CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD 2016

Dear Friends of BOAT,

There are times when even the most sanguine among us can feel overwhelmed by the problems which beset the world. Times when we question what a few ordinary people can do to ease the heart-rending suffering afflicting so many men, women and children.

Not many of us have the courage to visit places marked red by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We can only look on in awe and wonder at the selfless work of individuals like David Nott, the British surgeon who has saved lives in most of the world's war zones. We listen in admiration and gratitude to Fr Timothy Radcliffe and Leïla Vignal of the 9.30 Family Mass congregation as they recount their first-hand experiences in Syria and Iraq.

However, even though it is only the fearless few who have been thus perfected in love, it is nonetheless open to the rest of us to help where we can; and we too can make a difference. Every card assembled, every blanket knitted, every pot of jam made or cake baked, every fundraiser organized, every penny donated, and every prayer offered — each of these expressions of love and compassion has a transformative potential. This year, thanks to the continuing generosity of the 9.30 Family Mass congregation and of BOAT's many other supporters, BOAT received £44,263 from donations and events; this is £7,319 more than in 2015. This phenomenal sum has been put to good use by the heroic and dedicated people who feature in this report: from Fr Rogério Mendes in Brazil (helping to give slum children a brighter future), to Fr Jeya in Zimbabwe (improving the lot of disabled children).

The response to the Lenten Appeal 2016 was overwhelming. Thanks to you, BOAT was able to send £5,190 to the Syrian-run NGO, Sonbola, to fund their work to ensure that Syrian refugee children continue to receive an education – work which makes a difference now, and which will make a difference in the future.

The card-recycling team continue to produce beautiful cards which spread the BOAT name far and wide. This year they raised £893 for BOAT – thank you to Anna Baidoun, Joshua and Jenifer Dubin, Gill Emerson, Ag MacKeith, and Yvonne Miskin, as well as to all those who have taken card "kits" home. Although Una and Andrea Goble no longer keep bees, they have been selling pots from their store-room, and have raised £300 this year for BOAT. Gayna Wiles, BOAT resident artist, has put up a special bee-themed display in the narthex to mark the Goble family's loyal and much-appreciated support of BOAT.

Another family who have been unstintingly supportive of BOAT is the Brassington family. I would ask you to remember Raymond Brassington, a much-loved member of the 9.30 Family Mass congregation in your prayers; and we thank his friends and family for the extremely generous collection which was made at his funeral, in aid of BOAT.

As always, I would like to thank all the Committee; in particular, John Thanassoulis who, as Treasurer, continues to manage BOAT's finances extremely efficiently; also, Filomena Nave who has again done invaluable work claiming Gift Aid (£6,950 this year). Lucy Carpenter has once more been a great support as BOAT Secretary. A big thank you is also due to BOAT Editor, Ag MacKeith, for the handsome report you see before you. Finally, warm thanks to Jane MacKay who has very willingly given of her time and expertise in examining our accounts. Details of all BOAT projects can now be found online at tinyurl.com/BOATOxford

BOAT's Public Benefit

All charities, including smaller ones like ours, 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 Samuel Burke since January 2015 – 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 (£2,100 in 2015). Some funding will be one-off but more often a project 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 the Dominican order; although most have Catholic leadership, that is not a requirement, and we don't 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 that we can help the congregation's understanding of the challenges in developing countries. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes although, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergencies. 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 or poverty;

Education: particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

We are always looking for good projects to support on a one-off or regular basis. This is your charity, so please tell us if you know of a project which satisfies BOAT's criteria. And thank you, in this Holy Year of Mercy, for allowing us all, through BOAT, to share in the fears and hopes of the inspiring people you see in these pages, who spread good in such difficult circumstances.

Anna Lucas, Chairman

Brazil

São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church

BOAT has been supporting the Serviço Social e Promocional São Paulo da Cruz (SSPSPC), a centre for 120 school-aged children and teenagers from low-income families, since 2005. This day-centre is located in the district of Pinheiros, Sao Paulo City, the region where I have grew up and where I observed wealth and poverty living literarily side by side. As a child, everyday I used to take a short-cut through a slum to my school. Some of my primary school friends left school at age 11 to go to work in local factories. Nowadays, children are supposed to stay in school until 16 years old, which is also the minimum legal working age. In reality, urban children from low-income families continue to have little chance to complete their education. Schools in Brazil have very short shifts, so children are left unsupervised for most of the day. Pressure to start working at an early age continues. An alternative, brighter picture exists for the children attending the SSPSPC centre.

The SSPSPC, based on the premises of the Calvário Church, offers social and educational activities and complements state school education. The place helps the parents too, as in the

evening the premises are used for adult literacy courses that are attended by family members. There are regular talks and workshops for the families, who are encouraged to participate in the development of their children. What I find unique about this project is the support it gives to teenagers like the ones in the photo. It doesn't just keep them off the streets, it gives them skills that will be useful in their adult life. The children who go to this day-centre, have a real opportunity to complete



school education and to break with poverty. Recently, a few of them have gone to university.

