



St Lazarus Charitable Trust Newsletter

NO 6: DECEMBER 2019

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Dear Friends

As I write, we are in the first days of Advent when the Church bids us call to mind the needs of the world and our fellow men and women. As members of this ancient order and as we reflect on our origins we are bound to consider the great suffering of so many from the curse of leprosy which is still a great affliction for many and what we can do to provide relief. Over the years much progress has been achieved. Only a few decades ago millions were diagnosed with leprosy each year. Now it is down to around 200,000. The Charitable Trust's principal purpose is to raise money for leprosy relief and you will see later in this newsletter a report of the funds raised by the splendid concert in November.



As we approach Christmas this is surely a time for giving. Already your Trust has committed to give some £ 65,000 in 2020. World Leprosy Day follows closely after New Year on Sunday 26th January and an appeal is being made by the Grand Prior for every member to give a donation to mark this day. In this edition there are thoughts, prayers and readings prepared by Fr Alan Gyle, our Almoner, which will guide our meditations.

As well as the opportunity this gives us all, I hope that every member of the order will also consider giving a regular monthly unrestricted donation by standing order to the Trust. This with the benefit of gift aid, where appropriate, will greatly increase the work your Trustees can do. Please

also consider a legacy in your will. This affords many the opportunity to make a significant gift which benefits from inheritance tax exemption and in certain cases a reduced rate of inheritance tax for the remainder of the estate.

I take this opportunity to thank all those whose generosity has enabled our work to be fruitful and also my fellow trustees and the officers of the Trust for all their hard work and support throughout 2019. I wish all a most happy and blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

David Powell
Chairman, St Lazarus Charitable Trust

Student medical electives

The Trust has been working for 6 years with EMMS International, sponsoring medical students to travel abroad to areas where leprosy exists, and to develop their knowledge and expertise in understanding the ways in which this problem can be addressed – both medically and socially. Some of their stories have been reported in previous editions of this newsletter, and can be found on our website.

Some Commanderies have also chosen to sponsor individual students independently. The Commandery of Wales elective programme is now well established, and their fourth elective student, Niamh Theresa McSwiney, a fifth year medical student at Cardiff University, will be travelling to Japan in February 2020. She will undertake a four week placement at the Tokyo Women's University where she will spend two weeks in the dermatology department and two weeks in the cardiology unit.



The first London & Westminster elective student, Jessica Kamal, returned this summer from a 4 week placement at the Christian Medical College (CMC) Hospital in Vellore, India. Jessica was able to experience surgery, medicine and community work during her stay, in the specific areas of Hand &

Leprosy Reconstructive surgery, CHAD - Community Health and Development team (serving tribal hamlets via bus delivering care to treat leprosy and acute medical conditions), Karigiri (Leprosy clinic), general surgery and general medicine.

A fuller report from Jessica can be found on the Trust's website at <http://www.stlazaruscharitabletrust.org.uk/content/student-electives>, where you can also find reports from previous Commandery of Wales bursary students.

This work with UK medical students is an excellent way of building awareness of the very real problem of leprosy, and those Commanderies which have taken up the challenge so far have found it very rewarding. If you are interested in knowing more about setting up an elective programme from your Commandery, Chev. Dr. David Woolf (Wales) or Chev. Damian Riddle (London & Westminster) would be delighted to hear from you.



World Leprosy Day Sunday 26th January 2020

World Leprosy Day falls on the last Sunday in January, and is becoming an international focus for fundraising, prayer and profile raising. Our Grand Prior, the Marquis of Lothian, has asked that the Order should make this day a focus of our charitable giving each year.

Commanderies have been invited to consider what they might do to mark the day, and individual members are being encouraged to donate the sum of £10 each (Gift Aided) through the Saint Lazarus Charitable Trust. If every member made such a donation this would raise around £3,750.

Equally importantly, it is an opportunity for Chaplains to focus their homilies and addresses in their churches on leprosy and the work of the Order over nearly a millennium.

Our Almoner, The Revd. Alan Gyle SChLJ, has prepared a short exposition and a set of prayers which could be used for this purpose. They are reproduced here, and can also be downloaded in pdf format from the Trust's website at <http://www.stlazaruscharitabletrust.org.uk/content/world-leprosy-day>



World Leprosy Day

From the Almoner, The Reverend Alan Gyle SChLJ

On World Leprosy Day (Sunday 26th January 2020) members of the Order will be marking the day in a variety of ways – including offering prayer for those affected by leprosy and by the prejudice and discrimination that often results from it.

