the BOAT cafés after mass at Blackfriars, Oxford. These happen three times a year: Christmas, Mothers' Day and a summer café. The three raised over £1,200 through the sale of cakes with more raised through the sale of bread. The cakes and bread are delicious and the sums raised are also very welcome. Our harvest auction is a further annual fixture. This year it raised £517, which is again magnificent.

Some give a lot of their time to BOAT such as Ag MacKeith and Joshua Dubin who lead a team who make Christmas and other cards and sell them to raise awareness of BOAT. Maureen Auzeto leads the tea/coffee after mass and she has helped raise donations for BOAT there. In 2023 this generated £569. There were also donations in memory of Anna Baidoun, a long-time supporter of BOAT; during 2023 this raised £130.

In conclusion, thank you to all of our supporters. BOAT is generously funded and in turn funds many projects generously. You can read about the good works we support in this annual report.

*Signed: John Thanassoulis*

BOAT Treasurer

February 2024.

## **Further Reference and Administrative Information**

BOAT address: Blackfriars Priory, 64 St, Giles, Oxford. OX1 3LY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Carfax, Oxford. OX1 4AA.

Charity Number:288585

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust ("the Charity")

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 December 2023 which are set out on the following pages 26 to 31

## ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"), and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ◆ Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- ◆ Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- ◆ State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## ***Independent examiner's statement***

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - ◆ proper accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
  - ◆ accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Signed:* **Adam Hodgkin**

5th February 2024

# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

## Balance Sheets as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash at Lloyds Bank</b>	33,066	46,015
	33,066	46,015
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		
	33,066	46,015
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£33,066</b>	<b>£46,015</b>
 <b>The Funds of the charity:</b>		
<b>Restricted Income Funds</b>	-	450
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	33,065	45,564
	<b>£33,065</b>	<b>£46,015</b>

# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations	71,280	8,576	79,856	80,563
Events and Sales	3,750	-	3,750	2,659
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<u>75,029</u>	<u>8,576</u>	<u>83,605</u>	<u>83,222</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Fundraising	358	-	358	222
Charitable Activities	86,945	9,026	95,971	83,455
Governance Costs	225	-	225	255
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>87,528</u>	<u>9,026</u>	<u>96,554</u>	<u>83,932</u>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources</b>	(12,499)	(450)	(12,949)	(710)
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	45,564	450	46,015	46,725
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<u>£33,065</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£33,066</u>	<u>£46,015</u>

The notes on pages 28 to 31 form part of these accounts.

# Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31 2023

## **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **General**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in 2005.

### **Income**

- (1) Donations and grants are included in the accounts when they are received.
- (2) Interest income is included in the accounts when it is received.
- (3) Tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid donations is included in the accounts when it is received.

### **Expenditure**

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure is included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

### **Unrestricted Funds**

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received for the objects of the charity without a specified purpose and are available as general funds. From time to time the Trustees may establish Designated Funds out of the Unrestricted Funds to meet contingencies.

### **Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

## 2 DONATIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	55,934	56,102
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	-	890
Other Donations (unrestricted)	3,750	2,659
Other Donations (restricted)	8,576	7,061
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	15,346	16,511
	<b>£83,605</b>	<b>£83,222</b>

## 3 EVENTS AND SALES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Harvest Auction	517	650
Christmas café	410	353
Card Sales	895	1,008
Mothers' Day Café	495	332
Summer café	367	
Donations from the 9.30 coffee team	569	
Donations in memory of Anna Baidoun	130	
Bread Sales	366	317
	<b>£3,750</b>	<b>£2,659</b>

## 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

### Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects

	2023	2022
	£	£
Nicaragua, Leon	4,000	4,000
Jamaica, Kingston School	-	-
Jamaica, Christ the King School	10,000	4,000
Uganda Cancer UK	4,000	4,000
Uganda Fr Sebastian	4,000	4,000



## 6 GOVERNANCE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank Charges	225	255
	<b>£225</b>	<b>£255</b>

## 7 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any member of the committee or to any person known to be connected with any of them.

## 8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at January 1	450	1,454
Incoming Resources	8,576	7,951
Expenditure	(9,026)	(8,955)
<b>Balance at December 31</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£450</b>

## 9 GENERAL FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at January 1	45,564	45,270
Incoming Resources	75,029	75,271
Expenditure	(87,528)	(74,977)
<b>Balance at December 31</b>	<b>£33,066</b>	<b>£45,564</b>
Represented by:		
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>£33,066</b>	<b>£46,015</b>



**A Standing Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.**

## **BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST (BOAT)**

### **HOW TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER**

- With most banks and building societies, you can set up a Standing Order online or by phone.
- Alternatively, you can go into your bank to complete a Standing Order form. You'll need the BOAT account number and sort code (as well as some personal identification).

*Beneficiary Name:* **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

*Beneficiary Account Number:* **00087533**

*Beneficiary Sort Code:* **30-96-35**

*Beneficiary's Bank:* **Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Street, Oxford OX1 4AA.**

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### **GIFT AID DECLARATION (FOR REGULAR OR ONE-OFF DONATIONS)**

**Boost your donation to BOAT by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.**

*giftaid it*

**Just tick this box  Yes! I would like to Gift Aid this donation and any other donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to BOAT.**

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

### **PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS**

Title: ..... First name(s): ..... Surname: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

**Signature** ..... **Date** .....

Please notify BOAT if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Please return to:** The Gift Aid Treasurer, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge, Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY. **Alternatively, you can email it to:** [boatblackfriars@gmail.com](mailto:boatblackfriars@gmail.com)

**IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO FOR US TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT BOAT'S ACTIVITIES, PLEASE TICK THIS BOX  Please see the BOAT website at [tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford) for an explanation of why and how we use your data, and your rights in respect of that data.**

**Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

Registered Charity No. 288585

**c/o Blackfriars Priory**

**64 St Giles**

**Oxford OX1 3LY**

[tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford)

**BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 288585

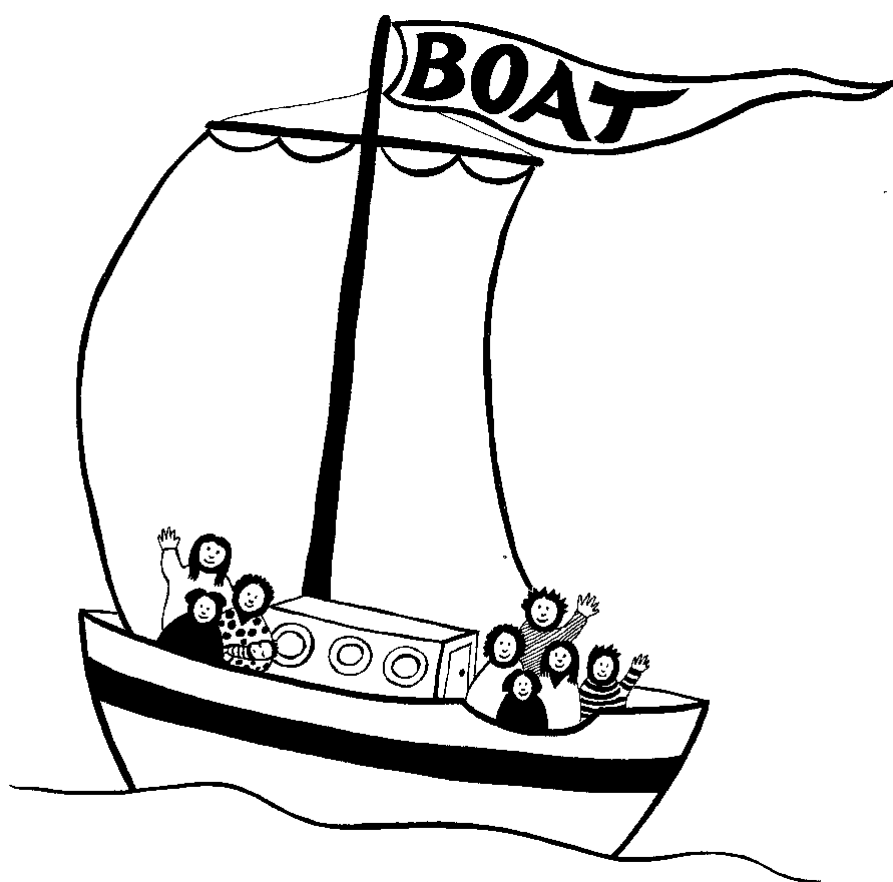
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# Accounts

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# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Founded 1984 by Members of 9.30 Family Mass Congregation



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2022

Registered Charity 288585

# **BOAT COMMITTEE**

## **May 2022 to June 2023**

### **Trustees (voting)**

<i>Chair</i> Geraldine Johnson	Chair's Report; <i>India (Sugandh) (May-Jan.)</i>
<i>Secretary</i> Anna Lucas	Acting Chair (May-Oct.); <i>Peru (Iquitos)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i> John Thanassoulis	Treasurer
<i>Asst Treasurer</i> Filomena Nave	Regular Donations; <i>Brazil</i>
René Bañares-Alcántara	<i>Ethiopia (Zizencho and Arekit)</i>
Mick Conefrey	<i>Zimbabwe</i>
Jenifer Dye	<i>Sierra Leone</i>
Helen Ghosh	Acting Secretary (May-Oct.); <i>Peru (Lima and Ayacucho)</i>
Ag MacKeith	Annual Report; <i>Nicaragua</i>
Rosaleen Ockenden	<i>Uganda (Butema and Kigumba parishes)</i>

### **Committee Members (non-voting)**

Katherine Backler	<i>Ethiopia (Mission of Hope); Peru (Amantani)</i>
Julie Lynch Bridson	<i>Myanmar, Philippines</i>
Rinaldo Caprotti	<i>India (Allapalli); Cameroon (from Sept.; overseen by Lucy Carpenter May-Aug.)</i>
Nicolette Michels	<i>Uganda (Cancer Trust)</i>
Bede Mullens OP (May-Oct.)	<i>Jamaica, Rwanda</i>
Thomas Mannion OP (from Nov.)	
Autumn Rowan-Hull	<i>India (Sugandh) (from Feb.)</i>
Gayna Wyles	<i>Publicity and Design</i>

*Italics indicate the projects for which members are responsible.*

**Everyone in the 9.30 congregation has a part to play in keeping BOAT's large fleet of projects afloat. We are very grateful for the generous responses to our appeals for help and for our community's initiative, skill and hard work in raising funds in so many creative ways.**

## CHAIR'S FOREWORD 2022

Dear Friends of BOAT,

It is a real honour to be making my first contribution to the Annual Report as Chair of BOAT. I was elected at the AGM in May 2022, but only took on the duties of Chair in November, with Anna Lucas very kindly staying on as Acting Chair in the interim. She has left very big shoes to fill after nearly a decade of service, vision and leadership as Chair of BOAT - always laced with just the right amount of humour when required! Guiding our charity through the darkest days of the pandemic is a particularly important part of Anna's legacy, for which we are incredibly grateful - most of all the individual projects we support. I am sure those of you reading this report will join me in thanking Anna for all she has done for BOAT and, in her ongoing role as Secretary of BOAT, all that she continues to do.

Although the most immediate effects of the global Covid-19 emergency were behind us by the middle of 2022, there is no doubt that many of the communities supported by BOAT continued to feel the negative impact of the pandemic, particularly as the cost of living crisis became increasingly evident. In response to this, the funds raised for the 2022 Lenten Appeal were used to provide additional aid to five of our ongoing projects so they could provide more meals for the children in their care given the ever-higher cost of food and other basic supplies and services. More details about this year's Lenten Appeal can be found in the report.

We also continued to support projects with ongoing annual donations of £4000 each. As careful readers of last year's Annual Report will recall, this includes an increase of £500 per year for each project beginning in 2021. The wonderful generosity of our supporters both in Oxford and beyond has meant that we have been able to sustain this higher level of funding over the past year. As you will see from the reports on the individual projects that follow, our partners around the world have made excellent use of the funds we have sent them, often in the face of severe personal, political, social, medical, economic and environmental challenges.

The individual reports speak of courage and hope even when confronting situations that are difficult for us to fully appreciate or understand. For example, Sister Winnie Apao, who oversees educational programmes for young students of the indigenous Subaenon people in the Philippines, tells of the transformative power of the targeted literacy and leadership initiatives made possible by BOAT: 'It is our great pride to have students who graduated from high school and senior high school....They have learned many things....their world is opened up to a bigger world and dreams in life....Thank you very much for helping us to make a difference.' The impact of BOAT's donations is also attested to in the other projects we support, which do everything from providing counselling for victims of genocide in Rwanda and helping cancer patients and their families in Uganda, to building water tanks in Myanmar and funding meals for children attending a school in Kingston, Jamaica.

In 2022, BOAT began supporting a new project in Peru, a country where we have a sustained record of funding other initiatives, but which continues to have enormous needs in the face of very difficult local circumstances. Our new project grew out of the 2021 Lenten Appeal, for which funds were raised to supply solar-powered radios to children and teenagers in remote parts of Peru so they could continue their education during the pandemic. This initiative was overseen by Fr Miguel Fuertes Prieto, an Augustinian of immense energy and dedication who has worked in Peru for nearly forty years. As the Diocesan Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos in the Amazonian zone of Northern Peru, he identified an urgent need to address the horrific consequences of women and young girls being sexually exploited, trafficked and subject to appalling violence in and out of the home. BOAT is proud to now be supporting Fr Miguel's *Proyecto Mujeres Loretana* for three years in the

first instance. You can find out more about the situation in Peru and how Fr Miguel's team is making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable women and girls in the detailed report on the project.

While it is clear that our projects benefit enormously from BOAT's support, all of us involved in BOAT, both on the Committee and in the wider Congregation, also gain much from our engagement with the groups we fund. As an added bonus, BOAT's activities help to build our own community here in Oxford through meetings, presentations and fund-raising events. After too many months or even years of Zoom-only interactions, it was wonderful to be able once again to host cafés and the traditional Harvest Auction in person in 2022 - a few photos are included on these pages as a reminder of this important aspect of BOAT's activities (as well as of Geoff Emerson's auctioneering skills!). Thank you to everyone in the Congregation for contributing your time, enthusiasm and financial support to these events - and to the Dominican community, particularly Br Bede Mullens and Br Thomas Mannion, for making us feel so welcome.



*Left: A still-life of autumnal bounty on the altar before being auctioned in support of BOAT in October. Right: BOAT's annual Harvest Auction was back in action, with delicious offerings and lively bidding!*

I would also like to thank all members of the BOAT Committee who have made my first months serving as Chair such a pleasure. I have already noted Anna Lucas's contributions first as Acting Chair and now Secretary, but thanks are also in order to John Thanassoulis, who as our Treasurer continues to ensure that our finances are carefully and thoughtfully overseen. I am grateful as well to Helen Ghosh, who stepped in to serve as Acting Secretary for several months, and Filomena Nave, our Assistant Treasurer, who continues her dedicated work to recuperate Gift Aid, which this past year provided an impressive £16,500 for BOAT. Ag MacKeith's heroic oversight of the present Annual Report, on top of her work producing the cards sold in support of BOAT, also merits special thanks, as does the contribution of Adam Hodgkin, who once again has very kindly provided his time and expertise in examining our accounts. I am also grateful to Gilli Robbins for including notices about BOAT events and initiatives in the weekly 9.30 Congregation Newsletter and to Jenifer Dye and

Joshua Dubin for lending us their collection of fine china for our cafés. (The coffee really does taste better!)

As always, my final and very heartfelt thanks go out to all of you reading this report for your ongoing support of BOAT in so many different ways and your belief in the power of making a real difference by funding local initiatives around the world that are often overlooked by larger charities.



*Left: Cakes, fresh bread, Christmas biscuits and real mistletoe were donated to BOAT's Advent Café. Right: Events like the Advent Café foster a sense of community, as well as support BOAT's work.*

## **BOAT's Public Benefit**

All charities, including smaller ones like BOAT, are required to report on the 'public benefit' they bring through their activities and to describe how they have achieved their objectives.

## **Our Purpose**

Under our constitution as a registered charity, the purposes of BOAT are to 'provide support for the charitable activities of Christian parishes, organisations or societies, situated or working outside Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in (i) the relief of poverty, and (ii) the advancement of education.' Everyone attending Mass at Blackfriars or giving to BOAT on a regular basis is regarded as a member of the Trust. The formal Trustees are a committee of ten people, elected each year at our Annual General Meeting. A representative from the Dominican community – Br Bede Mullens from January 2019 until October 2022, with Br Thomas Mannion stepping in from November – also sits on the Committee, as a link to the Priory which is home to BOAT.

## **The Benefit We Bring**

We have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Under our Principles for Giving, updated at our AGM in 2007, we have a very clear set of criteria for the projects we support and for assessing the public benefit that support will bring. On the key principle that we want our funding really to 'make a difference', we aim to support relatively small-scale or grass-roots projects with regular grants of £4,000 in 2022. Some funding will be one-off, particularly in the case of our annual Lenten Appeal. But in most cases, projects will be funded for three years and then considered for renewal on a rolling basis.

We always look for projects with some link to the 9.30 Family Mass congregation or to the Dominican Order. Although most projects we support have Catholic leadership or a strong Catholic connection, this is not a requirement, and we do not fund any form of proselytizing. We make sure that there is regular personal contact, partly so that we can identify priorities and needs quickly, but also so we can better help the Congregation and other supporters understand the challenges faced by the projects we support. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes, even if, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergency situations. As you read through this report, you will see that our projects fall broadly into three areas:

**Health:** especially primary health care and preventive medicine;

**Welfare:** especially for children, people with disabilities, refugees, and victims of war, poverty and violence or exploitation of any kind;

**Education:** particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

We are always looking for new projects to support both regularly and on a one-off basis. Thank you for putting BOAT in touch with so many dedicated people and please keep your suggestions for possible new projects coming in.

**Geraldine A. Johnson**  
*Chair of BOAT*

22nd May 2023

# Brazil

## São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church

The Centre for Children São Paulo da Cruz (CCSPC), in the city of São Paulo, is a day centre for children and teenagers from low-income families. These are children aged six to 14 years who would otherwise spend a large part of the day unattended while their parents are at work. Unlike schools in the UK, schools in Brazil operate in half-day shifts, either morning or afternoon, and don't provide meals. The CCSPC provides counselling and social and educational activities that complement state school education. Most important, the children receive two meals each day. There are regular talks and workshops for the families, who are encouraged to participate in the development of their children. Since the beginning of the pandemic the families have been receiving essential food parcels.

The manager, Dona Ida Oliveira, sends us very detailed reports. The following is an account of some of the activities in November 2022. The month started with Black Awareness celebration, with 20th November a special date to remember the fight to end slavery. On the 8th, Day of the Radiologist, the children learned about this important profession and how X-rays are used as a medical diagnostic. On the 11th, Children's Cancer Awareness Day, there was a round-table discussion on recognizing cancer and preventing it. On the 18th, National Day of Combat of Racism, the children made Abayomi rag dolls, like the ones that were made by enslaved women. Throughout the month, reading, writing



and telling stories were, as usual, the favoured activities for all ages. The children opened the written time capsules they had made earlier in the year, and reflected on how their feelings and language had evolved. The Exhibition of Cartography showed children's drawings and papier-mâché sculptures on the theme of local history.

A new activity in 2022 was caring for a small vegetable garden. The children discussed the importance of collecting rainwater. In Culinary, they learned about the benefits of eating apples. Life Can Be Colourful was a game that looked at aspects of life that is sometimes calm, good, colourful, but at other times rough, difficult, sad. In Ethics, the children played the game Labyrinth, a pedagogic activity to develop teamwork and motor coordination, and practise logic, direction, organization, planning and, responsibility. The 'radar' activity this month was a round-table discussion about the growth of Covid cases in Brazil and the importance of vaccinating children and adults. As Christmas grew closer, Art activities turned to making cards and decorations. The month ended with the children's monthly evaluation of the CCSPC's functioning, when each child gave marks for respect, assiduity, cooperation, food, cleanliness, recycling, and pedagogic value.

*Filomena Nave*

# Cameroon

## ARCH, Dibanda

ARCH (Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped) provides support services to people living with disabilities with the aim of re-integrating them into society. The Centre is in the Anglophone part of Cameroon where the security situation and living conditions continue to deteriorate; the crisis in this region persists unabated since 2016.

The Centre provides:

- consultation and therapy with professional physiotherapists
- assistance to children living with disabilities, i.e., those who have physical, psychological, emotional, behavioural, or developmental needs.
- support to adults with disabilities resulting from diseases or accidents.
- medical devices, manufactured and then maintained at the centre.

Due to critical local conditions, it is a great success that the number of patients treated in 2022 has increased to just below 2,100.

The BOAT contribution has allowed ARCH to build a much-needed incinerator and support two desperate cases.



The old incinerator has been out of action for some time. Therefore, waste was disposed locally and was piling up at the back of the Centre. The new incinerator allows the disposal of a greater amount of waste and has a more advanced design that reduces the environmental impact of flue gases.



In August 2022 a two-year-old disabled toddler was abandoned at the centre. She was given the name Theodora (God's gift) and BOAT's support was used to purchase a wheelchair for her.

Fallon, a 15-year-old girl, in 2016 injured herself in escaping from

separatist fighters and needed an amputation. She had not been able to attend school. This year, she has been enrolled in her local Catholic primary school using the support from BOAT to pay her fees and all school materials. The next step for her is to be given a prosthetic leg.