We get informed about the project in regular letters from Father Rogério Mendes (President of SSPSPC), who once more confirmed that BOAT's contribution is very valuable.

Filomena Nave

Cameroon

ARCH, Dibanda

The Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) is located in Dibanda, South West Cameroon and aims to meet the physical needs of disabled people by providing rehabilitation and support services for them and their families. Since 2005 we have been in regular contact with Sr Leonarda Tubuo, the physiotherapist who manages a team of well-trained health care and other staff there.

Sr Leonarda tells us that 2016 saw a marked increase in the number of patients coming to the centre, with well over 2,000 patients receiving around five sessions of therapy from the carers. In particular, she says that this year they saw many more children. "Some days the therapists treat 25 which is really too much, as you know children are a bit of a handful especially with strangers... The adults are increasing in the same manner but this is expected since, as I always tell you, we are getting better known, day by day... It remains a challenge to satisfy their needs with our limited resources. For example, we make prostheses for amputees but often they complain, especially the older people, that it is heavy. We do not have the technology to make it lighter but we would really love to do this for them."

As well as health carers, ARCH also has a workshop staffed by shoemakers, welders and carpenters. After therapy, some of the adult patients stay on to train as sheltered workers. As always, Sr Leonarda's words bring the special challenges of life among the disabled community very much to life: "One trainee is a man of about 47 who was involved in an accident that ended up with an amputation... A group of blind people, whom he assists in the taking of minutes during their meetings, helped him benefit from a small grant. We are now training him for shoe making." Workshop activities at ARCH include the making of prostheses, insoles for flat feet, and other adaptations for persons living with disabilities.

In 2014, BOAT agreed to continue support for ARCH by helping set up its new poultry project. After some initial problems in getting started, Sr Leonarda recently sent us some very good news about this. Thanks to a scholarship from the Asian Rural Institute in Japan, a staff member was given nine months' training in organic farming and is now capable of preparing

the chicken feed using local suppliers. Sr Leonarda was pleased to send us a photograph of the farmer with young chicks and hens inside the newly built new henhouse. She goes on to tell us that "it is hoped that in future years, this farm will have extended to about a thousand chickens and a piggery. Our farmer was very fortunate to learn some few but very good natural antidotes to bird flu and swine flu so I have confidence she will help us We feed our through.



chickens at half the price because of her resourcefulness and she is succeeding in an organic way to make the difference. In our whole area of more than 40,000 people, egg farmers are rare (I don't know any). Sellers go far to get eggs and we think with all our lady farmer has learnt, we will make a good yield and it will be good for the centre. If all goes well, it is hoped that the farm produce will be sold to increase income for the repairs of the centre."

Lucy Carpenter

Ethiopia

Zizencho and Arekit

Both schools, in Zizencho and Arekit, are run with great dedication and talent by the Bethany Sisters. The main objective of the schools is to offer quality education and to build up a better future for local children. In the late assessments made by the Ministry of Education both of our schools ranked as the best in the area. As a result, everybody wants to send their children there, but capacity is limited. More classrooms would be needed to satisfy all requests.

Zizencho: The Zizencho school is well established for both kindergarten, primary and junior secondary school up to the eight grade. It has a total of 568 students and a staff of 17 teachers. The local authorities and population are now requesting to upgrade the school to tenth grade because children must walk up to ten kilometres to attend the nearest state school that offers ninth and tenth grades. With four more classrooms this request could be satisfied.

The Bethany Sisters run also a clinic in Zizencho providing for all the basic treatment needed by the children and safe maternity services for the local population. A grinding mill is now being built because currently women have to walk to Arekit to process their grain.

Arekit: The Arekit school has 420 students from kindergarten to 4th grade and a staff of ten teachers (see photo). The kindergarten is now at full capacity. A fifth grade has opened this year and the government has authorized the school to work up to eighth grade. The kindergarten still needs more classrooms and some equipment to offer children some variety of games during the break.

About 80% of the pupils in both schools come from extremely poor families and, since there

is no electricity, children have to read in front of a kerosene lamp or wood fire at night.

Neither the schools nor the clinic make any distinction on the basis of religion or language, everybody is welcome. For example, 97% of students are Christian Orthodox, Muslim and Protestant.

Yearly expenses are growing and there are problems with teacher retention because the government has increased the salary of state-funded teachers by 60%, promised to meet transport and housing expenses, provide them with higher study opportunities, etc.

The Bethany Sisters and both communities are very thankful for the quality of education and the available facilities supported financially by BOAT and the Jean Grove Trust.

Rene Banares-Alcantara



Grenada

Grand Anse

BOAT has continued to support the School Feeding Programme at the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic School in Grand Anse, Grenada. 283 children aged between 5 and 12 years are enrolled at the school. Breakfast and lunch are provided to the children, many of whom receive their only meal of the day through the project.