FOR WHAT, AND HOW, SHOULD WE PRAY ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY?

The Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-2020 "Accelerating towards a leprosy-free world" (endorsed by the World Health Organisation's Technical Advisory Group on leprosy) was developed through a series of consultations with various stakeholders during 2014 and 2015. Inputs were provided by national leprosy programmes, technical agencies, independent leprosy experts, public health experts, funding agencies and representatives of affected patients and communities. The strategy is built around three major pillars: (i) strengthen government ownership and partnerships; (ii) stop leprosy and its complications; and (iii) stop discrimination and promote inclusion. Its goal is further reduction in the global and local leprosy burden, thereby aiming for zero children with leprosy-affected disabilities, a reduction of new patients diagnosed with leprosy-related deformities to less than one per million population and a repeal of all laws that allow discrimination against leprosy patients.

These three pillars present us with a way of focusing our prayers. In addition, a short passage from Matthew 8 gives opportunity for reflection on the transforming love of God in Jesus Christ.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF ST MATTHEW

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' (Matthew 8)

THREE SHORT PRAYERS FOR WORLD LEPROSY DAY

Let us pray.

A PRAYER FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

We pray, O God, for the nations of the world and for those who lead them, that they and we may set aside all that limits co-operation and may seize upon all opportunities to confront the challenges of leprosy. May we work together for its eradication and may bring healing to those who suffer from its effects, seeking always the flourishing of neighbour and the wellbeing of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE ENDING OF LEPROSY AND ITS COMPLICATIONS

O God, whose Son our Lord Jesus Christ went about doing good and healing all kinds of illness; continue that his gracious work among us today; inspire those around the world who care for those with leprosy, who seek to prevent its continued spread and all those whose skills and compassion is improving the lot of those who suffer; and through them advance the purpose of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER TO PROMOTE INCLUSION & END DISCRIMINATION

O Lord God, who art the King of righteousness, lead us all in the ways of justice and righteousness and set a love of peace in our hearts. Give us grace to challenge all injustice and oppression; open our eyes to the impact of prejudice, to economic wrongs and social bias; deepen our concern for the sick, (especially those with leprosy), the elderly, the poor and the excluded, and stir in us all a sense of responsibility for one another as members of the One Body, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Prayers adapted variously from New Every Morning (New Edition) 1973 and other sources.





Between 1st July and 30th September 2019, members and friends of the St Lazarus Charitable Trust raised £31.64 for the charity at no cost to themselves, just by doing their everyday on-line shopping. Think how much more we could raise if everyone reading this joined in!

Just follow the link at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlf/> to register. Then, every time you buy something from any of the large number of retailers listed, a donation is made, at no cost to you, to the Order.

We are also researching an alternative to the BT MyDonate scheme, which enabled visitors to our website to make a donation to the charity at the click of a button. This scheme has now ended but we hope to have news of a new way to donate on line very soon.

Fundraising concert raises over £5,000

On Thursday 21 November, an enthusiastic audience gathered at St. Paul’s Church, Knightsbridge for a concert in aid of the St Lazarus Charitable Trust to raise money for the relief of leprosy sufferers throughout the world.

The concert programme featured a rare performance of the Piano Trio in D minor by the English-born composer, Henry Charles Litloff, who is mainly remembered today for the light-hearted ‘Scherzo’ from his Concerto Symphonique No. 4, Op. 102 for piano & orchestra. It also included Beethoven’s Variations on "Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu" in G, Op. 121a, and Brahms’s Piano Trio in B, Op. 8.

Performers Simon Callaghan (piano), Benjamin Roskams (violin) and Ashok Klouda (cello) were in sparkling form and the whole evening was greatly enjoyed by everyone present.

Chev. Gareth Vaughan, Chev. Jonathan Prichard and their helpers are to be congratulated on all their hard work, which resulted in the event raising over £5,000 for the St Lazarus Charitable Trust. Thanks are also due to Revd Alan Gyle for allowing us the use of St. Paul’s Church, with its splendid musical tradition, for this event.



The St Lazarus Charitable Trust
Registered charity no 286918

Chairman:
David Powell KCLJ
Hon. Treasurer:
Jonathan Prichard KCLJ
Clerk:
Dame Val Hiscock DCLJ

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