All at ARCH send their gratitude and appreciation for BOAT's continued assistance.

*Lucy Carpenter*

# Ethiopia

## Zizencho and Arekit

Last year was a very difficult one in Ethiopia, with an armed conflict raging in the northern part of the country (the Tigray region bordering Eritrea). The war resulted in massacres, gender violence, blockage of all basic services, destruction of infrastructure, and looting. As a result, all schools in the Tigray region were closed during the conflict. A ceasefire was announced only last November but there are millions of people displaced in other Ethiopian regions and in Sudan.

The two schools that we support in the villages of Zizencho and Arekit are both in the Guraghe region south of the capital Addis Ababa, and thankfully they have not been directly affected by the war. Both schools are similar in size (around 550 students) and their educational offering (from kindergarten to Grade 8). Because of the excellent exam results in recent years in both schools, there is growing demand to start a high school in the region so that graduating pupils can continue their education. The schools are run by the local church, lay people, and the Bethany Sisters who have



made their lives in these communities and have continued to support them whatever the circumstances. The Zizencho school is run by Sr Prasantha and its Arekit counterpart by Sr Silvy. The photos show food being distributed at lunchtime in Arekit and a P.E. lesson in Zizencho.

BOAT sent its annual contribution via the Jean Grove Trust (<http://jeangrovetrust.org.uk/>) together with an additional £1,000 from the Lenten Appeal 2022 that supported BOAT projects through additional funding for food in schools and orphanages. Annual donations are used to fund free education, school uniforms, medical help, and food. While there is severe inflation in Ethiopia, depreciation of their national currency (Ethiopian birr) means that in real terms our contributions have approximately held their value. Both schools we support in Ethiopia acknowledged safe receipt of the donation and their gratitude for our support.



*René Bañares-Alcántara*

# Ethiopia

## Mission of Hope, Gode

Since October 2021 we have been supporting the Tamara project, run by Sr Mary Joachim and the Mission of Hope. The project is in Gode, a military city in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. Women and girls come to Gode to work in restaurants and are frequently coerced or compelled into prostitution. When they have children, it becomes much harder to leave prostitution or Gode, and they become trapped. Many become seriously ill with tuberculosis, HIV, or other sexually-transmitted diseases. Unable to earn money from prostitution, they and their children are left homeless.



Tamara offers women the opportunity immediately to leave prostitution; it provides them with healthcare, childcare, and training; it helps them rebuild their sense of dignity and significance. Women who are well enough use their new skills to make craft products. Tamara sets up individual bank accounts for each woman for the proceeds. Women who are terminally ill are cared for in the Tabor hospice, so that they may die loved and with dignity. Currently there are 33 adults and 22 children at Tamara. The picture shows the children, mothers, and a few fathers who work in the compound to support their families.



Gode is a difficult place to live. It suffers from the climate crisis and from extremely complex political and territorial disputes, which exacerbate the strictures of poverty. Challenges in 2022 included the breakdown of the water pump, flooding, and power cuts. On one occasion, the valve of the tower which stores the compound's water broke, making the water inaccessible: 'We just had to sit down and laugh...and joy brought a brief pause.' The plumbing and electrical renovations and repairs are now complete and the new washing facilities (*see photo*) are an improvement.

There have been joys and grief. Helped by Sr Mary Joachim's advocacy, one of the women welcomed a new baby after an emergency caesarean. Not long before, another woman's baby was stillborn. Cultural misunderstandings about giving blood nearly prevented the blood transfusion she needed, and amidst her bereavement she has been diagnosed with a heart condition. Sr Mary Joachim asks us to pray for her.

In 2022 the centre welcomed a social worker, Bethlehem, who has made a huge difference. The centre also piloted an English project: some volunteers helped Tamara's Year 10 students improve their English, giving the students 'experience of speaking good English and developing their reading skills and being encouraged to become the protagonists of their education.' Sr Mary Joachim hopes that with some permanent staff the younger children could be helped with their English, as well as with numeracy and literacy in their own languages, but 'at the moment the whole idea is a little precarious since we struggle to find fuel for the daily needs of the mission. But,' she writes, 'I suppose we have to face this one day at a time, to do all the good we can and leave what we can't to the Lord!'

*Katherine Backler*

## India

### Allapalli, Andhra Pradesh



Allipalli Mary Matha Boarding Home and School is located in the diocese of Eluru in the Indian region of Andhra Pradesh. More than five hundred children who are orphans or destitute are given free shelter, clothing, food, and education. The aim is to help the children build a bright future. They also help the large number of the 'poorest of the poor' present in the villages around the centre to improve their quality of life. The activities undertaken range from free health consultations and support to providing food and general assistance aimed at building productive, safe, and self-sufficient communities.

2022 has been a challenging year. The economic crisis has further reduced

the financial support received, already on a downward trend in the previous years due to COVID. Additionally, food prices and school supplies have increased substantially putting a serious strain on the running of the centre. Therefore, BOAT's donation is more essential than ever. The main donation for 2022 had been used to buy notebooks and other stationery for 450 children (*see photo*). The extra amount received thanks to the Lenten Appeal in 2022 went towards buying breakfast and afternoon snacks for the children, which would otherwise have had to be sacrificed due to the rise in the cost of living.

The challenges for 2023 remain the same with the additional urgent need to boost the supply of clean and safe water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. [*Note: BOAT's 2023 Lenten Appeal focused on raising funds to provide a new water well for the Allapalli centre and nearby villages.*]

*Rinaldo Caprotti*

## India

### Sugandh, New Delhi

Sugandh is a charity that helps support families living in some of the most deprived slums of New Delhi. BOAT's donations help residents access the government funds and programmes to which they are entitled by providing advocacy training; encouraging women to develop and finance small businesses through self-help groups and cooperative micro-savings programmes; organising skills training sessions for women looking to start their own businesses and develop sources of income that will benefit their entire families; providing crucial tutoring and enrichment programmes for children in both elementary and high schools so they can reach their full potential; and undertaking important health awareness initiatives that benefit the entire community.

One of the projects recently undertaken (*see photo*) involves providing training in tailoring skills to young women from marginalised communities, thereby improving their quality of life and that of

their families through empowerment and employment. Other initiatives include the information sessions for local women run by Sugandh staff member Kamal about how micro-savings programmes work and Sugandh's ongoing academic support for children from some of Delhi's poorest communities.

This past year, Sugandh also provided blankets to families in need. Families like that of Rukmani, who has use of just one hand due to a medical condition and whose husband is a labourer with a low and unreliable) income, received warm blankets during the cold season in Delhi.



In 2022, Sugandh's long-time Project

Director, Mrs Ralkapthangi (Thangtei) David took a temporary leave of absence, with Mr Kuldeep Singh stepping in to oversee her work. [Note: in January 2023, Mrs David permanently resigned from her post after 17 years after deciding to emigrate to the US. A new Project Director, Mrs Maheshwari Deep, a qualified Social Worker with previous experience working at Sugandh, became Director. Also from February 2023, the BOAT contact became Autumn Rowan-Hall.]

Geraldine A. Johnson

## Jamaica

### Christ the King Basic School, Kingston

BOAT began supporting Christ the King Basic School in August Town, Jamaica, in 2020. In April 2020, the principal of Christ the King arranged the teaching and feeding of 40 children, sometimes providing up to two meals per day for some of them. Parents pay 6,500 JMD (about £40) per term for their children to attend the school. In April 2020, the principal paid herself, two other teachers, and two cooks, as well as kept the school clean and buying food to feed 40 children, on £4,800 per year. Prior to BOAT's support, this £4,800 represented the school's only income for the entire year. BOAT's funding totals £4,000 per year, guaranteed for a period of three years, which, after review, may be renewed. Considering the school's income, it is clear that BOAT's support makes an enormous contribution to its success.

In the summer of 2022, I visited the school to see BOAT's work in action. The school is set in a community that has a warm, lively, and generous spirit, yet sadly faces the challenges of serious poverty and the threat of violence. It does all it can to support its students and staff and relies on the good will and generosity of the wider community. It was clear how much BOAT's support is appreciated by this community, and how vital BOAT's contribution is to the school's development. The majority of the funds received from BOAT over the past year supported the education and welfare

of the pupils by providing meals for students and staff, relieving pressures on families in the local community, and improving health through better nutrition.

In addition to the ongoing needs of the school for help with resources, food, and staffing costs, the institution also requires funds to cover the cost of maintaining its infrastructure, including providing and maintaining paving, fencing, and windows, installing a new roof over part of the building, and painting the building as necessary. In addition to this, the school needs storage containers to prevent wildlife from interfering with school supplies and food, as well as filing cabinets for school records.

*Thomas Mannion OP*

## Myanmar

### Living Water Myanmar

*'Water, with love, sustains all life.'*

After a year's hiatus which saw the building of water tanks slow due to COVID restrictions and military crackdowns in many parts of Myanmar, we are delighted to report that in 2022 BOAT resumed funding Living Water Myanmar (LWM), a project it has been supporting since 2017.

LWM is a charity founded in 2011 by Rosemary Breen that is committed to improving access to clean water for vulnerable people in remote villages in the Dry Zone of Central Myanmar. Coordinator

Soya Toe and his team work with communities to assess which areas are most at risk from water insecurity. With help from local volunteers, they then construct and install water tanks and piping systems, usually in the grounds of



local schools or health clinics. Costing approximately \$2000 each, the tanks collect rainwater during the monsoon season and in some cases, water from boreholes. The tanks – which belong to the community – ensure a stable source of water throughout the year and transform the lives of local people, who no longer need to travel great distances just for clean water and, in turn, have free time for other activities, such as building schools and going to school.

To date, LWM has constructed over 400 tanks, enabling approximately 30,000 people to have access to clean water. Rosemary's aim is to reach 500 tanks in the next few years. BOAT's donation in 2022 was used to construct three new 5000-gallon tanks in the Nyaung Oo township: two in Zade (Suti), a village with a population of over 1000 people; and one in Kyobindaw village.

Rosemary expressed her deep gratitude for BOAT's support: 'You have changed so many lives... this whole project only works because of people like you.'

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

# Nicaragua

## Guadalupe

With the support of BOAT, the Nicaragua Education, Culture and Arts Trust (NECAT), a UK-registered charity based in Oxford, has been working with its contacts in Nicaragua to provide meals for school children from low-income families living in areas suffering from extreme levels of poverty. The meals project has been running for over a decade. Although the project always takes the same form – the feeding of hungry children – it has moved between sites for various reasons. Its most recent base was at the NECAT ‘Learning Reinforcement Centre’ in Guadalupe.

The main project at the Centre is now early education for 2- to 5-year-olds following the Montessori method. BOAT funding ensures a healthy diet for 26 children, good for both body and brain. The families benefit too. Helping to plan the meals and prepare the food educates parents in healthy eating: they are shown how it promotes good health, academic performance and good muscle development, and absorb some rules of basic hygiene.



The children learn to like healthy foods. Their vocabulary is enriched by new terms for food, ingredients and utensils. They practise grace and courtesy in their social relations in the dining room. The food offered includes seasonal fruits (watermelon, melon, papaya, orange, mango, pineapple, grapes, apples), and vegetables (corn, spinach, garlic, onion, sweet pepper, lettuce, cucumber, beets, pumpkins, carrots, tomatoes), cereals (rice, oats, barley, gourd seed, bread, wholemeal cookies, pancakes, corn flakes, etc.), nuts (raisins, plums, almonds), dairy (milk, cheese, cream, curd), and meats (chicken, pork, egg).

Age-appropriate cookery classes are taught, and children prepare various dishes – butter cookies, natural fruit smoothies, vegetable skewers, carrot cake, among others. The children enjoy these lessons (especially tasting the food), and develop motor skills in manipulating juicers, spatulas, graters, measuring cups, etc, while reinforcing patience and concentration. The school’s pupils include three children with particular problems. Two with Autism were persuaded to try new foods and to relish different smells and textures, and the child with Downs syndrome was introduced to natural drinks and lactose-free dairy products on the recommendation of her doctor.



Three paediatric evaluations of the children’s weight were carried out by Dr Perez over the year. Over the period, the 17 children in normal ranges remained the same, and the five children who were malnourished were reduced to three. But obesity (a different kind of malnutrition) rose from four to six. Not a magic bullet, then, but a welcome resource in a place where life is very hard.

*Ag MacKeith*

# Peru

## Amantani



Amantani is BOAT’s newest project; we have been supporting them since January 2022. The project works with young people and women artisans in the Peruvian Andes. It helps young people to access their rights to high-quality education and fair employment – in turn facilitating social development among Peru’s rural communities – and supports women handweavers to maintain financial independence through their craftwork, while fostering their cultural traditions.



Amantani’s ‘Ethical Trade’ project supports women in Cora who use traditional methods and their own creativity to produce handwoven bracelets—and, as of this year, bag tags and hat bands! This year it opened eight new selling points in Peru and an online selling operation.

*(Above left: An artisan shares her designs at a monthly meeting. Above right: An artisan at work.)*

This year Amantani’s ‘Amazon Youth Project’ has delivered workshops to 400 secondary school students, developing their self-confidence and addressing their doubts and worries about finishing school. The project also trained teachers in positive discipline and child protection.



Tuition on Amantani’s Scholarships Programme is now fully back in-person after a period online, and its Paqari Wayna Youth Hub in Cuzco stayed open almost all year (barring a few days’ closure due to political unrest). This year the programme supported 66 students with a combined total of 330 hours of individual tuition. These students include five young women and a young man who became parents last year: their Amantani tutors, together with their partners and families, have helped them to continue their studies as they rise to the challenges of parenthood.

*Katherine Backler*

*(Above right: Secondary school students developing teamwork skills at a workshop. Right: Young people in a workshop sharing ideas and opinions in a small group, in which all their voices can be heard.)*



# Peru

## Lima and Ayacucho

BOAT has been supporting the work of Columban Fr Ed O'Connell and the Warmi Huasi project in Lima and up in the mountains in Ayacucho province for decades. For communities facing multiple challenges, the need is still acute. The project supports children who would otherwise be at risk of violence and bullying, while their parents are working. It provides reading and homework clubs as well as enabling them to participate in local decisions about services for them and their families.



Fr Ed is a wonderful correspondent as well as an indefatigable community activist. *(The photo shows him at the construction of new facilities at one of his parish churches.)* In his latest letter, he describes the current political and economic upheavals in Peru as the Government cracks down on public protest and the political elite face calls for new elections. But as he explains, that is not the only challenge the communities are facing. He writes:

'The number of cases of Covid in Peru up to yesterday [December 2022] is: 4,424,906 and the number of deaths: 217,941. Cases are now around 4,000 a day and deaths up to around 20 a day. The 5th wave of Covid has begun and most of the people hospitalized and dying are those who have not been vaccinated. The fourth jab is now available but quite a few people stopped after the second vaccination. We await news of a 5th vaccination, but it does not seem to be coming!

**The Warmi Huasi project** accompanies children and adolescents (C&As) at risk in the Lima districts of Carabayllo and San Martin de Porres and in the Province of Paucar de Sara Sara, high up in the Andes in the department of Ayacucho.

The 5 communal kitchens in San Benito, four of them run by the mothers of the homework clubs and the other by a local community leader, continue to function and are still very much needed. They serve now in the month of December 2022, 636 meals a day, mostly for children, adolescents and 31 senior citizens, and also 75 social cases. Numbers fluctuate as some parents find work and drop out whilst others out of necessity join.

**Latest news from Ayacucho:** We are now accompanying three primary schools, as they restart the reading clubs in their schools, supervised by teachers who have been trained by us. We have three more who started a new programme called 'reading box' where the school receives a box of 70 books and a reading plan for the teachers, to see how the children get on during 2022 with their reading. The prize is being named a reading club in 2023, if the reading comprehension of the students has improved. The two C&As committees in Pausa and Lampa meet and have their action plans for 2022. We are also working with two secondary school to improve the adolescents' social skills, as alcoholism and teenage pregnancies are everyday realities.

**Latest news from Lima:** The four homework clubs are open and the reading club also, the latter twice a week in the Warmi Huasi Centre in San Benito. The Reading Club has just celebrated their 8th anniversary, with over 80 children participating. There was a puppet show, songs, dances and poetry all with the theme of care for the earth. The seven C&As committees are meeting and have their representatives on the Carabayllo COMUDENNA and also on the CCONNA (Advisory Council

to the Municipality of Carabayllo). The Therapy Club meets twice a week, helping over 50 children who have minor disabilities with physio and speech therapies.

**A big concern:** In both Carabayllo and Ayacucho the children and adolescents have regressed in their development. After two years away from school, mental health is a serious concern. Time has to be spent on socio-emotional skills in the homework clubs and reading club, so as to encourage them to overcome their fears and give them confidence before being able to start their homework or reading exercises... Love and blessings, Ed'

We feel privileged to be able to support all this vital work, thanks to the generosity of the 9.30 congregation.

*Helen Ghosh*

## Peru

### Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos

You will recall that, in 2021, our BOAT Lenten Appeal was directed at raising money to support Fr Miguel Fuertes of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos in his endeavour to help children and teenagers continue their education despite the additional challenges brought about by the pandemic. We were able to send £7,500 to Fr Miguel which allowed him to provide approximately 485 solar-powered radios to some of the most isolated and vulnerable young people in his 'parish.' Fr Miguel's 'parish' is in Amazonian Northern Peru and covers an area approximately the size of Scotland; parts of it are only accessible by river.

At that time, when our own 9.30 community was so fragmented due to lockdowns and restrictions, we were all struck by the energy, resourcefulness, and dedication demonstrated by Fr Miguel. He was tireless in his work to address the problems facing his flock in the middle of a declared state of emergency.

Peru, as we know, was very badly affected by the pandemic and currently has the highest number of Covid deaths per capita in the world, by some margin. This sad distinction comes on top of many other problems faced by ordinary Peruvians – one such being violence against women and girls, and this is the focus of this BOAT project, Proyecto Mujeres Loreana. (*The photo below shows a workshop on domestic violence.*)



The Peruvian Government Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Communities was set up in 1996 to promote equality and inclusion. However, there is still much to do in a country where violence against women of all ages – including little girls – is the most common form of violence. Domestic abuse, trafficking, sexual abuse, kidnapping, femicide – the figures in Fr Miguel's project proposal are very upsetting (and particularly when the

picture behind the figures is of women and children who are far from 'safe' in the isolation of their abusive homes).

Thus, in January 2022, 519 girls, teenage girls, and women were reported missing in Peru. Before the pandemic, on average, five women and girls were reported missing every day; therefore, January 2022 saw an increase of 234% in the number of *desaparecidas*. In many cases, a *desaparecida* is, in fact, a victim of femicide – except that no body has been found. In January 2022, 18 femicides were recorded, as were six femicide attempts and eight violent deaths (under investigation).

These figures are likely to be even greater due to the fact that there is no complete national register of the numbers of missing women and girls. Moreover, cases are not always reported to the authorities: Peruvians' confidence in the police and judicial system is low – an understandable state of affairs in view of instances such as that of 21-year-old Judith Machaca and 14-year-old Noemí Escobar, whose bodies were found at the beginning of 2021 down a well belonging to the parents of a police officer who was subsequently charged with murder. The country's military and political history is a further reason for suspicion (with women – especially indigenous women – still seeking justice for the rapes and forced sterilizations which they suffered during the government of Alberto Fujimori).



The country also has a problem with teenage and child pregnancies. Fr Miguel reports that, on average, every day in Peru there are four girls under 15 years of age who give birth as a result of sexual abuse. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is another one of the big challenges facing the country – and, again, women and girls are the main targets.

Fr Miguel and his team have been tackling these problems directly since 2018. Through workshops and discussion groups, women and girls are taught about the following: self-esteem, Human Rights (women's, children's, and indigenous people's), women as leaders, and women in business. There are also workshops for the wider community addressing the problems of violence against women and intrafamilial violence. Three lawyers are employed to give free legal advice on child maintenance payments, division of assets, protection orders, rape, assault, and other matters. (*The photo above shows a young mother receiving legal advice.*)

The committee have agreed to support *Proyecto Mujeres Loreana* for at least three years (2022, 2023, and 2024). BOAT's first donation went out in June 2022 and was immediately put to good use, as you can see from the photos. Between 18th July 2022 and 13th December 2022 there have been nine workshops, with 314 attendees, as well as two events open to the wider public. The office providing free legal advice has also operated every day of the working week.

Fr Miguel writes: 'We are immensely grateful for the care and interest you show for all who are in need in this part of Peru. May our Lord fill your lives with blessings.'

*Anna Lucas*

## Philippines

### Midsalip, Missionary Sisters of St Columban

BOAT has been supporting the work of the Missionary Sisters of St Columban in Midsalip for many years. Now under Sister Winnie Apao's leadership, the Mission provides ongoing support to the indigenous Subaanen people, helping them to access health care and education and in protecting their homeland from natural disasters and destructive farming practices. BOAT's funding specifically supports the Mission's educational programmes. The Mission operates seven pre-schools and provides literacy programmes and scholarships for selected high school and college students.

In September 2022, the Mission's schools - which are all recognized by the Department of Education - re-opened after the Covid lockdown. Approximately 150 pre-school students attend these schools, which offer culture-based learning in the local language. Sadly, malnourishment remains a constant threat amongst the pupils, made more acute by Covid and the cost-of-living crisis. Therefore, BOAT's



additional £1000 donation from our Lenten appeal, earmarked to support the Mission's pre-school feeding programme, was particularly welcome on top of our annual £4000 donation.

