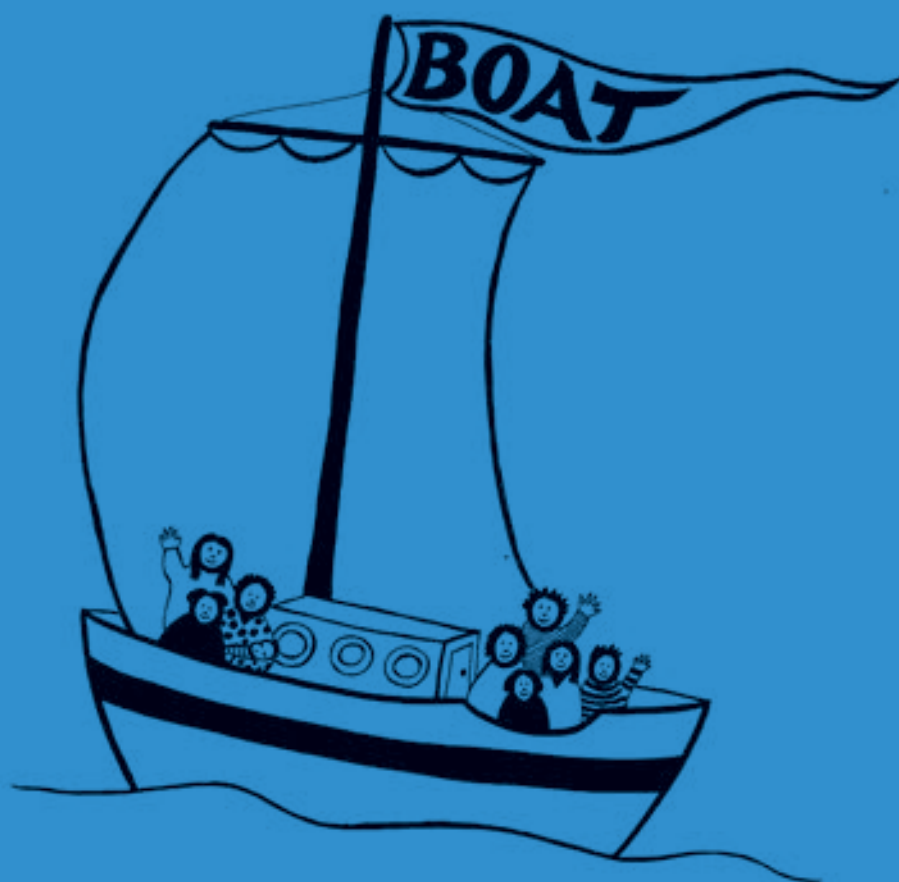


BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

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

BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

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

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
	£3,750	£2,659

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

Cameroon Arch	4,075	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	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	6,050	2,500
Amantani, Peru	4,000	4,000
Iquitos Fr Miguel, Peru	4,000	4,000
SUB-TOTAL	£86,945	£74,500

Grants from Restricted Funds

	2023	2022
Kenya Education	-	1,000
Lenten Appeal	8,576	5,000
Myanmar Living Water	-	1,455
Operatori di Pace		1,500
Sierra Leone	450	-
TOTAL	£95,971	£83,455

5 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Costs of Printing the Annual Report	358	222
	£358	£222

6 GOVERNANCE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank Charges	225	255
	£225	£255

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)
Balance at December 31	£0	£450

9 GENERAL FUNDS

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

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.**

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

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 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