

## **THE INDIA VILLAGE PROJECT**

**REGISTERED CHARITY SC039667**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**For the Session ending June 2014**

The trustees submit their report together with accounts for the session ending June 2014

#### **Objectives**

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

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

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

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

Groups of staff and pupils travelled to India in the summer of 2013, from St John's High School and also from St Paul's Academy, where they visited all four of the areas where the Project has an input. Funds were taken over to purchase computer equipment, sports equipment, a photocopier and stationery to support the educational areas of the project and to continue the improvement of the village.

#### **Other Information.**

During the course of the year the funds were transferred directly to the projects in India by Direct Bank transfer. India is not a party to the IBAN system, so transfers will continue to be made directly to the two nominated bank accounts in Trichy administered by the Marist Brothers, one for the provision of funds for school projects, and the other one for Operation Rainbow.

We sent out £1,000 to cover the costs of building a new kitchen, in one of the schools and £3,500 was transferred to the account for the school fees for the children on Operation Rainbow.

We have been asked to consider helping to build Toilets in the building which currently houses Operation Rainbow.

We are currently planning to bring over two members of staff from Trichy to visit us in the near future.

The membership of the board of Trustees continues to be as follows: Brother Robert Welsh (Douglas), (Secretary), and Tony McLean, (Treasurer), Fiona McLagan, Charlotte Jones, Charlotte McLachlan, and Frances McLachlan.

Fiona McLagan and Charlotte Jones have also become signatories to the India Village Project Bank Account, in the Bank of Scotland. Any two of the four signatories can authorise payments.

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

June 2014