



St Lazarus Charitable Trust Newsletter

No. 8: Spring 2023

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From the Chairman

It is with excitement that I write this, my first contribution as Chair to the St Lazarus Charitable Trust newsletter. Our latest news is that the Grand Prior's World Lazarus Day Appeal in aid of the Leprosy Trust's "Dare to Dream" programme in Ethiopia raised a total of £24,000, far ahead of our original appeal target. The generosity of our Members and associates has been impressive for this cause alone.

This newsletter has examples of other heart-warming projects which our Order has been able to support. We have an update on last year's WLD Appeal, through which we provided a mobile x-ray machine to Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital in Nepal. And while our work to eradicate leprosy and relieve the suffering of its victims forms the core of our mission as a charity, we are able to help our Members with their work to support other charitable aims.

The Trust is pleased to be able to facilitate the work the Commandery of Wales does through its medical elective programme. Of course, there are equally charitable activities where the Trust cannot lend a hand - such as the gifts of socks made by King Offa to Emmanuel House which you can read about here! Where funding is involved, though, the ring-fenced accounts we run for each Commandery are an easy way of making sure that the maximum benefit is claimed and passed on through Gift Aid.

Our intention here is to spread the good news of the good work the Order does and reflect back the Hospitaller spirit which I know inspires us all. I hope you enjoy our newsletter and look forward to working with you all on future projects.

Atavis et Armis

Roger Hirst KLJ CMLJ

Chair of St Lazarus Charitable Trust

World Leprosy Day projects

World Leprosy Day 2022 Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, Nepal

We are pleased to report that the portable X-ray machine funded through the Nepal Leprosy Trust by the proceeds of our 2022 World Leprosy Day appeal has finally arrived, after many delays, at the Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital in Nepal.

Sue Wells (Trustee Nepal Leprosy Trust UK) has sent us the following report from the hospital:



“This new addition to our medical equipment is already making a significant impact on the quality of healthcare we are able to provide to our patients, particularly those with disabilities, requiring emergency care, or undergoing surgical procedures.

The mobile feature of the X-ray machine has made it easy for us to perform X-rays on patients who cannot be easily moved or transported to a separate radiology department, enabling us to provide faster and more efficient care. This has also helped to reduce the risk of infection transmission, as patients are not required to

leave their designated treatment areas. The acquisition of this state-of-the-art equipment has enhanced our ability to diagnose and treat patients more accurately, providing a vital service to our community.

Frustratingly, there was a significant delay in receiving the machine due to new regulations introduced by the Health Ministry of Nepal for importing such radiation-generating machines. However, after several weeks of bureaucratic hurdles, we were finally able to receive the machine, and we are now excited to put it to use.

The machine is easy to operate and produces high-quality images. We are excited to have this machine in our hospital and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our patients' lives.

We once again express our heartfelt thanks to St Lazarus Charitable Trust for their support and generosity. The donation of this mobile X-ray machine will go a long way in helping us provide better care to our patients. We hope to continue our partnership with your organization in the future and work together towards a healthier and blessed community.”

“Thank you!”

The first client who underwent an X-ray using the machine was a 26-year-old male leprosy patient, who was admitted to the ward with pain and swelling in his right ankle. His X-ray was taken, and it was confirmed that there were no bone issues involved.



World Leprosy Day projects

World Leprosy Day 2023 Dare to Dream: Zero Leprosy in Ethiopia

The Grand Prior's World Leprosy Day appeal

Our World Leprosy Day 2023 fund-raising project, *Dare to Dream: Zero Leprosy in Ethiopia*, has just closed.

We set ourselves the target of raising £10,000 across the eleven Commanderies of the Grand Priory of England and Wales, in the period from January to April 2023, in support of this initiative of The Leprosy Mission, which focusses particularly on women and children in one of the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa most impacted by new cases of leprosy.

We are delighted to learn that through the generosity of members and friends, we have far exceeded our target figure. Indeed, we have been able to send a grand total of £24,000 to the *Dare to Dream* project to support this work.



Dare to Dream

Ethiopia has the second-highest rate of new leprosy cases in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2021, there were over 2,500 new cases, of which 288 were children. Many newly-diagnosed people, especially women, have physical disabilities because they were not diagnosed early enough. These disabilities, which include ulcers, can be permanent.

Dare to Dream sets out to address these concerns by introducing a new model to prevent leprosy transmission, and training and equipping healthcare workers to diagnose, treat and refer patients to specialist services. A key part of the project is the use of Leukocyte-Platelet Rich Fibrin (L-PRF) Treatment to treat ulcers in leprosy patients – tests have shown a dramatic improvement in healing times when this treatment is used.

Our aim was to fund the purchase of two L-PRF centrifuge machines (£6,000) and to support the development of tele-consultations across Ethiopia (£4,000). The generosity of members means that we can do even more to support this ground-breaking project.

TLM UK's CEO, Peter Waddup, tells us that staff training in Ethiopia on the use of L-PRF will now begin in September 2023.

He writes:

“Thank you for your faithful, loyal support of people affected by leprosy. With this kind gift, you will literally transform the lives of hundreds of people affected by leprosy who are suffering from long-term, debilitating ulcers.”