In addition to supporting the Mission's pre-schools, BOAT's funding is also used to run literacy and leadership programmes for selected high school and college students from local barrios. Specifically, BOAT's donation helped 14 high school students and four college students with room and board, school supplies and school fees.

Sister Apao writes: 'It is our great pride to have students who graduated from high school and senior high school here. We are also happy to see the improvement of each student....They have started to appreciate and affirm their own culture...They have learned many things....their world is opened up to a bigger world and dreams in life....They give us and the outer world hope that our common home will be protected from human harm and the young Subaanen people will continue to take care of our common home. Thank you very much for helping us to make a difference. May God bless you all. On behalf of the Subaanen students, staff and teachers, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continuous help and kind hearts. Rest assured of our constant prayers and remembrance.'

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

# Rwanda

## Network For Africa

Network for Africa works with communities devastated by war across the African continent. This charity helps the forgotten survivors of African conflicts who have been left behind after the fighting stops and disaster relief efforts move on. They provide training in specialised trauma counselling so survivors can tackle the long-term psychological consequences that often block their communities' recovery. Network for Africa currently has projects in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and northern Uganda. In the last year, across all three countries, this charity provided counselling for 1,286 people with mental health issues and carers, treated 1,716 people at mental health clinics and trained 82 health workers.

BOAT's support focuses in particular on Network for Africa's support for the survivors of genocide in Rwanda. Of those aided by this charity, 88% have reported that their mental health interferes with their ability to work. In addition to the ongoing counselling programme, in March 2022, 49 participants were recruited to an entrepreneurship training programme. They all received training to build their knowledge and confidence of income-generating activities, including understanding all aspects of the business cycle. More specifically, the training programme included lessons about savings, developing and writing business proposals, how to work with financial institutions, market analysis, customer care, competition, and marketing. The participants all wrote business proposals, which they presented to the Income-Generating Officer for feedback and advice. Once the participants complete their year's counselling and entrepreneurship training, they will hopefully have secured a loan for their new businesses, which has the potential to improve the lives of the participants and their families. BOAT's contributions specifically help to support the entrepreneurship element of Network for Africa's programme in Uganda.

*Thomas Mannion OP*

# Sierra Leone

## Koindu

2022/23 is the fifth year in which BOAT has supported the 'Smile with Us' orphanage in the north-eastern Kailahun district of Sierra Leone. Founded and run by Mary Sesay, the orphanage takes in local children. Historically, many of the children's parents had died from AIDS and the orphans would be unable to find support from family or other sectors of the community because of the stigma attached to their parents' illness. Although this is still the case, the orphanage also takes many children who have been abandoned for other reasons, and are subject to abuse or neglect in their domestic settings. Many have multiple needs, including impaired vision and hearing problems. The children's two greatest needs are food and water. However, the orphanage is in fact the children's 'whole world', so it is a place where not only do they receive nourishment, medical attention and clothing, but also where their academic, social and physical needs are met. Due to its reputation, and that of its staff, for the support and attention the orphanage gives to its children, the number of children placed there continues to grow.

Sierra Leone is a desperately poor country and abandoned or orphaned children are among the most vulnerable groups in that country. The orphanage struggles on a daily basis to provide the basics for the children who live there, such as food and medicine. Recently, the situation has become more difficult as a result of sky-rocketing food prices. Our money makes a real and fundamental difference

to the lives of these children. The photo shows them outside the dining room with rice and other provisions bought with BOAT funds.

In previous years our money has helped to build a well and a dining room, to furnish the dining room, and to fence off the orphanage compound. Our donations continue to provide food (notably staples like rice), cutlery, medical supplies (and the payment of medical bills), uniforms, textbooks, pens, exercise books, extra lessons (for those taking public exams), Monitors' allowances,



transport costs, Christmas entertainment and breakfast each day. The orphanage's emphasis on education has enabled the children to achieve well educationally, continuing to obtain excellent results on external exams, and one of the pupils has been awarded a place at one of the best schools in the country. The children have also been cultivating a cassava farm with some of the funds sent in October 2022.

Our donations have also enabled the orphanage to introduce games (a school quiz competition) and sport (including football, volleyball), as well as outreach picnics, as regular features of orphanage life, allowing the children to improve in health and confidence.

The main challenge now is the lack of a library or other resource centre for the teachers to do their research and prepare their lessons. The teachers are not government-funded but volunteers, and the orphanage is not a school approved by government, so relies upon donations for this kind of support. In the last year, other humanitarian organisations have not responded positively to requests for assistance. Also, the well project hit impenetrable rock, although the children have been able to access fresh water throughout the rainy season (save in March). Now the orphanage is looking to install a solar pump, but requires significant funds if it is to proceed with that project.

BOAT communicates via a WhatsApp group and we receive information particularly from Tamba and Tim, the social workers involved with the orphanage.

We have continued to give the social workers a small remittance as they do an awful lot of unpaid work for the orphanage, but their wages (from the Sierra Leone government) continue to be both very meagre and paid only intermittently. Just to give an outline of what they do: they visit the orphanage regularly, bringing food and clothing supplies for the children; they supervise building works, as well as hiring workers and obtaining quotes; they accompany Mary Sesay to pick up abandoned or abused children; they offer a huge amount of personal support and mentoring for the children; they also support the children in their studies and examinations, and run workshops. Without their support, the orphanage would be in a very precarious position.

We were very sad to learn that Kabba Kailie, one of the support workers, died suddenly at the end of December 2022. He was a great support and will be greatly missed. We send our heartfelt sympathy and good wishes to all who knew and loved him, both at the orphanage and in the local community.

Our UK link to the Smile with Us Orphanage is Penny Boreham, a producer, presenter and writer, who works for the BBC World Service. Penny has longstanding links in Sierra Leone and knows the orphanage well.

*Jenifer Dye*

# Uganda

## Cancer Trust



Every year the privilege of reporting on our support of Uganda Cancer Trust (UTC) is a humbling experience. The individual stories of adults and children who are helped by UCT are both immensely sad but also uplifting. The work of the team provides such vital work and it is hugely powerful to read in last Autumn's report of the impact of UCT in numbers. Over the previous year and a half UCT identified and supported: 102 patients with food and nutritional help, children as well as adults; 12

patients with transport to travel home after discharge or for follow up reviews; four patients with medicines not accessible from the hospital pharmacies; and two patients with investigations that have included Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) – a service not provided by the hospital. The number of children being helped by UCT is increasing. The photo above shows a volunteer in the crowded ward, with the parents of twins, one of whom has cancer.

Last year we reported on the important uses to which UCT funds are put, paying not just for 'Cancer Treatment' but also laying out 'Comfort Funds'. The Cancer Treatment fund provides additional financial support to patients who are unable to meet some of the costs for investigations and medicines that are not available at the hospitals (Mulago and Kirudu) and Uganda Cancer Institute. These patients are identified by the volunteers who make the assessments and hold discussions with the clinical team. Working together, they identify and recommend the support needed for a particular patient. The team also work with the primary teams on the wards for the patients to get waivers for some investigations like CT scan, or blood tests where possible.

The 'Comfort Fund' provides support for patients and families in need of: food/additional nutritional support, transport either back home or for follow up visits, toys for paediatric patients, soap etc. These too are identified through the volunteers/social workers and recommendations for support made. The team has also used this fund to enable potentially treatable cancer



patients from Adjumani district, identified through their partner the Peace Hospice there, to have access to appropriate investigations and travel costs.

Fundamentally BOAT funds pay for Liz Nabirye (*see the photo above*) the amazing nurse who provides vital clinical work and staff training. Liz also gets involved in important research. Volunteers are the backbone of Uganda Cancer Trust, and our monies have made it possible for them to do this vital work – for example by paying for their travel and their lunch.

To close this year's report, we need to acknowledge some of the key factors affecting UCT going forward. The Covid pandemic is still around although in smaller numbers than previously reported. The team have returned to their normal social life and all have received vaccinations as part of the nationwide vaccination campaigns, although Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are still in place. More recently inflation is providing a challenging context and our support continues to be critical.

*Nicolette Michels*

## **Uganda**

### **Church of Christ the King, Butema Catholic Parish, Hoima**

Father Sebastian continued with the final year of the plan for the new classroom block and solar lighting. More timber needed to be bought to complete the work. Window glass had to be bought to replace the windows broken by thieves during the period when the school was empty. Schools were closed and the pupils had to stay at home in their villages for a long period in 2021 due to Covid regulations. Once the construction work and repairs were completed, the classrooms were equipped with 54 desks, the major expenditure of this year's grant.

BOAT's extra contribution of £1000 for foodstuffs in July 2022 was gratefully received, as food was scarce and expensive. Father Sebastian says that hunger is still rampant in the parish. In July 2022 he was able to buy 200 kgs of rice, ten bags of maize and five bags of beans and plant an allotment area 40 feet square with potatoes. The potato plants in the allotment are still producing potatoes and there are plans to continue planting potatoes in the future.

The headmistress of the school reports that the children's health improved greatly once they returned to classes after the end of Covid restrictions, because of the food provided. Those children suffering from chiggers (tropical fleas) are shown how to use a pin to remove them and taught to wash daily with soap.

### **Karungu Convent, Kigumba**

Sister Clemensia reports that the work on the classroom block of the Infant Jesus nursery school was completed in 2022. There has been a further rise of up to 30% in costs of building materials and of transport. Labour costs have risen similarly. Unfortunately, some of the work that had already been undertaken was found to be sub-standard and cracks appeared. Sister Clemensia was advised to construct a trench, to serve as a water channel, all round the classroom block, to prevent water entering under the veranda and affecting the foundations of the building.

Much of the window glass needed replacing and the fascia board round the building was cleaned and painted with undercoat emulsion and top coated with weather-guard paint. The upper walls outside were also painted with white undercoat and cream and maroon weather-guard paint. The two classrooms were painted. Sister Clemensia's plans for the future are to have solar panels installed to provide lighting on the three buildings at Karungu: the nursery school, the health centre and the convent house.

*Rosaleen Ockenden*



## Zimbabwe

### African Mission

BOAT has supported African Mission for several years now. Founded by a Consultant Anaesthetist, Ray Towey, they have two principle focuses: medical training in Uganda and educational work at Fatima Mission in Zimbabwe.

Fatima is a large mission in central Zimbabwe run by Franciscan priests. It includes several schools and a residential home for disabled children. The home opened in 2011 with six children and now looks after 19 disabled children and three blind adults. BOAT's contribution has helped African Mission pay the school fees and the living costs of the children and adults, as well as helping to fund the building and equipping the schools, providing them with basic computer equipment and musical instruments.

In an attempt to increase self-sufficiency, Fr Jeya, the main local priest, has recently run a number of projects including organising and maintaining several fields where they grow crops such as sugar beans and maize and a green leafy plant called *chomolia*. Next year they are also hoping to build a set of chicken runs and a piggery. The photo shows the students planting maize .



African Mission is a small but very effective charity, for whom our contribution really does make a difference. Zimbabwe remains a desperately poor country, but their work has helped both improve people's lives and bring them hope.

*Mick Conefrey*

## **2022 Lenten Appeal Project**

### **Meals for Children**

In previous years, the Lenten Appeal has focused on a single project. However, in 2022, it was felt that the world-wide cost of living crisis, coming on top of the ongoing challenges of the global pandemic, meant that many of the projects supported by BOAT were struggling to meet even the basic needs of their communities. This was particularly concerning for projects that served children. In response, it was agreed that the 2022 Lenten Appeal would raise funds to provide additional meals for children in BOAT-supported schools, orphanages and other organisations.

In addition to very generous donations to the Lenten Appeal by members of the 9.30 Mass and other supporters, funds that had accumulated from donations for the weekly coffee and biscuits were also added to the Lenten Appeal. This meant that a total of £5000 could be donated to five projects. Each received an extra £1000 to help feed the children in their care or with whom they were engaged.

The projects selected for these one-time donations included two schools in the villages of Zizencho and Arekito south of the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, the Allapalli Children's Centre in Andhra Pradesh in India, the Columban sisters' schools in Midsalipin in the Philippines, an orphanage in Koindu in Sierra Leone, and a church-run school in Hoima in Uganda.

*Geraldine Johnson*

### **Boat Christmas Cards**

This year, these raised £1,008, more like our usual total than last year. Used cards flooded in early in the year, and the team was glad to resume normal Friday morning sessions. This year we stuck the boxes as well as filling them – we would welcome more hands to do this. Many thanks to those who created and packaged the cards, as well as to Joshua Dubin and Jenifer Dye who generously funded the costs.

*Ag MacKeith*

## **Reserves policy and risk management**

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £24,000. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies by covering the outlay for the entirety of two projects. It provides a buffer so that even severe changes in our financial conditions can be cushioned for the projects that we support.

### **Risk management**

In the light of the Trustees' desire to deliver funds to good causes as expeditiously as possible, any surplus cash is held on a bank deposit until needed. The Trustees monitor the level of cash held and would review this policy if the levels of cash held were to increase significantly.

### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed or explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

*Signed:* Geraldine Johnson

Chair, for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT

22nd May 2023

# **Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2022**

I am yet again humbled by the generosity of our donors and excited at the large sums we have been able to distribute to good causes. As you will see from the accounts which follow, in 2022 we received over £83,000 in donations and from events like after-mass cafés. This is a phenomenal sum of money. And I am delighted to report that during 2022 we sent out just shy of £84,000 to good causes around the world. All of these causes are to support one of our core aims: health, welfare, education and community building in some of the least fortunate parts of developing countries.

I am also proud to report that, as we are all volunteers, our costs are solely the bank transfer charges, and a small fee for printing the annual report for governance purposes. So, of the resources that came into BOAT in 2022, only 0.6% was lost to costs – that is around one half of one percent!

In 2022 we supported 19 projects around the world: In Africa (e.g. Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethiopia), Asia (e.g. India, Myanmar, Philippines) and Latin America (e.g. Peru, Nicaragua, Brazil). We were also able to respond to the crisis in food prices around the world by giving a number of our schools £1,000 extra support where feeding their children was becoming really difficult. This was the subject of our Lenten Appeal.

All this would not be possible without the strong support of all of our donors, many of whom attend the 9.30 mass at Blackfriars, Oxford. To foster this communal spirit, we have been delighted to get back to in-person events. The Harvest Auction, Christmas Café and Mothers' Day Café have all been super successful. We have received generous donations of bread from Yinghui and Ludovico Carraro, the sale of which has raised as much as one of these events on its own. I have therefore decided to separate out bread sales in the report. And, of course, the hard work of the card-making team and Joshua Dubin who sells them to raise awareness of BOAT should also be celebrated.

Finally, thanks are also owed to Filomena Nave who prepares the application for Gift Aid from HMRC. This year we secured around £16,500 through this route which is a very welcome sum.

In conclusion, thank you to all of our supporters. BOAT is generously funded and in turn funds many projects generously. You can read about the good works we support in this annual report.

*Signed:* John Thanassoulis

BOAT Treasurer

1st February 2023

## **Further Reference and Administrative Information**

BOAT address: Blackfriars Priory, 64 St, Giles, Oxford. OX1 3LY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Carfax, Oxford. OX1 4AA

Charity Number: 288585

# **Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (“the Charity”)**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 December 2022 which are set out on the following pages 27 to 32.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (“the 2011 Act”) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ◆ Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- ◆ Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- ◆ State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## **Basis of independent examiner’s report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## **Independent examiner’s statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act:  
and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Adam Hodgkin

5th February 2023

# Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations	72,612	7,951	80,563	90,401
Events and Sales	2,659	-	2,659	1,473
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>75,271</b>	<b>7,951</b>	<b>83,222</b>	<b>91,874</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Fundraising	222	-	222	-
Charitable Activities	74,500	8,955	83,455	75,815
Governance Costs	255	-	255	245
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>74,977</b>	<b>8,955</b>	<b>83,932</b>	<b>76,060</b>
<b>NET RESOURCES</b>				
Incoming/Outgoing	294	(1004)	(710)	15,814
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	<b>45,270</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>46,725</b>	<b>30,911</b>
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<b>£45,564</b>	<b>£450</b>	<b>£46,015</b>	<b>£46,725</b>

The notes on pages 29 to 32 form part of these accounts.

# Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

## Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Lloyds Bank	46,015	46,725
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	46,015	46,725
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£46,015</b>	<b>46,725</b>
<b>The Funds of the Charity:</b>		
<b>Restricted Income Funds</b>	450	1,455
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	45,564	45,270
	<b>£46,015</b>	<b>£46,725</b>

# Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### General

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in 2005.

### Income

- (1) Donations and grants are included in the accounts when they are received.
- (2) Interest income is included in the accounts when it is received.
- (3) Tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid donations is included in the accounts when it is received.

### Expenditure

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure are included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

### Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received for the objects of the charity without a specified purpose and are available as general funds. From time to time the Trustees may establish Designated Funds out of the Unrestricted Funds to meet contingencies.

### Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

## 2 DONATIONS

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	56,102	54,201
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	890	1,000
Other Donations (unrestricted)	2,659	1,473
Other Donations (restricted)	7,061	9,154
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	16,511	26,046
	<b>£83,222</b>	<b>£91,874</b>

### 3 EVENTS AND SALES

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Harvest Auction	650	-
Christmas café	353	350
Card Sales	1,008	758
Mother's Day café	332	-
Bread sales	317	-
	<b>£2,659</b>	<b>£1,108</b>

### 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

#### Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Nicaragua, Leon	4,000	4,000
Jamaica, Kingston School		4,000
Jamaica, Christ the King School	4,000	-
Uganda, Cancer UK	4,000	4,000
Uganda, Fr Sebastian	4,000	4,000
Cameroon, Arch	4,000	4,000
Ethiopia, Jean Grove Trust	4,000	4,000
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	4,000	4,000
Philippines, Columban Sisters	4,000	4,000
Zimbabwe, African Mission, Dungu	4,000	5,500
Peru, San Benito, Br Ed O'Connell	4,000	5,000
India Sugandh	4,000	4,000
India, Operatori di Pace	4,000	4,000
Rwanda, Network for Africa	4,000	4,000
Myanmar, Living Water	4,000	-
Brazil, St. Paolo	4,000	4,000

### Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects (cont.)

Ethiopia, Mission of Hope	4,000	4,000
Lenten Appeal (Peru, Apostolico Iquitos)	-	101
Sierra Leone	2,500	4,000
Peru, Amantani	4,000	-
Peru, Iquitos, Fr Miguel	4,000	-
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£74,500</b>	<b>£66,601</b>

### Grants from Restricted Funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Kenya Education	1,000	1,000
Lenten Appeal	5,000	7,400
Myanmar Living Water	1,455	-
Iraq	-	515
Operatori di Pace	1,500	-
Sierra Leone	-	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£83,455</b>	<b>£75,815</b>

## 5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2022	2021
Cost of Printing the Annual Report	222	-

## 6 GOVERNANCE

	2022	2021
Bank Charges	£255	£245

## 7 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any member of the committee or to any person known to be connected with any of them.

## 8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at January 1	1,454	515
Incoming Resources	7,951	10,154
Expenditure	(8,955)	(9,215)
Balance at December 31	<b>£450</b>	<b>£1,454</b>

## 9 GENERAL FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at January 1	45,270	30,396
Incoming Resources	75,271	81,720
Expenditure	(74,977)	(66,846)
Balance at December 31	<b>£45,564</b>	<b>£45,270</b>
Represented by:		
Current Assets	<b>£46,015</b>	<b>£46,724</b>

Registered Charity No. 288585

**A Standing Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.**

## BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST (BOAT)

### HOW TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER

- With most banks and building societies, you can set up a Standing Order online or by phone.
- Alternatively, you can go into your bank to complete a Standing Order form. You'll need the BOAT account number and sort code (as well as some personal identification).

