

Charity Project

Tina Edwards

In 2013 the PCC were able to set aside an extra sum of money to invest in other charities. It was decided that this gift could be used to open a relationship with a new charity enabling us to reach out further to those in need beyond our village.

The congregation were invited to nominate Christian charities with projects overseas that the church could partner and support. We were really pleased with the response and received 22 proposals. From this list the Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT) and its 'Self Care Training Project' was chosen.

Our plan over the next 3 years is to not only to support NLT financially, through the funding of the Self Care Training Project, but also to build a strong two way relationship with them and the work in Nepal.

Ideas we are working on at the moment...

- a regular slot in the church magazine & website - the first you'll find on the following page
- a display to be set up at both St. Giles' and St. Andrew's
- a leaflet detailing the project and further information on how to get involved
- Prayer news from NLT via their newsletter
- a short presentation suitable for small groups
- linking with other churches that support NLT
- Selling gifts items on behalf of NLT in the coffee shop - probably for Christmas
- Even the opportunity to visit Nepal

We are at the very beginning of this new venture and would welcome ideas. If you'd like to know more or would like to help please contact Tina Edwards on 01753 663161 or via email te.edwards@me.com

Nepal Leprosy Trust

Mike Houghton

Nepal Leprosy Trust is very proud to be chosen as the charity supported by St. Giles' & St. Andrew's for 2014. This support will play a significant part in the lives of many people who have been physically damaged by leprosy and are at great risk of progressively worsening disability.

Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT) was established 42 years ago by a pioneer Christian missionary called Eileen Lodge, who first went to serve in Nepal in the 1950s. Since then NLT's work has grown from a few handicrafts made by people affected by leprosy to projects that support thousands of poor, disabled, and marginalised people. These projects include Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre, the busiest centre for new cases in the world.

Leprosy is often stigmatized in Nepal and many people are afraid to come for treatment, hiding the signs of leprosy for as long as they can. When this is no longer possible, they come for help, but too late to reverse the damage. Added to this they may have been rejected by their communities and even their families, and be in a twilight world of "living death".

Besides free medicine and care, NLT offers a two-week "Self Care" training to people disabled by leprosy to teach them how to carry on their lives without making their disabilities worse through further injury. This also helps them to overcome despair and to believe that life can get better. This takes time and motivation from people who have been in the same position, some of them Christians who can share their experience of the great love that they have found in the Lord Jesus, as well as providing compassionate support. This, along with the practical self-care skills that the training provides, can set people on a new path to independence. NLT work hard to change the attitude of communities and families about leprosy, and this can enable someone who has been rejected to be restored back into their home situation. The training also introduces these people to the community work and the self-help groups which have been a platform for rebuilding many broken lives.

This life-changing training is the focus of St. Giles' & St. Andrew's Church support for the next two years and we hope that you will enjoy being a part of something that can literally transform the lives of some of the poorest people in the world. We look forward to telling you more about this work and the people it helps in subsequent newsletters.