Medical Student Elective Bursaries

The Commander of Wales and Bailiff-Elect of England & Wales, Chev. Dr. David Woolf, looks at the benefits of the Commandery's student medical elective programme.

Since 2016 the Commandery of Wales has awarded an annual bursary of £1500 to help fund a final year medical student's elective studies. The 'elective' is very much part of medical student folklore. Part way through the final year of medical school an excursion is planned, often abroad, to experience the praxis of medicine in a different environment from that in which the student has been trained. It is a valuable experience for the student as they are about to embark on their career in full time medicine.

To date the Commandery has funded seven students on this programme. Electives were suspended during the year of the Covid-19 pandemic, so the bursary awarding panel directed the funds that year to help fund a paediatric emergency medicine education programme for the staff of the Great Western Air Ambulance.

Each summer the Commandery issues an invitation via the Cardiff University Medical School and the Cardiff University Chaplaincies for students to apply for the elective bursary.

The applicants must be practising Christians. The application, which contains details of their intended study programme, must be supported by a reference from their priest/minister of religion. After initial sifting by the Bursary Panel, candidates are invited to attend a fifteen minute interview.



A elective student meets patients in a leprosy clinic

Originally this was face-to-face, but for the past few years it was found that it was more sustainable in terms of panel and candidate travel time and cost to host the interview by Zoom/Teams. On paper the Bursary Panel, comprising of a Tribunal Judge, a Government Lawyer, a Consultant Ophthalmologist, a retired Consultant Paediatrician, an A&E doctor and a retired Deputy Headmaster, might appear somewhat daunting. However, the panel is highly skilled at teasing the best out of each candidate. Their collective experience also ensures that due diligence of each proposal is undertaken.

When a successful candidate has been identified they are presented with a cheque for £1500 from the Commandery ring fenced account held at the St Lazarus Charitable Trust. The Gift Aid derived from charitable donations from the Commandery throughout the year helps fund the elective bursary. One of the conditions of the receipt of the bursary is that the candidate signs an undertaking to send a weekly progress report to the Commander whilst they are on their elective. That report is posted to all members of the Commandery so that they in turn can see how their bursary award has benefited the student. Such feedback is essential for effective fundraising.

In recent years, following a donation from the family of the founding Commander of Wales, the late His Excellency the Major Huw Bartle-Jones GCLJ, the annual elective bursary has been named the 'Huw Bartle-Jones Memorial Bursary'. This is a fitting memorial to one who established the Order in Wales that in turn has developed a wide variety of hospitaller work.

You can read the personal stories of past elective students on our website at [Student electives | St Lazarus Charitable Trust](#)

Supporting the local community

King Offa in action

As well as participating in national appeals, King Offa Commandery has been supporting Emmanuel House in Nottingham. It provides services for people who are homeless in the City of Nottingham and greater East Midlands. Emmanuel House, including its Homeless Shelter, supports and cares for the most vulnerable citizens without prejudice or judgment in order to tackle isolation and vulnerability. It provides essential diverse and accessible services that meet basic needs and empowers individuals to make positive changes in their lives.

For a number of years, the Commandery has also collected many hundreds of pairs of warm winter socks, usually donated by those attending King Offa Commandery's Carol Service. These are again given to the Homeless Centre at Emmanuel House in Nottingham. We also give financial support.



Here, the Commander of King Offa, Chev Mario Rizzardi KCLJ MMLJ presents an important cheque to Emmanuel House's Chief Executive Officer Mr Denis Tully CMLJ.

Treasurer's report

During the year to 31st December 2022, the St Lazarus Charitable Trust saw a very slight decrease in income from the previous financial year. Donations received amounted to £92,553 (2021: £94,713), but there was a slight increase in our investment income £18,499 (2021: £18,204), resulting in total income to the Trust of £111,052 (2021: 112,917).

Our grants and donations to charitable causes during the year amounted to £114,824 (2021: £86,158). The reason for the increase is the Trust's support to the DEC – Ukraine Appeal and the ACN Ukraine Appeal to support the refugees caught in the Ukraine conflict.

Full details of our charitable giving are shown in the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements which have been filed with the Charity Commission and may be found at:

www.stlazaruscharitabletrust.org.uk/content/annual-reports

The St Lazarus Charitable Trust is dependent on its members and associates for the majority of its income. If you would like to make a regular contribution to the St Lazarus Charitable Trust, please complete and forward your bank standing order form and gift aid form to the Treasurer. These forms are available on the St Lazarus Charitable Trust website www.stlazaruscharitabletrust.org.uk or from the Treasurer.



During 2022 members and friends of the St Lazarus Charitable Trust raised £82.78 for the Trust, at no cost to themselves, just by doing their online shopping through the easyfundraising website www.easyfundraising.org.uk Do you think you could help raise the contributions received during 2023?

Just follow this link www.easyfundraising.org.uk/register-your-good-cause/ to register. Then every time you purchase something online from one of the large number of retailers listed, a donation will be made to the St Lazarus Charitable Trust at no additional cost to you or to the Trust.

**The St Lazarus
Charitable Trust**
Registered charity no
286918

Chairman:
Roger Hirst KLJ
Hon. Treasurer:
David Knox KLJ
Clerk:
Dame Val Hiscock
DCLJ

You can find our website at www.stlazaruscharitabletrust.org.uk