Beneficiary Name: **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

Beneficiary Account Number: **00087533**

Beneficiary Sort Code: **30-96-35**

Beneficiary's Bank: **Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Street, Oxford OX1 4AA.**

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### GIFT AID DECLARATION (FOR REGULAR OR ONE-OFF DONATIONS)

**Boost your donation to BOAT by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.**

*giftaid it*

**Just tick this box  Yes! I would like to Gift Aid this donation and any other donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to BOAT.**

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

### PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Title: ..... First name(s): ..... Surname: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

**Signature** ..... **Date** .....

Please notify BOAT if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Please return to: The Gift Aid Treasurer, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge, Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY. Alternatively, you can email it to: [boatblackfriars@gmail.com](mailto:boatblackfriars@gmail.com)**

**IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO FOR US TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT BOAT'S ACTIVITIES, PLEASE TICK THIS BOX  Please see the BOAT website at [tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford) for an explanation of why and how we use your data, and your rights in respect of that data.**

**Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

Registered Charity No. 288585

**c/o Blackfriars Priory**

**64 St Giles**

**Oxford OX1 3LY**

**[tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](https://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford)**

**BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 288585

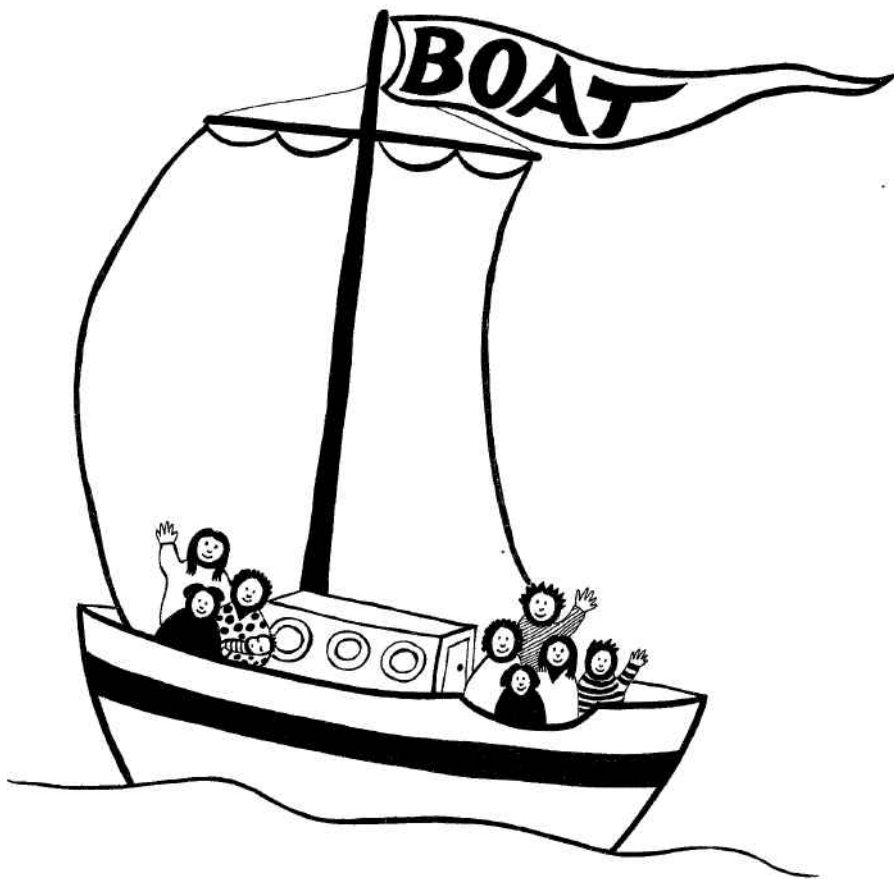
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# Accounts

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# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Founded 1984 by Members of 9.30 Family Mass Congregation



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2021

Registered Charity 288585

# **BOAT COMMITTEE**

## **May 2021 to May 2022**

<b>Chair</b>	Anna Lucas	<i>Chairman's Report</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	René Bañares-Alcántara	<i>Ethiopia (Jean Grove Trust)</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Thanassoulis	<i>Treasure</i>
<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	Filomena Nave	<i>Regular Donations &amp; Brazil</i>
<b>Voting</b>	Lucy Carpenter	<i>Cameroon</i>
	Jenifer Dye	<i>Sierra Leone</i>
	Ag MacKeith	<i>Nicaragua and Annual Report</i>
	Rosaleen Ockenden	<i>Uganda (Butema and Kigumba parishes)</i>
	Mick Conefrey	<i>Zimbabwe</i>
	Helen Ghosh	<i>Peru (San Benito)</i>
<b>Non-voting</b>	Katherine Backler	<i>Ethiopia (Mission of Hope) and Peru (Amantani)</i>
	Nicolette Michels	<i>Uganda (Uganda Cancer Trust)</i>
	Julie Lynch Bridson	<i>Myanmar, Philippines</i>
	Domenico Caprotti	<i>India (Allapalli)</i>
	Geraldine Johnson	<i>India (Sugandh)</i>
	Bede Mullens OP	<i>Jamaica and Rwanda (Network for Africa)</i>
	Gayna Wyles	<i>Publicity and Design</i>

*Italics indicate the project for which members are responsible.*

**Of course everyone in the 9.30 congregation has a part to play in keeping BOAT's large fleet of projects afloat. We are very grateful for the generous response to our appeals for help, and for the initiative, skill and hard work used to raise funds in so many ways.**

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD 2021

Dear Friends of BOAT,

There's a beautiful poem on a plaque in Addison's Walk. It was written by C.S. Lewis and ends: "Often deceived, yet open once again your heart, / Quick, quick, quick, quick! – the gates are drawn apart." It seems to me to be an exhortation to hope against hope – that though winds often *do* strip the blossom from the apple trees and that rain generally *does* destroy the peas, yet must we avoid despair and dare to believe, as per Sheenagh Pugh's poem, that "Sometimes things don't go, after all, / from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel / faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail, / sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well."

But how can we remain hopeful without appearing naïve – or foolish even? We must have a real seed to grow a real tree. This is why we are so very, very lucky to have BOAT in our lives. The people whom BOAT supports in their mission to bring health, education, fairness, and happiness to their communities are the seed; the men, women, and children who are finally able to live in dignity are the tree.

The impact of COVID continues to aggravate already difficult circumstances, and the rise in the cost of food, fuel, medicines, and building materials is hitting projects hard. Fr Sebastian, in Uganda, had planned ahead and bought timber in anticipation of construction work resuming after the lockdown. Unfortunately, at that time, there was not enough money to pay the night watchman and, without his vigilance, thieves were able to steal most of the timber. Likewise, the challenges faced by the school in Allapalli are increasing: the cost of living is affecting the school directly and indirectly (by causing donors to reduce the amount they give), which means "There is a constant struggle to provide food for all."

For most of us, such obstacles might be terminally discouraging. Thankfully, our projects have stalwart leaders who are able to fight the good fight. One such leader is Father Miguel Fuertes who was behind the project we supported for the Lenten Appeal 2021. He saw how critical it was for children and young people in isolated parts of Amazonian Northern Peru to be able to continue with their education and made sure that they were equipped to do so.

Many of the reports contain thanks from our contacts. We offer them heartfelt thanks in return and can find no better way to respond than by borrowing the words of Sister Sylvie (our contact in Ethiopia): "Some people make the world brighter just by being in it, we are proud to say that you are among them."

Despite COVID restrictions and our regretful reliance on screen interactions, BOAT has been able to count on your support. A huge thanks to you all for keeping BOAT in your thoughts. It is because of your generosity that BOAT has been able to increase the donation to each project by £500 to £4,000 per year.

I would like to thank all the Committee; in particular, John Thanassoulis, the Treasurer, who manages the BOAT accounts and financial planning so capably, and Filomena Nave, the Assistant Treasurer, who this year secured a record £26,046 of Gift Aid for BOAT. Special thanks to René Bañares-Alcántara who is stepping down after five years of dedicated service as BOAT Secretary. Thank you also to Ag MacKeith for editing the report you see before you, and to Adam Hodgkin who has once again kindly given of his time and expertise in examining our accounts. After nine years as Chairman, I will also be stepping down. It has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege!

## **BOAT's Public Benefit**

All charities, including smaller ones like ours, are required to report on the “public benefit” they bring through their activities, and to describe how they have achieved their objectives.

### **Our purpose**

Under our constitution as a registered charity, the purposes of BOAT are to “provide support for the charitable activities of Christian parishes, organisations or societies, situated or working outside Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in (i) the relief of poverty, and (ii) the advancement of education”. Everyone attending Mass at Blackfriars or giving to BOAT on a regular basis is regarded as a member of the Trust. The formal Trustees are a committee of ten people, elected each year at our Annual General Meeting. A representative from the Dominican community – Br Bede Mullens since January 2019 – also sits on the Committee, as a link to the Priory which is home to BOAT.

### **The benefit we bring**

We have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Under our Principles for Giving, updated at our AGM in 2007, we have a very clear set of criteria for the projects we support and for assessing the public benefit that support will bring. On the key principle that we want our funding really to “make a difference” we aim to support relatively small-scale or grass-roots projects with regular grants (£4,000 in 2021). Some funding will be one-off but more often a project will be funded for three years and then considered for renewal on a rolling basis.

We always look for projects with some link to the 9.30 Family Mass congregation or the Dominican Order; although most have Catholic leadership, that is not a requirement, and we don't fund any form of proselytizing. We make sure that there is regular personal contact, partly so that we can identify priorities and needs quickly, but also so that we can help the Congregation's understanding of the challenges in developing countries. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes although, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergencies. As you read through this report, you will see that our projects fall broadly into three areas:

**Health:** especially primary health care and preventive medicine;

**Welfare:** especially for children, people with disabilities, refugees, and victims of war or poverty;

**Education:** particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

We are always looking for good projects to support on a one-off or regular basis. Thank you for putting BOAT in touch with so many dedicated people – please keep your suggestions coming in. This period of separation has made us all realize, I think, that no man is an island, entire of itself. Through BOAT, our involvement in mankind is extended and strengthened, and our hope is founded more strongly in God.

*Anna Lucas*

Chairman

## Brazil

### São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church

The Serviço Social e Promocional São Paulo da Cruz (SSPSPC), based at the Calvário Church in the city of São Paulo, provides a day centre for children and teenagers from low-income families. Without a place like the SSPSPC, school age children would be left unattended for a large part of the day while their parents are at work, since schools in Brazil operate in half-day shifts, either morning or afternoon. The project offers the children counselling, social and educational activities that complement state school education. Most importantly, it serves three meals each day, with emphasis on a healthy diet and hygiene. It helps the parents too, with adult literacy courses and regular talks and workshops for the families, who are encouraged to participate in the development of their children. The manager, Dona Ida Oliveira sends us very detailed monthly reports, describing how SSPSPC adapted their work during the pandemic, when one of the most important activities became supporting the families, with food packets and other essential items, as many lost their jobs and had to deal with losing loved ones.

At the beginning of 2021, 35% of the children were back, the number increasing to full capacity by Christmas, although activities were often interrupted and the centre closed a few times when someone tested positive with Covid-19. Online activities, started in the previous year, continued with Facebook and other social media, becoming an important medium of contact with the children. Each week, a different group of children would help to prepare the material that would be shared via the SSPSPC's social media, helping them to develop important IT and organisational skills. Each month activities focused on one special theme, for instance March was Women's Month, October Children's Month, November Black Awareness Month. An important event, giving hope for a return to normality, was the vaccination of all the teenagers in September. The photos show an art class in October, when the children made toys from recycled material.



*Filomena Nave*

## Cameroon

### ARCH, Dibanda

BOAT has been supporting the Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) since 1997. ARCH is located in Dibanda, South West Cameroon, and aims to meet the physical needs of disabled people by providing rehabilitation and support services for them and their families. The team of well-trained health care and other staff is now managed by Matron Sr Hostencia Njang.

Sr Hostencia reports that, with support from BOAT, ARCH helps provide varied forms of assistance to vulnerable and less privileged persons. She says that this “has been a very rewarding experience to the beneficiaries, and to the diocese of Buea that created this centre to provide rehabilitation services to people living with disabilities, helping them become sustainably re-integrated into

society. We render immense thanks to God for the successes of 2021, in spite [of] the difficult times of the ongoing socio-political crisis and the Covid19 pandemic. Things are gradually getting better, as compared to the previous years. This can be seen in our patient intake which rose from 1,789 to 2,083 patients.”

As well as the purchase of specialised appliances for the disabled, support from BOAT has allowed ARCH staff to continue to provide quality services to patients. This has been particularly important for those who are unable to pay. The current crisis has increased the level of poverty while exposing people to more danger. Sr Hostencia describes one patient “whose parents were unable to pay her bills as they had been in hiding in the bush for the past three years. She was diagnosed with multiple deformities. She stayed at ARCH for a month. Thanks to BOAT we were able to get her knee braces and some orthopaedic shoes and arm crutches.”

This year’s support from BOAT was used to build covered walkways for patients to practise their walking exercises. The adult walkway is spacious enough to accommodate some machines from the gymnasium and create space for more patients to carry out their exercises at the same time.



Assistance received from BOAT also enabled them to build a plinth and purchase a 2000-litre tank to store water beside the poultry farm. This eases the labour of those working on both the vegetable and poultry farms, especially during the dry season (see photo).

Furthermore, thanks to BOAT, “ARCH was able to celebrate the joy of the Nativity of our Lord with some of our patients and staff. This was a time of great relaxation, which brought so much smiles on the faces of the children and the staff as they [made] merry together and received Christmas gifts from

BOAT through ARCH.”

Sr Hostencia ends her report by writing “It is with a heart full of joy that I, on behalf of the staff and patients of ARCH, deeply express our gratefulness for BOAT’s generous and faithful support which goes a long way in assisting the smooth functioning of the centre and bringing joy and relief to many suffering with disabilities. BOAT remains in our prayers for God’s continuous elevation. And may our good Lord reward and replenish the sources.

*Lucy Carpenter*

## **Ethiopia**

### **Gode: Mission of Hope**

Gode is a town on the Ethiopian–Somali border, an arid place, frequently afflicted by drought and food-shortage, as well as long-term political instability. Many, especially children, suffer malnutrition. The presence of a military base and the influx of workers in recent years for infrastructure projects in the town have meant that many young women who come seeking employment in the area end up working as prostitutes, and incidents of sexual harassment and violence are high.

BOAT is supporting a small project recently launched by the Mission of Hope called 'Nazareth'. Nazareth aims to establish several small family dwellings in a secure complex, to provide a safe space for women and their children who are escaping dangerous situations or seeking a better life. There is work available on a small papaya and banana plantation; the women are also able to learn handicrafts. This helps to provide some income and to equip the women and children with the necessary skills to engage in safe and productive forms of work when they leave Nazareth.

Sr Mary Joachim, who leads the Mission of Hope, is hopeful that Nazareth will become an 'oasis of peace' and a known safe space, not just for its residents but for vulnerable women and children more widely, in an area where the Church is hardly present and there is otherwise little compassion.

*Bede Mullens OP*



## Ethiopia

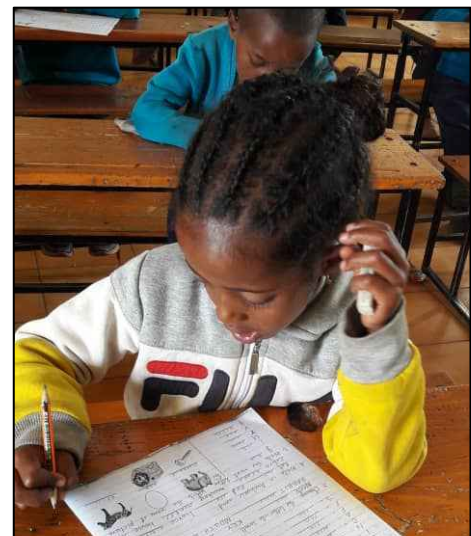
### Zizencho and Arekit

BOAT has continued its support for the two schools in the villages of Zizencho and Arekit. They are run by the Bethany Sisters and are about 225km south west of Addis Ababa. Around 80% of the students attending both schools are from extremely poor families, so the schools provide not only free education, but also other services such as school uniforms, stationery, midday meals, shoes and medical help.

The Lord Jesus Catholic Kindergarten and Primary school in Zizencho was founded in 2004. Last year it had 556 students from kindergarten to 8th year. The 32 students who sat the 8th grade Ministry of Education exam were prepared mornings and evenings for two months and were provided with meals for the whole period.

The Infant Jesus Catholic Kindergarten and Primary school is in Arekit, 7 km from Zizencho, and was established in 2010. It has 548 students from kindergarten to 8th year. Students from this school achieved 1st, 2nd and 3rd position in the Gumer Woreda (district) in Ethiopia.

Both schools started classes on 19th October 2020, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic they have had to follow strict health rules and regulations: for example, only 25 students could be in a classroom at any one time. For this reason the cohort had to be divided into two, and the shortage of teachers and classrooms meant they had to teach in shifts: 8:30 to 13:00 hours for first to fourth grades, fifth to eight grades in the afternoon. Masks, sanitiser and soap were provided, and the schools ran a Covid-awareness programme for parents and children. Schools reopened on 13th September 2021 for the current academic year.



On behalf of the school communities Sister Sylvie sends her greetings and thanks, and writes to BOAT donors “some people make the world brighter just by being in it, we are proud to say that you are among them”.

*René Bañares-Alcántara*

## India

### Allapalli, Andhra Pradesh

Allapalli Mary Matha Boarding Home and School is located in the diocese of Eluru, in the Indian region of Andhra Pradesh. Every year more than five hundred orphaned or destitute children are given free shelter, clothing, food and education. Education covers typical school activities and all spheres of life ranging from spiritual and moral to psychological support. The aim is to build up hope and confidence in the children, and prepare them for a fruitful future. Since the early 90s



thousands of children have benefitted through this institution and are now doing well in their lives.

2021 has been a challenging year. Covid had a range of negative impacts, from reduced financial support to the additional costs associated with the provision of

vaccines and safety measures to control the spread of the virus. BOAT’s support went towards the purchase of vaccines, medicines, masks and sanitizer kits for the safety of the children and of the staff looking after them.

The orphanage plays an active part in the local community. The villages in and around Allapalli are in a remote area, where the impact of Covid and the benefits of vaccination were not clearly understood. The orphanage staff undertook the task of educating the local community and assisting in the vaccination effort, providing the vaccine to those who were not able to afford it.

A range of challenges remains, and these are even more critical in 2022. The main one is the increased cost of all that is purchased for the children. The rising price of food and clothing is the main concern, particularly when donations stagnate as people around the world adjust to the new challenges brought in by Covid. There is a constant struggle to provide food for all. Currently, they are not managing to provide breakfast for everyone. This is where BOAT’s 2022 contribution will be spent, in ensuring that all the children have something to eat in the morning.

*Rinaldo Caprotti*

# India

## Sugandh (New Delhi)

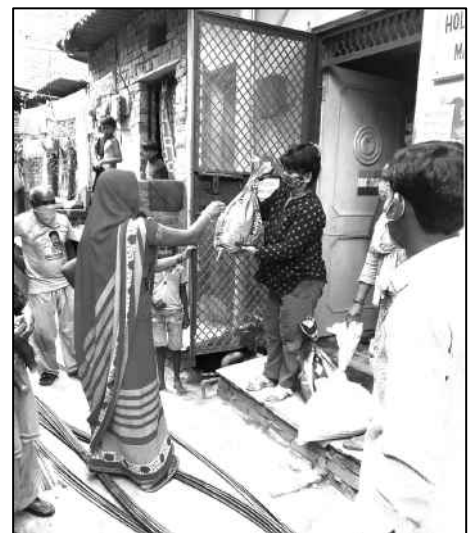
Sugandh is a charity based in some of the poorest slums of New Delhi. Thanks to the support of BOAT and other donors, Sugandh seeks to transform the lives of marginalised women, men and children through holistic community development in which individuals are taught to empower themselves. Working with families in the Madanpur Khadar and Holambi Kalan neighbourhoods, Sugandh focuses on child development and education, supports women's self-help groups that provide vocational training and micro-financing, offers basic healthcare and health-awareness training, and advocates on behalf of poor families trying to access education, medical care and other key government entitlements.

Last year, they realised a long-term goal by formally registering the women's self-help groups based at Holambi Kalan as a Jagriti Mahila Bachat Sangathan Trust. In the coming year, they hope to achieve the same goal for the Madanpur Khadar self-help groups. Over 1,000 women are members of these groups, working together to empower themselves in the face of great hardship. Sugandh helps them open bank accounts (often difficult to do without the required documents) and encourages the groups (88 in total) to make collective decisions about loans for small business start-ups, medical care and children's educational costs. This past year, a number of women were offered loans to purchase mobile phones so their children could attend online classes. The groups also offer vocational training, for example, in embroidery and tailoring, (*see photo*) which provides crucial opportunities for women to learn new skills to support their families.



Nearly 100 children are enrolled in Sugandh's educational programmes. Many of these children come from New Delhi's poorest families, who work as rag-pickers, rickshaw drivers and casual labourers. The charity is able to supply stationery, shoes, school uniforms and a mid-day snack free of charge. In its educational centres, Sugandh provides tuition to young children seeking to enter formal education for the first time, as well as to older children who have fallen behind in the state school system, often after having been excluded for extended periods of time.

Last year over 4,700 outreach visits were made to help families advocate for their rights. For example, through Sugandh, Neena learned about various government schemes to help women after the death of a family member. In Neena's case, she was introduced to the Delhi Pension Scheme and other programmes that are now providing much-needed financial support to help her look after her six children after the death of her husband.



The pandemic inevitably had an enormous impact on Sugandh's work. The charity provided rations to families suffering illness or job losses (*see photo*), and sewed and distributed face coverings. In the case of Sushila, when she and her husband lost their jobs as manual labourers, Sugandh provided rice, dhal, oil, sugar and other supplies, and helped them get ration cards to access state aid. Sushila also had

some savings thanks to her participation in one of Sugandh’s self-help groups, which helped her and her family survive lockdown and its economic fall-out.

Parents were particularly grateful for Sugandh’s educational offerings during the pandemic, since government schools could not provide online classes for families unless they had access to the required technology or data allowances – although, as noted above, some women obtained loans from Sugandh’s self-help groups to purchase the mobile phones required for online learning.

Sugandh raised awareness within the communities it serves about the severity of Covid and provided advice about how to reduce transmission of the virus via social distancing, good hygiene and mask-wearing. The charity also continued other health-related work, for instance by teaching families about water sanitation and raising awareness about TB, cancer and AIDS.

BOAT’s ongoing support has been crucial in helping Sugandh continue its important community work, as well as respond to the exceptional challenges of the pandemic.

*Geraldine A. Johnson*

## **Jamaica**

### **Christ the King Basic School, Kingston**

Christ the King Basic School receives pupils aged between three and six years old. Besides providing primary education, the school importantly offers the children warm, nutritious food – which they might not receive at home – and a safe shelter while their parents and older siblings are out working. BOAT’s support has enabled the school to maintain its staff (three teachers, a cook, and an assistant) throughout the lockdown, despite the increased financial hardship of the period; further, the school has been able to provide two meals rather than just one a day for the pupils attending. Christ the King is the parish school attached to a Dominican-run parish in Jamaica. Fr Clifton, our contact, a Dominican, is the parish priest, as well as the chaplain and chair of school governors.

*Bede Mullens OP*

## **Myanmar**

### **Living Water Myanmar**



*“Water is life. Giving water is giving life*

BOAT remains committed to supporting the life-giving work of Living Water Myanmar (LWM), a charity founded by Rosemary Breen in 2011, working to improve the lives of people in remote villages in the Dry Zone of Central Myanmar, who suffer from severe shortages of potable water. Co-ordinator Soya Toe and his team work with local communities to ascertain where water insecurity is most acute. They then construct and install water tanks and piping system on the grounds of local schools and health clinics. To date, LWM has constructed

over 378 tanks. These tanks have transformed the lives of local people (over 30,000 of them at last count), who no longer need to travel great distances just for clean water.

Due to Covid and the political situation in Myanmar, building has slowed in the last two years. Accordingly, BOAT did not make a new donation in 2021 to LWM. However, the remainder of BOAT's 2020 donation was used in 2021 to construct four new 5000 gallon tanks: tank number 365 in Linsky Village, Chauk; tanks numbers 366 and 368 in Paybingone, Chauk; and tank number 367 in Myetkhardaw, Nyanung Oo (see Facebook "Living Water Myanmar" for more details).

Rosemary confirmed that building continues and that LWM aims to bring the total number of tanks constructed to 500 in the next few years. BOAT will therefore resume its donations to LWM in 2022. She expressed her deep gratitude for our continual support and generosity: "Thank you to BOAT – you have changed so many lives. With much love and gratitude to you all."

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

## Nicaragua

### Leon

With the support of BOAT, the Nicaragua Education, Culture and Arts Trust (NECAT), a UK-registered charity based in Oxford, has been working with its contacts in Nicaragua to provide meals for children from low-income families living in areas suffering from extreme levels of poverty. The meals project has been running for over a decade. Although the project always takes the same form – the feeding of hungry schoolchildren – it has moved between sites for various reasons. Its most recent base was at the NECAT 'Learning Reinforcement Centre' in Guadalupe.

Wherever it takes place, in this country riddled with social injustice and inequality, the effects are the same: the children want to come to school, because there is food there, they learn to appreciate healthy food that includes vegetables and requires serious cooking, their families are drawn in to help with cooking and serving and to learn in passing about healthy diets, and last but not least, the children's school work benefits because they are not distracted by empty bellies.

In 2021, Covid had its effect on the School Reinforcement project, which had to be suspended, as there was not enough money in the coffers to guarantee the salary of the teacher. They tried to make it work by charging a small fee for each child attending, but the socio-economic and health crises were such that it was not possible to keep the programme going. Unemployment is very high, and jobs tend to be in the informal sector where irregular employment means that there is sometimes not enough money to feed the families. The food provided at the centre makes a real difference.

The main project at the Centre is now early education for following the Montessori method. There are 30 children, and BOAT money funds the meals. The academic year started on February 1st in 2021, and continued to December 11th. Normally term would have ended on 27th November, but Covid had forced closure for the month of August so it was extended for some extra weeks to make up for what had been lost.



The entire work team came down with Covid, but “we are currently in good health, despite the fact that the co-ordinator (Gioconda) was quite badly affected. Thank God we have pulled through and are alive to be able to continue working for the education of children.”

“As every year, we try to guarantee a healthy diet, rich in proteins, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins for the good development of children. We prepare a monthly menu, we put it on the wall and so the mothers know what is going to be prepared during the day. Normally we serve ‘gallo pinto’ (a mixture of rice and beans), tortillas, cheese, cream, pancakes, fruits (bananas, papaya, pineapple, apple, grape), vegetables (cucumber, beets, pumpkin, lettuce), toasted bread with natural jams, fresh fruit juices, cocoa drink, oats, cereals, nuts, among others.”

The children’s families play an active part in preparing the food, which has the double effect of integrating them into the running of the school, and inculcating an understanding of a healthy diet, which they can then apply at home.

The project has recently purchased a new stove, and they are now freshening up the kitchen area so that conditions are more hygienic. There is a need for new kitchen equipment, since the utensils have deteriorated over the years of use.

Says Gioconda, our regular contact: “We thank all the people of the BOAT who have guaranteed one more year, the school meals for the children, which is very important for the integral development (psychic and physical) of each of them.”

*Ag MacKeith*

## **Peru**

### **Lima and Ayacucho**

BOAT has been supporting the work of Columban Fr Ed O’Connell and the Warmi Huasi project in San Benito for many years. At Warmi Huasi and in two communities in the mountainous region of Ayacucho, children who would otherwise be at risk of violence and bullying while their parents are at work can find a safe space, as well as learn to play a part in the political process in the local community.

Fr Ed wrote to us in January 2022, updating us on the latest Covid figures in Peru, which has a population of around 33 million. The total official number of cases in Peru up to that date was about 2.5 million, and the number of deaths about 204,000. Like us, Peru has recently been hit by the Omicron variant. Around 89% of the population over 12 had received at least one jab by the start of 2022, 80% had received the second, and 20% had a booster.

Fr Ed must have extraordinary energy. As well as his work with the Warmi Huasi project, he has parish duties in 5 of the 18 churches in the parish of ‘Holy Archangels’, a vast parish with 130,000 people. And along with other Columban Fathers, he works in the Manuel Duato Special Needs School, with 428 ‘virtual’ students (most of them severely disabled) during the worst of the pandemic, with a small number now returning for face-to-face education.

Fr Ed writes, “The Warmi Huasi project supports children at risk in the Lima districts of Carabayllo and San Martin de Porres and in the Province of Paucar de Sara Sara, high up in the Andes in the department of Ayacucho. We have teachers visiting homes, in a very limited way, in Lampa (Ayacucho) and also small numbers of children of the homework clubs meeting in the Warmi centre in San Benito (Carabayllo), respecting protocols of bio-security and safeguarding. It is an effort to help children catch up, as many dropped behind in their schoolwork.

I visited the five communal kitchens in San Benito and the one in Misiones parish just before Christmas, to thank those who run them, for all they do for their communities (*see photo above*). They serve a grand total of 1,000 meals each weekday, including 132 social cases. We have helped each communal kitchen with the purchase of vegetables, chicken or fish, gas, bio-security equipment and a small fire extinguisher. Of the social cases: 32 are elderly, 73 children, 16 with Covid and 11 disabled, and all these are helped with meals at no cost. The communal kitchens teams, out of their poverty, show their solidarity with the most vulnerable. The children and elderly had a special Christmas lunch!

Latest news from Ayacucho: two of the Warmi Huasi team visited Ayacucho, a 24 hour trip up the Andes, and carried out end-of-year activities and also co-ordinated with officials of the provincial and district authorities and with representatives of the health, education, police and judiciary sectors to plan the work of 2022. Part of the work is to undertake a survey of the number of disabled children in the Province of Paucar de Sara Sara.



From November, working with Unicef and the educational authorities in northern Lima, a Warmi Huasi team started 14 ‘Points of Encounter’ in community and chapel meeting rooms to work with children who dropped out of school over the past two years. Three of the Points are in the parish where I work. Over 1,000 primary and secondary school students will hopefully be brought back into school for March 2022. They are being helped with their schoolwork by teachers and volunteers and the programme will continue into March (*see photo*).

I find people resilient by nature but somewhat worn down by the length of the pandemic and their grieving for those they lost. May God’s love for us reignite our hope for better times in 2022, and may our humanity be renewed! Love and blessings, Happy New Year, Ed.”

And we send love, blessings and thanks to Fr Ed in return.

*Helen Ghosh*

## **Philippines**

### **Midsalip, Missionary Sisters of St Columban**

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the destruction brought by Typhoon Odette, the Missionary Sisters of St Columban, under Sister Winnie Apao’s leadership, continued to provide ongoing support to the local Subaanen people in Midsalip in accessing education and health care and in protecting their ancestral homeland against mining activity, natural disasters and destructive farming practices. Specifically, the Mission conducted face-to-face local language, cultural-based

teaching to over 200 students in their seven pre-schools, and through home visitations during the Covid lockdown. Through these schools, the Mission provides a feeding programme of rice porridge, vegetables, mung beans, dried fish and milk to their students, many of whom suffered malnutrition during Covid. Of particular note was the Certificate of Recognition which the pre-school programme and its co-ordinator received from the Department of Education of the Philippines, an unexpected, but very welcome, highlight of the year. BOAT funding supports these schools, as well as scholarships for 17 high school and four college students from different barrios, eager to attain an education to provide work to support their families.



BOAT funding supports these schools, as well as scholarships for 17 high school and four college students from different barrios, eager to attain an education to provide work to support their families.

In addition to the pre-schools, the Mission also ran two three-day residential youth camps, ranging from kindergarten through high-school-aged students, focusing on promoting confidence and pride in indigenous cultural practices. Over 230 students, many travelling great distances, attended these camps. They were great fun and provided much needed social interactions after lockdown restrictions were lifted. The Mission also continues to provide on-going educational programmes to local people on sustainable farming, encouraging tree planting (*see photo*) to avoid mudslides and the use of organic fertilizers made only from compost and fermented fruit juices.

Sister Apao, who provides ongoing updates to BOAT on the Mission and its inspiring work, wrote in her Christmas letter: ‘With heartfelt gratitude to each of you who contributed to making miracles happen here. With God’s grace and blessings we were able to continue our tasks to bring life, inspiration and joy to others... On behalf of my Subaanen brothers and sisters, my deep appreciation to each one of you who continuously support and help us. Thank you so very much. May God bless you always and abundantly. Rest assured of our constant thoughts and prayers.’

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

## **Rwanda**

### **Network For Africa**

For many years, Network for Africa has provided psychological counselling to help those suffering with post-traumatic stress in the wake of the genocide. Many widows and orphans, however, have remained impoverished and with few opportunities to rebuild their lives. Network for Africa has for some time been planning an entrepreneurial training programme for launch from January 2022, which will equip some 60 of these widows and orphans with the necessary business-planning and technical skills, as well as the initial financial impetus, to embark on their own enterprises and secure a sustainable income. BOAT is sponsoring this programme.

*Bede Mullens OP*

# Sierra Leone

## Koindu

2021/22 is the fourth year in which BOAT has supported this orphanage in the north-east of Sierra Leone. Founded and run by Mary Sesay, the orphanage takes in local children. Historically, many of the children's parents had died from AIDS and the orphans would be unable to find support from family or other sectors of the community because of the stigma attached to their parents' illness. Although this is still the case, the orphanage also takes many children who have been abandoned for other reasons, or are subject to abuse in their domestic settings. The children's two greatest needs at the orphanage are food and water. However, the orphanage is in fact the children's 'whole world', so it is a place where not only do they receive nourishment, medical attention and clothing, but also where their academic, social and physical needs are met.

Sierra Leone is a desperately poor country and abandoned or orphaned children are among the most vulnerable groups in that country. The Orphanage struggles on a daily basis to provide the basics for the children who live there, such as food and medicine. Our money makes a huge difference to the lives of these children.

In previous years our money had helped to build a well and a dining room for the



Orphanage. Over the last year we have funded ten tables and 50 chairs for the dining room, food and medical supplies, uniforms, an end-of-year function in December 2021, and the fencing off of the Orphanage compound to protect the children from the road they live next to. The balance of last year's donation will be used to buy toiletries and promote hygiene in the School.

Sadly, the School's longstanding Head Teacher, Pastor Kendema, died last year. His mantle of leadership has now been taken up by new Head Teacher Francis Kettor. The School continues to be a busy place, with Primary 6 pupils working assiduously to prepare for the National Primary Certificate examinations in May.

BOAT communicates with the Orphanage via a WhatsApp group and we receive information particularly from Kabba, Tamba and Tim, the social workers involved with the Orphanage.

We have continued to give the social workers a small remittance as they do an awful lot of unpaid work for the orphanage, but their wages (from the Sierra Leone government) continue to be both very meagre and paid only intermittently. Just to give you an outline of what they do for the orphanage: they visit the orphanage regularly, bringing food and clothing supplies for the children; they supervise building works, as well as hiring workers and obtaining quotes; they accompany Mary Sesay to pick up abandoned or abused children; they offer a huge amount of personal support and mentoring for the children; they also support the children in their studies and examinations, and run workshops. Without their support, the orphanage would be in a very precarious position.

Our UK link to the Smile With Us Orphanage is Penny Boreham, a producer, presenter and writer, who works for the BBC World Service. Penny has longstanding links in Sierra Leone and knows the Orphanage well.

*Jenifer Dye*

# Uganda

## Cancer Trust

We continue to support Uganda Cancer Trust (UCT). This UK-based charity, raises money to support cancer treatment, education and care in Uganda. We are lucky to have close contact and regular updates from Dr Michael Minton and Elizabeth Minton who are trustees and respectively Palliative Care Consultant and Patient Care Support. The UCT's own most recent Annual Report reminds us how important the work of UCT is: more than 60% of cancer deaths occur in developing countries, but only 5% of cancer spending. UCT funds go towards: supporting individuals suffering from cancer in Uganda, where the treatment needed far exceeds their ability to pay; supporting Ugandan organisations who are trying to improve cancer treatment, care or education; and raising awareness of the growing problem of cancer in Uganda. UCT work with local partners in Uganda and with others already engaged in these issues, thereby ensuring they can make a difference.

Our BOAT funds directly provide for Liz Nabirye who acts as Information Nurse (*seen in the photo with her colleagues*). Liz does wonderful work, providing information, symptom management, ongoing counselling and support that ensures continuity of care for patients and families. She also oversees the work of a dedicated team of volunteers who support patients on the ward. This last



year has of course been dominated by the pandemic. Apart from health issues, the main impact of the pandemic has been on the economy. This affects everyone, but disproportionately the poorer members of society, who rely on a daily income, and have nothing in reserve. One key challenge for cancer patients has been how to get to hospital for their treatment: and for patient hostels, how to ensure safety of residents with prevention and protection measures. Staff of the palliative care team were also hit by Covid and services were briefly suspended. The Ministry of Health provided support to allow team members to get to the hospital.

Liz Nabirye and her volunteers have been dealing with the negative impacts on palliative care services this past year, where some cancer patients including children have indeed found it difficult to access treatment due to the national lockdown, grounding of public transport, loss of livelihoods and the fear of contracting Covid (or of dying from it). UCT has helped with one-off payments to offset the additional costs incurred because of the epidemic, with treatment costs, and a Comfort Fund to help make life a bit easier for patients.

This last has been put towards transport costs to get home after treatment or to provide a toy to give a child a bit of joy while undergoing treatment. In particular, during this period the need for psycho-social support for patients and carers was more crucial than ever. BOAT's funds contributed towards additional sponsored airtime, enabling patients to keep in touch with their families.

We are lucky to have some quotes from a family that illustrate the importance of her work:

“Thank you for being supportive to us. I know you can't solve all our problems. You are very passionate and caring. You listen and allow us the chance to ask questions for clarity. I now have a good understanding of my child's condition and know what to expect but you have continued to visit and support us in our hopeless situation.

“We have spent all that we had... I lost my job, other children have had to drop out of school. Caring for your child with cancer is emotionally draining. This was worsened by the Covid times, where other family members couldn't visit.

“I am thankful that your team is able to control her pain... she can sleep now.

“Thank you for being available and being there for us to offload our distress. Our needs when in the hospital are more than just the medicines for the patient. God bless you and your funders.”

Our BOAT donation is acknowledged with thanks in the UCT's own Annual Report and this feels humbling in light of the deep need and wonderful work of Liz and her colleagues. Seeing her smiling face can make us all realise how lucky we are that Liz, her team of volunteers, the Minton's and all the wider team of UCT are there and enable us to do our small part.

*Nicolette Michels*

## Uganda

### Church of Christ the King, Butema Catholic Parish, Hoima

In his report Father Sebastian Benyumiza describes the particularly difficult conditions that his parish has had to face during 2021. He ordered timber in April, so that it could be seasoned, and purchased it in May: mahogany, mivule and other hard timber. It was stored in the shade at St. Bruno's Primary school to continue seasoning. In June 2021 the pupils returned to their homes for the second lockdown until January 2022. Unfortunately, because there was no money to pay him, the night watchman went away. As no-one was sleeping at the school, thieves stole the timber. Stationery and textbooks from inside the school also went missing. A few pieces of timber remained, but much had to be replaced. There is some good news, however! The solar energy system for the school, bought in July/August 2021, was fully installed in September and October (*see photo*). An essential part of the project had been completed successfully and everyone was happy. The pupils can now continue studying when it gets dark, they can read and write and do their homework. The security lights on the building are vital, as they deter thieves. The excellent new classroom block and the solar lighting system have had a positive effect on enrolment: there are now 650 pupils on the roster.



Father Sebastian describes how badly the pandemic has affected the parish. Schools closed and the pupils went back to their villages, where they laboured in the fields for long periods of time. Some of them were forced into early marriages, some died of Covid or other illnesses, some have not returned to school at all. Those who have come back are often seriously malnourished, due to lack of proper food or famine in the villages. Some have returned with HIV, others are infected by chiggers (tropical fleas), and have severe sores. They have no uniforms and lack other essential clothing. Some urgently need psychological rehabilitation, and during 2022 it is intended to bring in counsellors to help these children settle.

In 2022 Father Sebastian intends to continue according to the project plan and equip the classrooms and provide essentials for the pupils.

## **Karungu Convent, Kigumba**

Sister Clemensia describes in her report how precarious life was in 2021 for the people and the community in Karungu, because of Covid 19 and the lockdowns. She explains that surviving was very difficult. Many parents could not pay anything for their children's education and as a result some of the teachers resigned and left teaching. Thanks to the grant from BOAT she was nonetheless able to continue with the next stage of the building project. She purchased the building materials necessary for the rehabilitation of the dilapidated classroom block in May/June. The work of plastering and painting, both inside and out, began almost immediately. The work was finished by October and she and all the community were delighted with the result (*see photo*). Their main problem has been with the rise in prices. Everything has risen in cost: fuel, building materials, and all commodities. The labour costs, too, have spiralled. The remaining work will be finished in 2022. The most urgent need continues to be feeding the pupils and the teachers, who are now returning, as well as the sisters in the convent, since hunger and even starvation are widespread in the area.



*Rosaleen Ockenden*

## **Zimbabwe**

### **African Mission**

African Mission is a small British charity, which has been active in Uganda and Zimbabwe since 2003. Initially it centred on the work of Dr Ray Towey, a consultant anaesthetist from London who for the last thirty years has dedicated his life to training medical staff in Africa. Over the last two decades their work has expanded to include major education projects in Zimbabwe, principally Fatima Mission, a 600-square-mile Franciscan mission to the north of Bulawayo which includes 16 primary schools, five secondary schools and a project for disabled children.

BOAT made its first donation in 2011, and over the last nine years has contributed to the building and maintenance of a primary school and, most recently, an ongoing project for disabled children, which offers education and training to 17 blind, deaf or mute young Zimbabweans.

The children live at the Mission during term time, next to the





school. It's the only school in the province that offers a curriculum, specifically designed for blind and mute children. As well as their academic work, they learn to live in a small supportive community and are taught the life skills that will enable them to cope better with their disabilities in the future. Before coming to Fatima many of these young people led isolated lives and were faced with a bleak future. Thanks to the education they are receiving and the fact that they are living in community with others, their confidence and ability to relate to others is growing.

Over the last two years, the Mission and the schools in Zimbabwe have struggled with Covid, with several periods of closure. Thankfully, things are now getting back to normal and the disabled children have been back at Fatima since the end of January. There's a dynamic new priest in post, Fr Gabriel, who's assisting the long standing Parish Priest, Father Jeya. Recently they have sunk a bore-hole near the pastoral centre which has significantly enhanced their water supply, and

with our support they continue to develop the school buildings and a new classroom that doubles as a music facility. The photos show some children enjoying the chance to play music.

*Mick Conefrey*

## 2021 Lenten Project

### Peru

This year's Lenten Appeal brought our 9.30 community very much together – despite its having to be coordinated remotely (for we were, in March 2021, still unable to attend church in the normal way). Suggestions were sought from the congregation and duly came in – a heartening indication of people's engagement with BOAT. The suggestions were discussed at BOAT's virtual committee meetings and one really stood out: a project to make solar-powered radios for distribution to children and teenagers in very remote parts of Peru in order that they continue with their education despite the isolation and fragmentation caused by COVID.



The project was overseen by Father Miguel Fuertes Prieto, an Augustinian who has carried out his priestly mission in Peru for nearly forty years. He is currently the Diocesan Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos, which is in Amazonian Northern Peru and covers an area approximately the size of Scotland. Fr Miguel's "parish" is vast and parts of it are only accessible

by river – but this has proved no obstacle for Fr Miguel, who radiates kindness, resourcefulness, efficiency, and dynamism (even over Zoom!), and whose commitment to his flock is heroic.

From the very beginning of the global pandemic, Fr Miguel rolled up his sleeves to address the challenges faced by the people scattered throughout the region. One of his first initiatives was to raise funds to buy an oxygen plant for the city of Iquitos since the ones at the hospital were out of order. The fundraising drive was so successful that there was enough money to buy four plants.

He quickly turned his attention to the effect of the pandemic on indigenous communities in remote parts of the Amazonian jungle. He saw how they risked being overlooked in terms of medical advice and treatment and, moreover, that the children and young people in such communities would fall drastically behind in their education if they were not given the means to engage in remote learning. He therefore instigated the project, which we were fortunate to be able to support, and which saw local carpenters and technicians assemble solar-powered radios in a sports centre in the parish of San Juan Bautista. Fr Miguel reacted speedily but not hastily: he thought through the details of the project and considered aspects such as minimizing the environmental impact of the radios: he did not want to run the risk of contaminating the river and jungle with bits of plastic or toxic battery chemicals; this is why putting the radios together was found to be the best option (allowing, as it did, the use of biodegradable parts wherever possible, together with solar-power technology).

With the £7,500 donation BOAT was able to make, thanks to your Lenten efforts, Fr Miguel was able in turn to provide approximately 485 radios. That is 485 children and young people whose life chances have been safeguarded – and 485 families who will have access to all sorts of essential information in the future. As Fr Miguel writes: “The radios are going to be an extremely useful tool, not only for educational purposes, but also for health and agriculture ... Indeed, other organizations working with rural communities are interested in this project as they can see that, for many jungle regions, this will be the only possible means of communication.”



The project also included the improvement of the transmitters of *Radio la Voz de la Selva* (the radio station of the Catholic Church of Loreto). Very sadly, on 1st July 2021, the director of the radio station, Oraldo Reátegui Segura, who fought tirelessly against the terrible inequalities in his country, and who spoke up for the indigenous population, died from COVID. Fr Miguel wrote at that time: “This was a very hard blow for us all and also for the radio project. We have only recently [25th July 2021] found the right people to carry through the plans we had dreamt of with Oraldo. ... With God’s help we will accomplish what we have set out to do.” You can see in the accompanying photos some of what Fr Miguel and his team have been able to achieve.

Fr Miguel writes: “Once again I send my thanks to you all.” We send Fr Miguel our thanks and assure him of our continued prayers – for him and the people of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos.

*Anna Lucas*

## **Dominican Sisters in Iraq**

Towards the end of 2018, whilst in Cologne, Fr Timothy Radcliffe mentioned to one of his brethren that BOAT had been collecting money for their sisters in Iraq. This conversation resulted in a donation of €400 specifically to fund the work of the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena in Iraq, whom many of you will recall supporting through the BOAT Lenten Appeals in 2015, 2017, and 2018. These brave sisters returned to the Plain of Nineveh to rebuild the schools that had been destroyed during the violent incursions by Islamic State in 2014.

The precarious situation in Iraq meant that BOAT then had difficulty in getting the donation to the Sisters.

After so many years, we are very happy indeed to report that the donation has at last reached the intended recipients. Sister Nazik Matty reported its safe arrival in January 2022.

This was thanks to the extraordinary collaborative effort involving Cardinal Vincent Nichols, one of his auxiliary bishops, the chaplain to Iraqi Catholics in London, an Iraqi Dominican visiting London, a London Dominican visiting Oxford, and our ever-helpful Dominican representative on BOAT, Br Bede Mullens! Thank you to them all!

*Anna Lucas*

## **Boat Christmas Cards**

This year, these raised £758, and we were surprised and pleased to raise so much. The team of three had met in various ways to make the cards, as lockdowns came and went in 2021. We had quite a few to sell, but we hadn't been able to make them available after mass in the usual way. However, thanks to the newsletter, people were able to order them up remotely. Some took the opportunity to post Christmas cards to all those friends and relations they hadn't been able to see for the past couple of years, and BOAT reaped the benefits. Many thanks to those who created and packaged the cards, as well as to Joshua Dubin and Jenifer Dye who generously funded the costs.

*Ag MacKeith*

## Reserves policy and risk management

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £12,000. This was a decision made by the Trustees at a meeting in February 2021, and it remains their policy. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies, but at the same time ensures that grants are made to beneficiaries without undue delay.

### Risk Management

In the light of the Trustees' desire to keep reserves at the relatively small level of £12,000, any surplus cash is held on a bank deposit until needed. The Trustees monitor the level of cash held and would review this policy if the levels of cash held were to increase significantly.

### Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed or explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

*Signed:* Anna Lucas

Chair

for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT

January 2022

# Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2021

It is with great pleasure that I can again report that BOAT is a healthy charity with very low costs which sends money rapidly to many projects in the developing world in aid of health, education and development.

Notwithstanding lockdowns, we have been able to raise the amount we send out to projects around the world. In 2020 we supported our projects with about £57,000 worth of grants. In 2021 this increased to around £76,000. This is magnificent growth. It reflects the generosity of our donors. None of this would be possible without our donors.

This year we have raised the amount we give to each of our projects to £4,000 annually. This is a considerable sum of money and one can read about the effect that it has in the earlier pages of the annual report. During 2021 we supported 16 projects from general funds. This covered much of the developing world. We were not however able to get money to Myanmar during 2021. The coup and political conditions made this difficult. But we are hopeful that we can restart the support for water tanks in the country during 2022.

The only significant costs BOAT incurs are the banking fees to transfer money to the developing world. This allows the generosity of our donors to be put to the maximal effect.

Despite the difficulties of hosting events during a pandemic the Lenten appeal raised a massive, in the circumstances, seven and a half thousand pounds. This allowed us to support the project (radios for the tribal people of the jungle in Peru) much more handsomely than anticipated. We will have been able to have a sizeable impact and so help to answer some of their prayers.

Thanks are due to many, but a noteworthy contribution has been made by Filomena who patiently completed the paperwork for two years' worth of gift aid recovery. This explains the approximately £26,000 received.

We on the committee are now back to face-to-face meetings. But we completed the year with online committees and some virtual pub quizzes, which allowed the link with our donors to be husbanded and nurtured. We hope that 2022 will allow for more real-life events at which we can work together in our witness.

*Signed:* John Thanassoulis

BOAT Treasurer

February 2022

## **Further Reference and Administrative Information**

BOAT address: Blackfriars Priory, 64 St, Giles, Oxford. OX1 3LY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Carfax, Oxford. OX1 4AA

Charity Number: 288585

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust ("the Charity")**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 December 2021 which are set out on the following pages 25 to 30.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ◆ Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- ◆ Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- ◆ State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Adam Hodgkin

February 2022

# Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations	80,247	10,154	90,401	73,086
Events and Sales	1,473	-	1,473	2,403
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>81,720</b>	<b>10,154</b>	<b>91,874</b>	<b>75,489</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Fundraising	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	66,601	9,215	75,815	57,020
Governance Costs	245	-	245	210
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>66,846</b>	<b>9,215</b>	<b>76,060</b>	<b>57,230</b>
<b>NET RESOURCES</b>				
Incoming/Outgoing	14,874	940	15,814	18,260
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	<b>30,396</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>30,911</b>	<b>12,651</b>
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<b>£45,270</b>	<b>£1,455</b>	<b>£46,725</b>	<b>£30,911</b>

The notes on pages 27 to 30 form part of these accounts.

# Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

## Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Lloyds Bank	46,725	30,911
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	46,725	30,911
<b>Total Assets</b>	£46,725	£30,911
<b>The Funds of the Charity:</b>		
<b>Restricted Income Funds</b>	1,455	515
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	45,270	30,396
	<b>£46,725</b>	<b>£30,911</b>

# Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### General

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in 2005.

### Income

- (1) Donations and grants are included in the accounts when they are received.
- (2) Interest income is included in the accounts when it is received.
- (3) Tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid donations is included in the accounts when it is received.

### Expenditure

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure is included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

### Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received for the objects of the charity without a specified purpose and are available as general funds. From time to time the Trustees may establish Designated Funds out of the Unrestricted Funds to meet contingencies.

### Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

## 2 DONATIONS

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	54,201	62,621
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	1,000	1,000
Other Donations (unrestricted)	1,473	6,848
Other Donations (restricted)	9,154	5,020
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	26,046	-
	<hr/> £91,874	<hr/> £75,489

### 3 EVENTS AND SALES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Harvest Auction	-	661
Christmas Virtual pub quiz and auction	350	-
Card Sales	758	1,322
Summer Café	-	-
Spring Café	-	-
Pub Quiz		420
BLEAT, Children's Café	-	-
	<b>£1,108</b>	<b>£2,403</b>

### 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

#### Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects

	2021	2020
	£	£
Nicaragua, Leon	4,000	3500
Jamaica, Kingston School	4,000	-
Uganda, Cancer UK	4,000	3,500
Uganda, Fr Sebastian	4,000	3,500
Cameroon, Arch	4,000	3,500
Ethiopia, Jean Grove Trust	4,000	3,500
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	4,000	3,500
Philippines, Columban Sisters	4,000	2,153
Zimbabwe, African Mission, Dungu	5,500	3,500
Peru, San Benito, Br Ed O'Connell	5,000	2,500
India, Sugandh	4,000	3,500
India, Allapalli	4,000	3,500
Rwanda Project	4,000	-
Myanmar Living Water	-	3,500
Brazil, St. Paolo	4,000	3,500

**Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects (cont.)**

Ethiopia, Mission of Hope	4,000	-
Lenten Appeal (Peru, Apostolico Iquitos)	101	-
Sierra Leone	4,000	3,500
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£66,601</b>	<b>£46,653</b>

**Grants from Restricted Funds**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Kenya Education	1,000	1,000
Lenten Appeal (Peru, Apostolico Iquitos)	7,400	
Myanmar Living Water	-	3,020
Iraq	515	-
Philippines, Columban Sisters	-	3,347
Sierra Leone	300	2,000
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	-	500
Uganda Fr Sebastian	-	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£75,815</b>	<b>£57,020</b>

**5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Cost of Printing the Annual Report	-	-

**6 GOVERNANCE**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Bank Charges	£245	210

**7 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any member of the committee or to any person known to be connected with any of them.

## 8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance at January 1	515	4,862
Incoming Resources	10,154	6,020
Expenditure	(9,215)	(10,367)
Balance at December 31	<b>£1,454</b>	<b>£515</b>

## 9 GENERAL FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance at January 1	30,396	7,789
Incoming Resources	81,720	69,470
Expenditure	(66,846)	(46,863)
Balance at December 31	<b>£45,270</b>	<b>£30,396</b>
Represented by:		
Current Assets	<b>£46,724</b>	<b>£30,910</b>

## BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST (BOAT)

Registered Charity No. 288585

*A Standing Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled by you at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so that we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.*

### HOW TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER

- With most banks and building societies, you can set up a Standing Order online or over the phone.
- Alternatively, you can go into your bank to complete a Standing Order form. You'll need the BOAT account number and sort code (as well as some personal identification).

*Beneficiary Name: **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust***

*Beneficiary Account Number: **00087533***

*Beneficiary Sort Code: **30-96-35***

*Beneficiary's Bank: **Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Street, Oxford OX1 4AA.***

\*\*\*\*\*  

### GIFT AID DECLARATION (FOR REGULAR OR ONE-OFF DONATIONS)

*Boost your donation to BOAT by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.*

*giftaid it*

*Just tick this box  **Yes! I would like to Gift Aid this donation and any other donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to BOAT.***

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

### PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Title: ..... First name(s): ..... Surname: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

*Signature* ..... *Date* .....

Please notify BOAT if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

***Please return to: The Gift Aid Treasurer, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge, Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY. Alternatively you can email it to: [boatblackfriars@gmail.com](mailto:boatblackfriars@gmail.com)***

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**PLEASE TICK THE BOX IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO FOR US TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT BOAT'S ACTIVITIES**  Please see the BOAT website at [tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford) for an explanation of why and how we use your data, and your rights in respect of that data.

**Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

Registered Charity No. 288585

**c/o Blackfriars Priory**

**64 St Giles**

**Oxford OX1 3LY**

[tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford)

**BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 288585

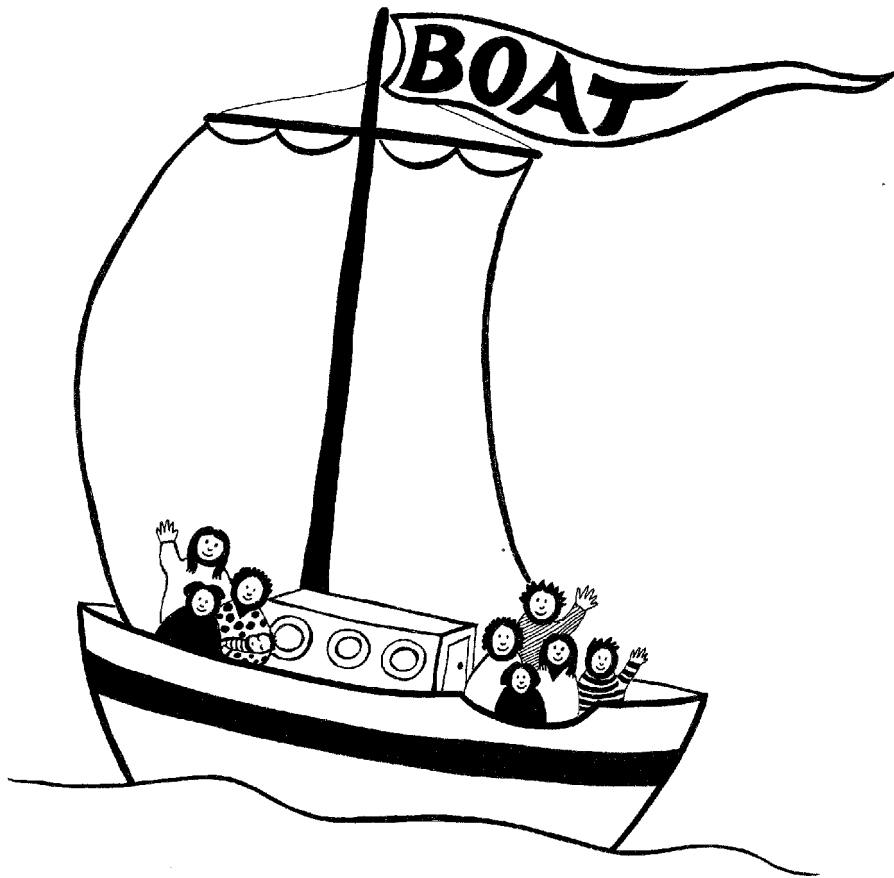
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# Accounts

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# BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Founded 1984 by Members of 9.30 Family Mass Congregation



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020

Registered Charity 288585

# **BOAT COMMITTEE**

## **May 2020 to May 2021**

<b>Chair</b>	Anna Lucas	<i>Chairman's Report</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	René Bañares-Alcántara	<i>Ethiopia</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Thanassoulis	<i>Treasurer's Report</i>
<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	Filomena Nave	<i>Regular Donations &amp; Brazil</i>
<b>Voting</b>	Katherine Backler	
	Lucy Carpenter	<i>Cameroon</i>
	Jenifer Dye	<i>Sierra Leone</i>
	Ag MacKeith	<i>Nicaragua and Annual Report</i>
	Rosaleen Ockenden	<i>Uganda (Butema &amp; Kigumba parishes)</i>
	Emerita Pilgrim	<i>Uganda Cancer Trust (until Nov 2020)</i>
<b>Non-voting</b>	Julie Lynch Bridson	<i>Myanmar, Philippines</i>
	Domenico Caprotti	<i>India (Allipalli)</i>
	Mick Conefrey	<i>Zimbabwe</i>
	Helen Ghosh	<i>Peru</i>
	Geraldine Johnson	<i>India (Sugandh)</i>
	Nicolette Michels	<i>Uganda Cancer Trust (from Nov 2020)</i>
	Bede Mullens OP	
	Gayna Wyles	<i>Publicity and Design</i>

*Italics indicate the project for which members are responsible.*

**Of course everyone in the 9.30 congregation has a part to play in keeping BOAT's large fleet of projects afloat. We are very grateful for the generous response to our appeals for help, and for the initiative, skill and hard work used to raise funds in so many ways.**

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD 2020

Dear Friends of BOAT,

There is something quite thought-provoking about those tea towels and t-shirts which exhort us to “KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON” – even when the message is rendered as “Keep calm and drink beer” or the Yoda-esque “Calm you shall keep and carry on you must”!

Might it be because it makes us realize that perseverance is a virtue which we cannot dispense with in our faith, our friendships, our families, our jobs, our communities – our lives? Certainly, 2020 has been a year when the quiet perseverance of so many altruistic individuals has come to our notice as never before.

When BOAT was founded in 1984, part of its remit was to encourage the 9.30 Family Mass Congregation to look beyond the dreaming spires of Oxford and to engage with and learn from the poor, the sick, and the oppressed – who, given half a chance, are also the valiant, the resourceful, the loving, the persevering. Over the years, that intention has been amply fulfilled but it is perhaps only now that many of us are appreciating more vividly the degree of dedication required to remain focussed on doing good, day after day, even when life is already packed with difficulties of all kinds.

Thus, Sr Leonarda continues in her calling to help disabled people in Cameroon despite the challenges of Covid coming on top of years of suffering caused by violent conflict. The joy of helping so many people at the rehabilitation centre – including the dear little baby with Erb's Palsy whose photo you can see – and of seeing her staff so eager to work, prompts Sr Leonarda to say that “compared to the problems of 2018 and 2019, things are getting better”.

Similarly, Sr Kathleen, who has staunchly served the indigenous Subaanen people of Midsalip for 37 years, and who has experienced violence and injustice herself, expressed gratitude for “this extra time in Midsalip with which I have been gifted”. Sr Kathleen's retirement and return to the Motherhouse in Ireland had to be postponed because of the pandemic, a change of plan which Sr Kathleen seized as a chance to get involved in the Mission's work to help combat the effects of Covid on people's welfare and education.

This report is full of such stories: stories which motivate us to look beyond our geographical confines and which move us to persevere in Charity (Love) most especially.

We are, as always, very grateful to you, our supporters, for all the help you give to BOAT; whether it be through prayer, with financial donations, or by taking part in BOAT events (which, sadly, this year have had to take place remotely). At the beginning of 2020 it looked as though we were going to have to make some very difficult funding decisions. Wonderfully, just as the pandemic began to take hold, our finances were boosted to such a degree that we no longer had to consider any cuts – in fact, we were able to increase the amount to each project from £2,500 to £3,500.

I would like to thank all the Committee. In particular, I am tremendously grateful to the Treasurer, John Thanassoulis, who manages the BOAT accounts and financial planning so expertly; to the Assistant Treasurer, Filomena Nave, whose painstaking work secures large amounts of Gift Aid for BOAT; and to René Bañares-Alcántara for all his help as BOAT Secretary (which, this year, has required a large measure of tech-savviness!). Thank you also to Ag MacKeith for editing the report you see before you, and to Adam Hodgkin who has once again kindly given of his time and expertise in examining our accounts.

## **BOAT's Public Benefit**

All charities, including smaller ones like ours, are required to report on the “public benefit” they bring through their activities, and to describe how they have achieved their objectives.

### **Our purpose**

Under our constitution as a registered charity, the purposes of BOAT are to “provide support for the charitable activities of Christian parishes, organisations or societies, situated or working outside Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in (i) the relief of poverty, and (ii) the advancement of education”. Everyone attending Mass at Blackfriars or giving to BOAT on a regular basis is regarded as a member of the Trust. The formal Trustees are a committee of ten people, elected each year at our Annual General Meeting. A representative from the Dominican community – Br Bede Mullens since January 2019 – also sits on the Committee, as a link to the Priory which is home to BOAT.

### **The benefit we bring**

We have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Under our Principles for Giving, updated at our AGM in 2007, we have a very clear set of criteria for the projects we support and for assessing the public benefit that support will bring. On the key principle that we want our funding really to “make a difference” we aim to support relatively small-scale or grass-roots projects with regular grants (£3,500 in 2020). Some funding will be one-off but more often a project will be funded for three years and then considered for renewal on a rolling basis.

We always look for projects with some link to the 9.30 Family Mass congregation or the Dominican Order; although most have Catholic leadership, that is not a requirement, and we don't fund any form of proselytizing. We make sure that there is regular personal contact, partly so that we can identify priorities and needs quickly, but also so that we can help the Congregation's understanding of the challenges in developing countries. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes although, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergencies. As you read through this report, you will see that our projects fall broadly into three areas:

**Health:** especially primary health care and preventive medicine;

**Welfare:** especially for children, people with disabilities, refugees, and victims of war or poverty;

**Education:** particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

Thank you for keeping BOAT and the projects BOAT supports present in your minds during this lengthy period of disconnection from our normal interactions. I sense that BOAT has been a rescue vessel for us too at this time – and that's as it should be.

*Anna Lucas*

*Chairman*

## Brazil

### São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church

BOAT has supported this Centre for Children and Teenagers in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, since 2005. This is a church congregation project in the district of Pinheiros to keep children from low-income families off the streets. It offers educational activities, help with schoolwork, crafts, personal hygiene and recreational activities to 106 children between 6 and 14 years of age. In



addition, it provides information on subjects like sex education, drugs and social behaviour. Activities were restricted in 2020 due to Covid, and face-to-face contact was suspended from March to September. When some lockdown restrictions were lifted, 35 children were able to return from October to December. A vital activity during lockdown was the supply of food. In normal times, the children eat two meals a day in the Centre; now at home, there was real danger of starvation, as many adults lost their jobs. In an organized way that respected social distancing, the Centre handed out weekly food parcels of perishable items like fruit and vegetables and monthly packs of non-perishable food and essential household items like toiletries and hygiene products, including facemasks (*see photo*). In addition, the parcels had materials for hobbies, themed for the special days in that month and small gifts, like something for Mother's Day in May. The teachers continued with the educational programme through Zoom meetings and using social platforms like Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

“I want to let you know that BOAT's donation is very important for the children and the families. We are very grateful for the many years that you have helped our work” (extract from email of D. Ida Oliveira, the Centre's manager).

*Filomena Nave*

## Cameroon

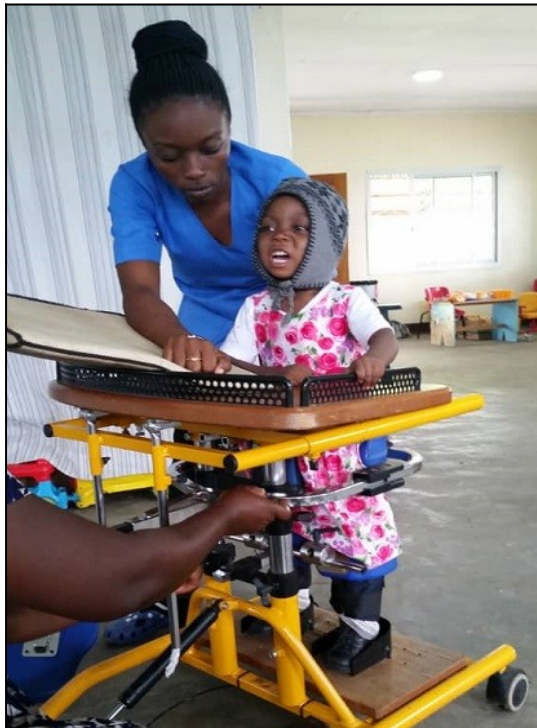
### ARCH, Dibanda

BOAT has been providing support to the Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) since 1997. ARCH is located in Dibanda, South West Cameroon, and aims to meet the physical needs of disabled people by providing rehabilitation and support services for them and their families. Sr Leonarda Tubuo, a physiotherapist, manages a team of well-trained health care and other staff, and keeps us well informed of news at ARCH.

Last year Sr Leonarda told us of the very traumatic period suffered by people in Cameroon, and the effects of the horrendous conflict between the military and the secessionists there. While ARCH has survived the conflict, it has been badly affected by Covid. During the early part of 2020, there were concerns about the impact of Covid on the health of patients, staff and the sisters in her community. While Sr Leonarda survived, sadly the Superior General of her Order died on Holy Saturday from Covid. Covid also led to the closure of ARCH's new outreach centre in the nearby town of Doula. However “compared to the problems of 2018 and 2019, things are getting better. We have ended the

year with a total of more than 1,789 patients, more than last year, which was about 1400. This improvement is important because [it shows] people are regaining some confidence in moving around even though the war is still active.”

Overall, she says “As far as the patients are concerned, the centre is really doing good. The greatest difficulty ... is that about 35% of them leave the hospital without completing their bills, because of the high levels of poverty. The staff is happier as we get to return to serious work. We actually have more persons so we are catching up on unpaid salaries. [Staff] morale is very good because they feel useful. They are confronted with children and adults who have been confined to the bush, so many of the cases are very serious.”



The presence and use of the children’s physiotherapy department, Sr Leonarda tells us, is “a particular source of encouragement for us because if the children are not attended to, the future is bleak.” This work is clearly illustrated by the photos above. On the left, an assistant physiotherapist is training a child with cerebral palsy by use of a special standing board. On the right is a baby with an arm paralysed from birth (Erb’s palsy) who has received massage to the arm followed by a battery-operated stimulator. Sr Leonarda is pleased to report that he is getting much better now.

Support from BOAT this year has enabled several important improvements at ARCH, including security lights, bulk buying of equipment for the orthopaedic workshop and installation of a solar system for lighting the poultry farm,. The farm has been doing especially well, thanks to the purchase of an incubator which has enabled the breeding of more quails. “We hope to populate the farm as quickly as possible. We have had some orders from persons who want to open their own farms so we will become suppliers. Some children have also visited our quail poultry as we encourage many children suffering from handicap to take the eggs. Their brothers and sisters wish to also see where such eggs come from. This is a very positive move as it serves as education to many children and families.” The photos below show children visiting the quail poultry. They are older sisters to some of our patients, who are curious to know where the eggs come from.



Sr Leonarda ends her report by saying “Your continued support to us gives us more hope than we can really say. I wish to thank BOAT who have accepted to sponsor us for another three years. This means the world to us and I really think we will experience very significant changes... May God bless and reward you all.”

*Lucy Carpenter*

## Ethiopia

### Zizencho and Arekit

BOAT’s support to the two schools run by the Bethany Sisters has continued this year through the Jean Grove Trust (<http://jeangrovetrust.org.uk>).

As in the rest of the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the Guraghe region, where the villages of Zizencho and Arekit are located. Fortunately, the effects of the pandemic have been less severe than in other regions, and the school reopened on 19th October with additional measures such as classes being shifted to mornings and afternoons, restricting each bench to two students, and using masks and hand sanitizer. Food was distributed to children during the holidays.

The Ethiopian Government has improved access to education significantly in the last 25 years, resulting in an increase from 23.4% literacy rate in 1994 to around 50% literacy in 2015 (still much lower than African and world averages). However, there are huge needs for education in a country with a population of 110 million of which 51% are below 19 years old. For example, access to pre-primary education tends to be limited to children in urban and wealthier regions, and thus national enrolment rates are around 46%. According to UNICEF, the primary school enrolment is 100%, but just over 85% and 55% of students complete Grades 5 and 8 respectively, and so around 2.5 million children of primary school age are out of school in the country.

This is why schools such as the ones in Zizencho and Arekit, located in a poor rural area, are so important for the provision of educational opportunities to around 1,150 children, from pre-school to Grade 8, in the region. The schools also provide a mid-day meal in the open air (*see photo*), often the only food of the day for some students, and access to basic medical help.

Sr Prashantha, who is the director of the school at Zizencho, and BOAT's contact in our Ethiopian Project, sends pictures and financial reports for both schools, and thanks BOAT for its help. She says: "Students here are also getting good results: this year



the school won 1st prize in the Wareda Quiz Competition (a Wareda is a third-level administrative division in Ethiopia)."

The Bethany Sisters also send periodic reports to BOAT and many more pictures than we can print in the Annual Report; they too send thanks in the name of the students and their families.

*René Bañares-Alcántara*

## India

### Allipalli, Andhra Pradesh

BOAT continues to support the Mission in Allipalli, in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It normally runs a medical project that aims to provide free eye tests, prescription glasses and cataract operations to local people. But the exceptional circumstances and associated restrictions of the pandemic made it impossible to run the eye-care project this year. It was deemed to be too high risk to have large groups of people, many of whom are elderly, congregate at the Mission for eye tests, even when restrictions were relaxed. BOAT, therefore, allowed the Mission to use our funds to cover its general costs as seemed most fit.

The Mission in Allipalli is surrounded by fifteen villages with a population of around 30,000-40,000 people, many of whom are subsistence farmers living in huts thatched with palm leaves above a bare earth floor. The average wage is barely enough to provide for one decent meal a day, mostly based on rice and vegetables. As a result, there are many orphaned children, or children abandoned by their relatives because they can no longer afford to take care of them. Most of these subsistence farmers and the children at the orphanage come from the lowest castes and live in conditions of great poverty with very limited life opportunities.

The Mission at the orphanage was set up in 1992 by Padre Maria. The orphanage itself currently provides shelter to over 500 children. The living conditions are spartan, but the children are given a refuge, nutrition and, as much as possible, an education. In addition, professional formation is offered to the older children. Those who show capacity and interest are supported through to university. The overarching Mission, however, goes further, providing free primary and secondary education to around 1,700 children and young adults from fifteen villages. In normal circumstances, the Mission also acts as a local reference point, offering medical help to the villagers and practical help for the poorest families, in the form of chickens and goats for eggs and meat and oxen to plough their fields.

The school and the orphanage were forced to close at the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown in India due to the strict restrictions that confined gatherings to family groups only. Children who were boarding were sent home to their villages. Those with nowhere to go were temporarily housed with families connected to the orphanage, with close assistance from the Mission.



Despite these hard circumstances, the Mission continued to support families with regular large food packages of food (*see photo*). The people were

more than grateful, as many were even more hungry than usual, often struggling to find a daily meal. The Mission also reached out to ex-students, now young adults in higher education or technical training in the cities, covering their rental fees and subsistence during the pandemic.

It was a relief and delight when, at the start of 2021, children under 15 were allowed to return to the Mission. All the school children received a Covid test before coming back (for once at the cost of the local authorities). The Mission itself was also able to offer Covid-19 tests to many of the most elderly and vulnerable of the local population. The picture shows a socially distanced lesson held outside.



However, with the latest intense Covid wave ripping through India at the moment, it is not clear what the future will hold for these children and their education. Most of the younger children have remained at the Mission, and it continues to support all of the families, whether the children are back at the Mission or not.

Fr Maria Raj and all associated with the Mission, especially the children, send their warmest thanks and prayers to all BOAT's supporters for the assistance shown in this most difficult of times. Please pray for Fr Maria who is slowly recovering from malaria. Please also pray for Fr Piero Paganesi who died of Covid last summer. He was a founder of the Allipalli Mission and Acting President of the organization *Operatori di Pace* in Bergamo, Italy, with whom BOAT runs this project. His presence is greatly missed.

*Domenico Caprotti*

## India

### Sugandh Society (New Delhi)

The motto of Sugandh, a charity located in New Delhi, is: "Lives transformed through empowerment and education." Its work focuses on children's education, vocational training and support for women setting up their own micro-businesses, medical and other emergency assistance,

and advocacy. A particular feature of Sugandh's work, which focuses on the poorest families in the slums of New Delhi in the Khadar and Holambi neighbourhoods, is to help women and children gain the training, advocacy skills, and confidence that will empower them and the communities in which they live.

Amongst Sugandh's most important projects are two child development centres in South Delhi that provide textbooks, lunches, uniforms, shoes, and other school supplies for 60 children who come from some of New Delhi's lowest-paid migrant families. In addition to supporting younger students, the centre provides targeted tuition for older children to help them pass state exams, including key exams that will allow the children to progress to higher levels of education.

Sugandh also organises a number of women's self-help groups, which currently have over 900 members. These groups help women set up small businesses, buy small plots of land, and receive training in a variety of crafts—for example, in sewing skills, which are currently being taught to nearly 40 women. Sugandh helps women as well to pool their savings efficiently through cooperatives. These in turn provide women with crucial capital to set up their own businesses or funds to pay for medical expenses and school tuition for their families. The self-help groups also provide a setting in which important information about sanitation, family health, and educational opportunities for children can be disseminated.



Another feature of Sugandh's work is to help individuals and entire families from poor communities advocate for access to critical services and entitlements, from clean drinking water and electricity to government-sponsored education and workers' benefits.

With Covid having a very negative impact on the communities served by Sugandh over the past year, the charity has branched out to provide emergency food rations for families in which the breadwinners have lost their jobs during the Covid lockdowns.



In 2020-21, BOAT supported Sugandh's work in a number of ways. The largest portion of the funds provided were used to pay the salaries of a teacher and a part-time cleaner at the children's education centre in the Khadar neighbourhood. The second largest spend was used to provide emergency relief (both rations and medical assistance) to local families in need. Funds from BOAT have also been used to maintain and repair key equipment (including computers and sewing machines) and to pay for vocational training in sewing for local women.

BOAT's long-standing and very generous support of Sugandh has allowed the charity to continue to offer successful programmes to the women and children living in some of New Delhi's poorest neighbourhoods.

*Geraldine A. Johnson*

## Myanmar

### Living Water Myanmar

BOAT continues to support the work of Living Water Myanmar (LWM), a charity founded by Rosemary Breen in 2011, to address the severe lack of drinking water in remote and impoverished villages in the Dry Zone of Central Myanmar. Local co-ordinator, Soya Toe, works with communities to assess which areas are most at risk from water insecurity and water shortages. Soya and his dedicated team, with help from local volunteers, then construct and install water tanks and piping systems, usually on school grounds or adjacent to health clinics.



Although the Covid pandemic has slowed the number of tanks built in 2020, BOAT funded two 5000 gallon tanks in Kyeeni and Magyeebinsu Villages and another two are under construction. These bring the total number of tanks built since the initiative began to 352. Costing approximately \$2000 each, the tanks collect rainwater during the monsoon season and in some cases water from boreholes. This ensures a stable source of water during the year, including during the prolonged dry season and has transformed the lives of local people. They no longer need to travel great distances to get fresh water. This in turn frees up time for other activities, such as building local schools, thus enabling more children, starting at a younger age, to receive an education.

To quote Rosemary's call to action: "Each time we have a drink of water, take a shower, flush the toilet, water the garden, turn on the washing machine or dishwasher, may we remember our brothers and sisters for whom clean water is a luxury, and may it remind us to share generously with them."



*Julie Lynch Bridson*

# Nicaragua

## Leon

Our project in Nicaragua takes place in the NECAT Learning Reinforcement Centre in the indigenous barrio of Guadalupe in the city of León. The Nicaragua Education Culture and Arts Trust is an Oxford-based charity supporting educational initiatives in Nicaragua through sponsorship of after-school clubs and other educational projects that operate through the medium of culture and the arts. The centre is run by qualified teachers and supported by Nicaraguan, UK, US and European volunteers. It acts as a model centre for extra-mural education. The children come along every weekday afternoon, and receive individual support with their schoolwork and other educational activities (such as painting or reading) for which there is no time or money in the school curriculum. The centre reaches out to other communities, and offers bursaries, nutrition and mobile library programmes. BOAT's grant supports a nutrition programme for the children from local primary schools, who come into the centre for the extra learning and something to eat.

Last year was complicated by the effects of Covid, in Nicaragua just as much as here. Many families became unemployed as a result of the factories closing. Schools closed too. Realizing that there were families who had no food to put on the table, it was decided to spend the extra funding on food parcels, in return for some help with cleaning the Centre. That worked really well and the families expressed their gratitude for the support. Between the light lunches and food parcels all the available funds got used.

As a precaution, they closed the centre, and then gradually reopened. Cautiously at first with fewer children and shorter hours, but increasing as time went on. Martin Roger, our Oxford contact, adds "I have been impressed at the way the teachers and parents and children have complied with mask wearing and additional Covid-related precautions (such as hand cleaning)."

Gioconda, our contact at the Leon end, takes up the story. "In 2020, thanks to funding from BOAT, we were able to ensure 34 children got some healthy food every day the centre was open. At the same time we were able to encourage healthy eating habits that improved their nutrition and promoted well being. A healthy diet is important for the proper functioning of the immune system and reduces the likelihood of other health problems, so we went to trouble to avoid junk foods. The children also learned hygiene practices and good manners in the dining room, as well as preparing their snack independently.



In many households the economic situation is so precarious that they can only manage one meal a day, so we were glad we could augment this. Many parents lost their jobs in the pandemic and the light meals the children received was a great support. In some cases we needed to repeat the snacks till the children were satisfied. A good side effect was that they learned to appreciate healthy food, as we always avoid sugary drinks and processed foods, and have devised a weekly menu that guarantees all the necessary nutrients for good development. Our meals include cereal, rice and beans, bread, tortillas, seasonal fruits such as oranges, bananas, papaya and watermelon, milk and dairy, eggs, olive oil, butter rations.

We also implemented a strategy of rigorous hygiene and food safety standards in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. The dining space was rearranged to minimize contact between children when they were eating, using the following protocol:

- Before handling food, wash your hands with plenty of soap and water.
- Wear your mask when preparing your food.
- Clean and disinfect utensils before and after use.
- Only two children at a time at the counter.”

Nicaragua, with its chain of volcanoes, is already reeling under the climate crisis: the changed pattern of El Niño has brought more frequent and intense floods, landslides, drought, and higher tides, and with them, the degradation of the economic, social and natural bases of the country. The pandemic has added a new dimension to these problems, and we at BOAT are glad we can do something, however small, to bring some relief.

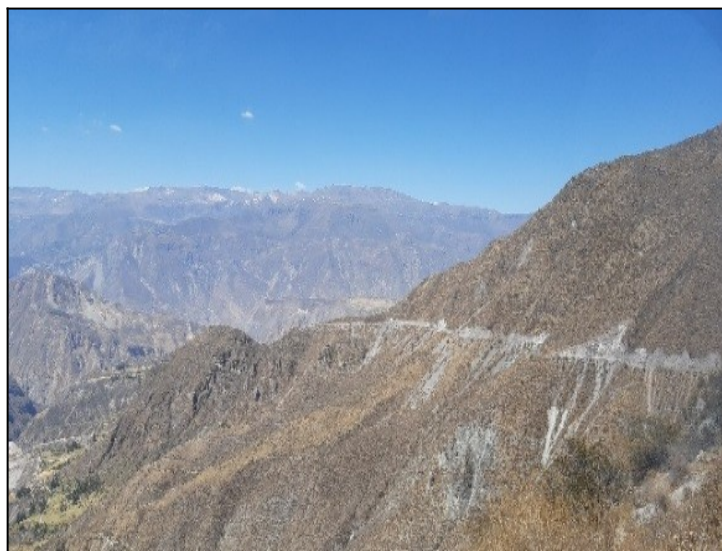
## **Ag MacKeith**

## **Peru**

### **Lima and Ayacucho**

Fr Ed O’Connell has kept us in touch throughout the year with the challenges that the pandemic has brought to the children and families the Warmi Huasi project supports in the San Benito township in Lima, and in the towns of Lampa and Pausa in the mountainous Ayacucho province of Peru.

BOAT has been supporting the work of Warmi Huasi for many years. It provides a safe space for children to learn and flourish in these very impoverished communities, as well as encouraging the children to play an active part in the political process in their local communities, to help shape their future. The picture shows the terrain – majestic but terrifying – in which Warmi Huasi operates.



Sending us his “Report from Peru” in January this year, Fr Ed wrote:

“The latest statistics of the effect of the pandemic on families are: family incomes dropped by 60% in Lima. Poverty is back up, 30% nationally, to ten million people, with families with children and adolescents worst hit. Over 1,200,000 children and adolescents in poverty with high levels of malnutrition and anaemia. It has also brought a desertion from school.

I accompany Manuel Duato Special Needs School, a Columban project. The teachers have been in “virtual” contact since March last year with the parents, and through them with nearly 400 children. During 2020 the attendance in these virtual sessions by the parents was outstanding, with better

percentages than most primary schools. The teachers are exhausted and worried. The latest update from the social worker was that numbers are up again: The overall Manuel Duato figures: 13 students, of 395, have had Covid19: two are in treatment, one relapsed and critical and ten recovered. Of the students' families: 81 members have had Covid19: 8 parents are in treatment, four parents have relapsed and 69 family members have recovered but also added to these figures, sadly, three fathers and 28 other relatives have died.

Of the 75 staff: 19 teachers have had Covid19: four teachers are in treatment, two teachers have relapsed and 13 teachers have recovered. Of their family members, 48 have had Covid19: 11 are in treatment, 15 have recovered but sadly 22 family members have died: two mothers, one father and 19 other relatives: brothers, sisters, grandparents, in-laws, nephews and nieces.

We have helped 44 families on four occasions with amounts around £25 each time and at Christmas we gave £50. Again we gave larger amounts to eight families who either have a special needs child with Covid19 or are families with a member or more with Covid19 or other serious illness, all were and are in dire financial difficulties.

The Warmi Huasi project accompanies children at risk in both San Benito, in the Lima districts of Carabayllo and San Martin de Porres, and in the Province of Paucar de Sara, high up in the Andes mountains in the department of Ayacucho. In 2020, our Warmi Huasi teams were in constant touch with the parents, teachers and municipal officials about the welfare of the children. We have given out all the books from the reading clubs so that the children have the books to read at home. We also have radio programmes with the children in Ayacucho, with bio-security advice and telling stories and getting them to send in their stories. From January to March this coming year, 2021, we have arranged for teachers to be in touch, virtually, and on some limited occasions in real life, with the children of the primary school in Lampa, to help those who have dropped behind, hoping to save their school year 2020.

In San Benito, the mothers ran the five communal kitchens throughout 2020, taking a two week break around Christmas / New Year. Now they are up and running again. The figures at the end of November: 223 families helped, with an average of five persons per family, means a total of 1,115 people receive a meal each day, including social cases. We have been helping each communal kitchen with the purchase of foodstocks, especially vegetables, some chicken or fish, and bio-security equipment. There was a special



meal for all the children, adolescents and senior citizens just before Christmas, about 800 children and adolescents, and with some senior citizens, in the different communal kitchens. The photo shows a Christmas celebration in happier times, 2019, with Brother Ed in the centre. Thanks to those in Ireland, England, United States, Australia and New Zealand who support the “family solidarity program” here.

Even though people were told not to, they let off fireworks on New Year's Eve! That tells me they have not given up, they are going to carry on the struggle for the sake of their families, even though the vaccine is a long way off yet.”

We know we are privileged to be able to help the children and families of Warmi Huasi.

*Helen Ghosh*

# Philippines

## Midsalip, Missionary Sisters of St Columban

For over 25 years, BOAT has supported the Subaanen Mission in Midsalip, under the inspirational leadership of Sister Kathleen Melia of The Sisters of St. Columban. After 44 years in The Philippines, and 37 years in Midsalip, Sister Kathleen retired to Ireland this year, handing the administration of the Mission to Sister Winnie Apao. Sister Winnie, who is originally from Mindanao, spent two earlier years living in Midsalip before working for many years among the Kachin people in Northern Myanmar.

Despite the Covid pandemic and government-imposed lockdown restrictions, the Mission continued to assist the indigenous Subaanen people of Midsalip to access education. Specifically, with BOAT funding, the Mission supported 200 pre-school students, 82 elementary school students and 23 high school students, including three grade 12 students who successfully passed their government exams in cookery before lockdown began in April. Although face-to-face teaching in large groups was prohibited, pre-school teachers found creative ways to meet students in small groups. Teachers also made home visits, despite the logistical challenges of distance and the dangers of the rainy season, when roads were blocked by mountain landslides and overflowing rivers. The Mission also continued to provide teaching and staff training throughout the year.

Sister Kathleen reported that, although the government provided some food and financial assistance to the most vulnerable families impacted by Covid, food remained scarce throughout the year due to a prolonged dry spell which delayed the harvest of corn and rice. In response, the Mission distributed rice to 57 families during the year. What's more, with the assistance of two BOAT scholars who stayed in the Mission throughout lockdown and provided assistance to Benjie, the agriculturist responsible for the nursery, the Mission distributed more than



500 saplings to the families of their students. The saplings – which were planted by the families in their local villages and on river beds – will eventually provide additional food sources. The Mission also held a celebratory Christmas lunch for students in Grade 4 and above, to which everybody came, despite, in some cases, having to travel over three hours. Small Christmas parcels were distributed to all students.

Sister Kathleen (*seen with staff in the photo*), whose retirement was delayed due to travel restrictions during the pandemic, writes “As I go through the files and photos in this extra time in Midsalip with which I have been gifted, I thank God for the place and for all of you in BOAT for your support and prayers. I pray that you experience the Risen Lord in the love and beauty and wonder which surround us.” On behalf of BOAT, we wish Sister Kathleen every happiness in her well-earned



retirement and we look forward to witnessing her transformational legacy continuing under Sister Winnie’s leadership. It has been our honour and privilege to have helped the vision, begun by Sister Kathleen and others so many years ago, to materialize into the Mission as it is today, providing hope and dignity and enhancing the lives of so many Subaanen people.

*Julie Lynch Bridson*

## Sierra Leone

### Koindu

2020/21 is the third year in which BOAT has supported the Smile With Us Orphanage in the north-east of Sierra Leone. Founded and run by Mary Sesay, the orphanage takes in local children. Historically, many of the children’s parents would have died from AIDS and the orphans would be unable to find support from family or other sectors of the community because of the stigma attached to their parents’ illness. Although this is still the case, the orphanage also takes many children who have been abandoned for other reasons, or are subject to abuse in their domestic settings. The children’s two greatest needs at the orphanage are food and water. However, the orphanage is in fact the children’s ‘whole world’, a place where they receive their academic education as well as other more practical education.



Sierra Leone is a desperately poor country, and abandoned or orphaned children are among the most vulnerable groups in that country. The Orphanage struggles on a daily basis to provide the basics for the children who live there, such as food and medicine. Our money makes a huge difference to their lives.

In 2020, our money built a dining room for the Orphanage. We were sent photographs throughout the construction process. We are happy to say that it has been a success. We were also able to complete the well. This was started two years ago in 2018/19, although for various technical reasons completion did not happen until 2020. This year’s donation will go towards furniture for the dining room.

BOAT communicates with the Orphanage via a WhatsApp group, and we receive information particularly from Kabba, Tamba and Tim, the social workers involved with the Orphanage (*see photo*). We have agreed this year to give the social workers a small remittance as they do an



awful lot of unpaid work for the orphanage, and their wages (from the Sierra Leone government) are both very meagre and paid only intermittently – they can go for months without pay. Yet, without their support, the orphanage would be in a very precarious position. Here are some of the things they do: they visit the orphanage regularly, bringing food and clothing supplies for the children; they supervise building works, as well as hiring workers and obtaining quotes; they accompany Mary Sesay to pick up abandoned or abused children; they offer a huge amount of personal support and mentoring for the children; they also support the children in their studies and examinations, and run workshops. Their help is invaluable.

Our UK link to the Smile With Us Orphanage is Penny Boreham, a producer, presenter and writer, who works for the BBC World Service. Penny has long-standing links with Sierra Leone and knows the Orphanage well.

*Jenifer Dye*

## Uganda

### Cancer Trust

Our donation to our friends in Uganda continues to provide for Liz Nabirye, the Information Nurse at Makerere/Mulago Palliative Care Unit (MMPCU). This year of course MMPCU's work has been further challenged by the Covid pandemic which Liz reminds us is very difficult for ordinary people: transport costs have doubled because of restrictions on numbers of passengers, jobs have been lost and many people are struggling just to get enough food, let alone pay for medical treatment. Need for support continues to be vital.

Liz sent her personal thanks to BOAT at the turn of the year which is provided below. In highlighting the challenges of patients struggling to understand what they are facing in terms of cancer care we can see how our support adds real value.

'I am Liz Nabirye a palliative care clinician for the last 20 years now and I am part of the specialist palliative care team of the Makerere/Mulago Palliative Care Unit working in Mulago National Referral Hospital and Uganda Cancer Institute. We are frequently consulted to review palliative care patients with complex palliative care needs since the majority of patients present with advanced disease associated with a lot of symptom burden and other distresses, when palliative care is the only option left to improve the quality of their lives. Some patients are seen by the generalist practitioners that we have trained as the unit promotes an integrated palliative care approach. (*The photo shows her with Mike and Liz Minton, our contacts in England.*)



*The photo shows her with Mike and Liz Minton, our contacts in England.)*

I am involved in providing comprehensive and compassionate end-of-life care among other things and this includes conveying information to patients and families. I collaborate with other members of the health care team to ensure optimal symptom management and to provide support for the patient and family. This involves establishing goals of care for the patient and providing a framework for discussion about what care should be provided. This process often involves collaboration with experts in decision-making, and involving the families as much as possible which is highly appreciated by families, and I personally find it rewarding.

A caregiver, had this to say after a family conference: “Thank very much for finding time to talk to us, we have been here for two months but no one explained to us what was going on, we brought him(patient) when he was a bit strong but he has continued to deteriorate while on the ward. We have spent all we had including his property thinking we could save his life... I wish we had met you earlier!!! We now have good understanding and I wish all families could be given this information as part of the care, we know doctors are not gods and they are not responsible for our patients’ worsening condition, but we always need to be involved and given information to be able to make appropriate decisions.”

Liz adds, “I would like to thank for your financial contribution towards my salary for another two years and I must say that your support helps us continue in our mission and to assist those in need. The generous support of individuals like you makes it possible for our organization to exist and to make a difference in humanity amidst their challenging circumstances. The main concern of caring for patients with advanced cancer and other chronic and life limiting illness is to fulfil the physical, psychological, social, spiritual and information needs to reduce the patient's suffering with the aim of improving the quality of life for them and their loved ones. It takes courage, passion and dedication to fulfil the complex needs for these patients in a resource-limited setting, and it is a unique experience and opportunity to do that. Once again, thank you for your kind and generous support and enabling me to do that. God bless you abundantly.”

*Nicolette Michels*

## **Uganda**

### **Church of Christ the King, Butema Parish, Hoima**

In a difficult year for the world economy, the economies of poorer, less industrialized countries like Uganda, where over 80% of the population live in rural areas and 71% work in agriculture, have been severely affected. Father Sebastian reports that poor transport and communications have made it especially difficult for those in rural areas like Hoima to have access to food and essential supplies.

Uganda has been fortunate in having relatively few infections and deaths from coronavirus. Until now our projects have made progress despite all difficulties. Father Sebastian reports that he was able to purchase building materials like cement, sand, metal windows and paint despite the lockdown in March and April. Construction work on the new classroom for St Bruno primary school continued with plastering in April. Windows and doors were fitted between June and September, and painting was carried out in October. The usual problems were aggravated during the year because few hardware shops remained open during the pandemic and the cost of building materials increased greatly. The price of labour and transport also rose during lockdown and remained high afterwards.

Father Sebastian writes that the Christian community here is very poor and the people go to the parish priest for help whenever there are problems. They look to him for health care as well as education, and even come for financial help in times of crisis like the pandemic, although priests in Uganda have a small stipend and little money to spare. Like all churches, the parish church in Butema was closed from March during lockdown. It opened from September for a smaller socially distanced congregation of about seventy. They are all waiting and praying for the distribution of the vaccines to prevent any further spread of coronavirus.

### **Convent of the Little Sisters of Mary, Karungu, Kigumba**

Sister Clemensia writes from the convent in Karungu to thank BOAT's generous donors and assure us of their grateful prayers. Despite all the problems of the pandemic she was able to purchase cement and sand in April, since the hardware shop remained open, and to pay the workers on the project to renovate the floor of the Infant Jesus Nursery School. The work was partially completed this year, but came to a halt in October. The project will start again in 2021 with the arrival of next year's grant.

As usual Sister Clemensia bought in maize, beans and cassava to feed the children at school and to help poor families. Schools were closed when the Lockdown began in March, and did not reopen until June, so the children needed to be supported at home in their families. There was an increase in all food prices. Since the children were no longer being fed at school, many poor families came to the convent community for food. Food was still scarce and expensive when schools reopened, so help for the families continued, while the need for masks, sanitizer and as much soap as possible led inevitably to further expense.

### **Kirala Catholic Women's Association, Kirala, Kagadi**

An appeal for urgent help from this remote village was answered by Fr Sebastian and Sr Clemensia. Food shortages and high prices meant people were starving in Kirala, and there was no money to buy protection against the corona virus. The priority for the Women's Association was maize and beans for their poorest families, but they also bought soap in quantity (*photo shows soap distribution*) and made everyone aware of the need for frequent hand-washing. They were also able to provide hand sanitizer and masks. The chairwoman of the Association, Jane Bigambo, writes via Fr Sebastian of their relief and gratitude to BOAT and assures us of their constant prayers. Kirala, which lacks amenities and income, has been helped in the past by one-off donations from BOAT, which were used to buy mosquito nets and a maize mill for the village.



*Rosaleen Ockenden*

# Zimbabwe

## African Mission

African Mission is a small London-based charity, which works in Uganda and Zimbabwe. Initially it revolved around the work of Dr Ray Towey, a consultant anaesthetist who for many years had been involved in training local African staff and raising funds for equipment and facilities. More recently it expanded into education.

BOAT made its first donation in 2011, and since then has helped fund a number of schools at Fatima Mission, a large Franciscan run compound 130 miles north of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe.

BOAT recent donations have been directed towards a residential scheme for 22 disabled children, which offers education and training to nineteen blind, deaf or mute young Zimbabweans. Without African Mission they would face a very bleak future in a country that remains one of the poorest in the world.

The residents live in the Mission during term time attending a nearby school which offers a curriculum specifically designed for blind and mute children. As well as their academic work, the residents learn to live in a small supportive community and are taught the life skills that will enable to cope better with their disabilities in the future.

Recently Fr Jeya, the priest in charge of Fatima, began raising money for a new building which would contain a dining room which doubles as a sports room and three smaller rooms: a library, a music room and a computer room. The main building work is now complete, and a recent one-off donation has been sent by BOAT to cover the cost of furniture and equipment.



Like so many other parts of Africa, Zimbabwe has been hit hard by Covid and for several months the school had to close. It has now re-opened and welcomed the disabled children back to their new improved base. BOAT's help considerably improves their life chances in country where decent disabled facilities are sadly uncommon.

*Mick Conefrey*

## **Boat Christmas Cards**

We have, like everyone else, been challenged this last year in our card production and sales. However, three of us continued to meet to sort and cut the cards we had received for recycling and to transform them into new ones. We met socially distanced in each other's gardens or well-ventilated kitchens. This year it was impossible to ask for 'home workers' to help with the recycling (although some might have welcomed the soothing pastime). In the autumn we rescued any unsold Christmas cards from Blackfriars Lodge to add to those we had already made, and sorted them at Ag's house. We advertised them in the 9.30 congregation newsletter with BOAT news. To maximise our sales we put some out for sale at Sandford's community Talking Shop, where 28 packs were sold along with 20 packs (so far) of greetings cards. The parish priest in Thame agreed to Christmas cards being sold at St Joseph's church in Thame, and about 65 packs were sold there. We are exploring selling greetings cards at St Joseph's as well. Some packs were collected from our Botley store by members of the congregation and Mick Conefrey and others gamely delivered some by bike. So despite everything we did rather well, and raised a total of £1,322, although some of that was carried over from the previous year.

*Gill Emerson, Ag MacKeith and Ros Shiffner*

## **2020 Lenten Projects**

Events beyond our control had made it impossible to send last year's money to Manila as planned, although £100 did get through to the Sisters there for their good work among the desperately poor. Instead, the sum of £1,900 was redirected to BOAT's existing project in the Philippines, run by the Columban Sisters in Midsalip.

As for the Lenten Appeal 2020: it was decided that any monies raised would be shared among all our projects (as our finances were very constrained at that stage and it was felt that we should focus on BOAT's existing projects – furthermore, the Covid-19 situation was just kicking off and we were about to learn how to engage with others via screens!).

*Anna Lucas*

## Reserves policy and risk management

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £5,000. This was a decision made by the Trustees at a meeting in April 2002, and it remains their policy. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies, but at the same time ensures that grants are made to beneficiaries without undue delay.

### Risk Management

In the light of the Trustees' desire to keep reserves at the relatively small level of £5,000, any surplus cash is held on a bank deposit until needed. The Trustees monitor the level of cash held and would review this policy if the levels of cash held were to increase significantly.

### Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed or explained in the financial statements; and
4. Prepare financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

*Signed: Anna Lucas*

Chair

for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT

January 2021

## **Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2020**

It is with great pleasure that I can again report that BOAT is a vibrant charity with enviably low costs which sends money rapidly to many projects in the developing world in aid of health, education and development.

The year 2020 has been the year of Covid. Mass has been suspended and with it our connection to the rest of the parish became more challenged. However I am pleased to say that we continued to engage through quizzes and on-line coffee, and more importantly, we were able to continue to support the needy projects we send funds to around the world.

During 2020 we received a very substantial extra donation, which has allowed us to increase the grant that we give as a standard donation up from £2,500 to £3,500 per project. This increase is hugely valuable to the projects we support. I am grateful to this donor, as to all of our donors for their continued support.

The passion many of our supporters have for our projects is evident in a number of our donors asking to send one-off extra sums to our projects to boost even more the funds that they receive. In 2020 this happy event added extra funds for two of the three Uganda projects, for the education project in Sierra Leone and also for the water tanks in Myanmar.

It is worth noting that card sales are back in the accounts in spectacular style (£1,322 versus £254 last year). But in truth card sales have been a constant welcome presence throughout. Their irregular appearance in the accounts is purely caused by randomness in the specific date after Christmas that the funds are deposited in the bank.

We remain ever thankful for all of our donors, without whose generosity none of the projects or good works could be supported. You have read about these earlier in this report.

*Signed:* **John Thanassoulis**

BOAT Treasurer

February 2021.

### **Further Reference and Administrative Information**

BOAT address: Blackfriars Priory, 64 St, Giles, Oxford. OX1 3LY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Carfax, Oxford. OX1 4AA

Charity Number: 288585

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust ("the Charity")

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 December 2020 which are set out on the following pages 25 to 30

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ◆ Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- ◆ Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- ◆ State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  5. proper accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
  6. accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act: or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Signed:* **Adam Hodgkin**

February 2021

# Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations	67,066	6,020	73,086	40,595
Events and Sales	2,403	-	2,403	2,165
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	69,470	6,020	75,489	42,759
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Fundraising	-	-	-	249
Charitable Activities	46,653	10,367	57,020	46,275
Governance Costs	210	-	210	195
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	46,863	10,367	57,230	46,719
<b>NET RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming/Outgoing</b>	22,607	(4,347)	18,260	(3,960)
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	7,789	4,862	12,651	16,610
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	£30,396	£515	£30,911	£12,651

*(£1,000 donated in 2019 reassigned to Restricted by Donor)*

The notes on pages 27 to 30 form part of these accounts.

## Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

### Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Lloyds Bank	30,911	12,651
	30,911	12,651
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		
	30,911	12,651
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£30,911</b>	<b>£12,651</b>

#### The Funds of the Charity:

Restricted Income Funds	515	4,865
Unrestricted Income Funds	30,396	7,789
	30,396	7,789
	<b>£30,911</b>	<b>£12,651</b>

*Approved by the Executive Committee on 20th January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:*

Anna Lucas

Chair

# Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### General

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in 2005.

### Income

- (1) Donations and grants are included in the accounts when they are received.
- (2) Interest income is included in the accounts when it is received.
- (3) Tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid donations is included in the accounts when it is received.

### Expenditure

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure is included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

### Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received for the objects of the charity without a specified purpose and are available as general funds. From time to time the Trustees may establish Designated Funds out of the Unrestricted Funds to meet contingencies.

### Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

## 2 DONATIONS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	62,621	18,619
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	1,000	3,065
Other Donations (unrestricted)	6,848	5,485
Other Donations (restricted)	5,020	8,357
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	-	7,261
	<b>£75,489</b>	<b>£42,759</b>

### 3 EVENTS AND SALES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Harvest Auction	651	395
Christmas Café	-	523
Card Sales	1,322	254
Summer Café	-	242
Spring Café	-	291
Pub Quiz	420	-
BLEAT, Children's Café	-	460
	<b>£2,403</b>	<b>£2,165</b>

### 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

#### Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects

	2020	2019
	£	
Nicaragua, Leon	3,500	2,500
Pakistan, WIS	-	1,250
Uganda Cancer UK	3,500	2,500
Uganda Fr Sebastian	3,500	2,500
Cameroon Arch	3,500	2,500
Ethiopia Jean Grove Trust	3,500	2,500
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	3,500	2,500
Philippines, Columban Sisters	2,153	2,500
Zimbabwe, African Mission, Dungu	3,500	2,500
Peru, San Benito, Bro Ed O'Connell	2,500	2,500
India Sugandh	3,500	2,500
India, Operatori di Pace	3,500	2,500
Grenada Grand Anse, Primary School	-	2,500

Myanmar Living Water	3,500	2,500
Brazil, St. Paolo	3,500	-
Solomon Isles	-	2,500
Darjeeling Emergency	1,000	-
Sierra Leone	3,500	-
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£46,653</b>	<b>£37,250</b>

<b>Grants from Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Kenya Education	1,000	1,160
San Benito, Peru	-	460
Myanmar, Living Water	3,020	2,905
India, Operatori di Pace	-	4,500
Philippines, Columban Sisters	3,347	-
Sierra Leone	2,000	-
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	500	-
Uganda Fr Sebastian	500	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£57,020</b>	<b>£46,275</b>

## 5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Cost of Printing the Annual Report	-	£249

## GOVERNANCE

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Bank Charges	£210	£195

## 7 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any member of the committee or to any person known to be connected with any of them.

## 8 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at January 1*	4,862	1,465
Incoming Resources	6,020	11,422
Expenditure	(10,367)	(9,025)
Balance at 31 December 2020	<b>£515</b>	<b>£3,862</b>

\* Donor reassigned prior donation as restricted

## 9 GENERAL FUNDS

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at January 1*	7,789	15,145
Incoming Resources	69,470	31,338
Expenditure	(46,863)	(37,694)
Balance at December 31	<b>£30,396</b>	<b>£8,789</b>
Represented by:		
Current Assets	<b>£30,910</b>	<b>£12,651</b>

# Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT)

Registered Charity No. 288585

**A Standing Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled by you at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so that we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.**

## HOW TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER

1. With most banks and building societies, you can set up a Standing Order online or by phone.
2. Alternatively, you can go into your bank to complete a Standing Order form. You'll need the BOAT account number and sort code (as well as some personal identification).

**Beneficiary Name: Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

**Beneficiary Account Number: 00087533**

**Beneficiary Sort Code: 30-96-35**

**Beneficiary's Bank: Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Street, Oxford OX1 4AA.**

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## GIFT AID DECLARATION (FOR REGULAR OR ONE-OFF DONATIONS)

**Boost your donation to BOAT by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.**  
*giftaid it*

Just tick this box  Yes! I would like to Gift Aid this donation and any other BOAT donations I have made in the past 4 years or may make in the future. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

## PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Title: ..... First name(s): ..... Surname: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

### Please notify BOAT if you

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Signature..... Date .....**

**Please return to:** The Gift Aid Treasurer, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge, Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY. Or email it to: [boatblackfriars@gmail.com](mailto:boatblackfriars@gmail.com)

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**PLEASE TICK THE BOX IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO FOR US TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT BOAT'S ACTIVITIES**

Please see the BOAT website at [tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford) for an explanation of why and how we use your data, and your rights in respect of that data.

**Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust**

Registered Charity No. 288585

**c/o Blackfriars Priory**

**64 St Giles**

**Oxford OX1 3LY**

[tinyurl.com/BOATOxford](http://tinyurl.com/BOATOxford)