Fr David Sanders, from the Oxford Blackfriars Congregation, shown in the picture with the children, has recently visited the school. He reports that the project is proceeding well and that the lively and enthusiastic children are very appreciative of the meals. Mr Gary Jones, the headmaster, is very grateful for the continued support and is taking a keen interest in the programme, personally ensuring that the children are receiving and eating their meals.

About Grenada: dubbed 'The Island of Spice', it's the world's largest exporter of nutmeg and mace. With an economy heavily dependent on agriculture and tourism, the island has a big wealth disparity and one of the highest unemployment rates of the Caribbean. The country's small size and its exposure to natural disasters are important factors contributing to poverty.

The school is located in one of the more deprived areas of Grand Anse and many of the children attending



the school come from single parent families struggling to make ends meet. As a consequence many families cannot adequately provide daily meals for their children, who go to school on an empty stomach and find it difficult to concentrate in class. High rates of truancy are a direct consequence. With the increasing social problems of crime and drug use, the school has become a safe haven to many of the students. By providing a substantial meal at both breakfast and lunch, the project aims to provide valuable nutrition to the children whilst encouraging increased attendance to class.

As part of the project, the school has been looking to improve the kitchen and cafeteria facilities which are run down and have been in need of renovation for many years. General kitchen items needed include chopping boards and more utensils and basic items such as bowls, plates, forks, glasses and knives.

The project receives some support from the local parish and a limited amount from the government. BOAT's contribution helps the project stay afloat. Each meal supported by BOAT costs \$1 and 30 students a day are fed via the programme. BOAT's contribution helps to feed a class for almost 3 months.

Domenico Caprotti

India

Sugandh Society

The catchphrase for the Sugandh charity is 'lives transformed through empowerment and education', which captures key aspects of the group's important work amongst some of the poorest members of Indian society. The organisation, which is now in its twentieth year, is based in the slums of New Delhi. It runs a number of tutoring courses for children of migrant workers, most of whom are waste-pickers, rickshaw drivers and casual labourers. It also seeks to empower families to obtain access to government benefits (for example, free children's education) that they are entitled to, but due to illiteracy and lack of knowledge about administrative processes, that they are often unfairly denied. A third important focus is on the self-help groups organised by the charity aimed at women that allow them to pool savings and take out loans at very low interest rates in order to fund small-scale business and craft enterprises, fund children's education, buy plots of land or build sturdy houses, often after forced clearings of slums by government officials.

Sugandh runs two centres focused on tutoring and more general child development initiatives. The centre in Madanpur Khadar charges a nominal fee of 30 rupees per month (about 30p) in order to ensure parents are committed to the programme but children then receive tuition,

uniforms, shoes, stationery, school bags, a mid-day snack and other essential items free of charge (photo shows children getting kitted out). Last year, the centre admitted 58 children between the ages of six and 14 and provided tuition bring them up to the same level as their more well-to-do peers. At Sugandh's Holambi



Kalan Centre, 69 children of high-school age received more advanced tuition to prepare them for the all-important Board exams. While about two-thirds of the children at the local government school did not pass these exams, all those receiving tuition from Sugandh passed their Class 9 and 11 exams. Sugandh is currently working with other advocacy groups to try to raise the standard of education for all the children in the local school, not just those attending the charity's programmes. Sugandh's staff also provide personal attention to and seek to build long-term relationships with the local community. The impact of such an approach can be seen in the case of Ayesha, the daughter of a casual labourer working in a Gulf country. Thanks to repeated home visits, Sugandh's staff persuaded Ayesha to continue her education and then helped her hone her study skills. The result was that Ayesha passed her Class 11 exams with an impressive mark of 90.8% and she is now planning to become a teacher.

Another aspect of Sugandh's mission is to empower slum dwellers to access benefits to which they are entitled and to find ways of helping them to achieve their goals through self-help groups. Last financial year, Sugandh's women's self-help groups had 924 members. A key

activity was running a savings scheme designed for slum dwellers who are unable to access



traditional banks. Thanks to such a scheme, Supriya Bai, a fifty-year-old widow with six children, was able to save enough money and take out a small loan in order to set up a modest family shop selling eggs (see photo). Namrata was another self-help group beneficiary. She used the savings scheme over five years in order to buy her

husband a rickshaw, thereby providing her family, which includes three children, with a steady income. An example of Sugandh helping slum dwellers access benefits is ten-year-old Rahul, a promising student who had been turned away from the local government school due to a mistake on his birth certificate. Thanks to Sugandh's assistance, his illiterate parents were able to have the document corrected and Rahul could rejoin his class.

If future funding allows, Sugandh hopes to increase the number of girls coming to its tutoring sessions. It would also like to start a new education programme aimed specifically at street children, whose needs are different from those of children of low-paid, but employed parents who have been the focus of Sugandh's educational work thus far. Sugandh recognises the challenges of building new relationships with street children, including having to work with the 'bosses' who oversee the children's activities in the slums. But Sugandh's two decades of success in improving the education, well-being and dignity of slum dwellers suggest that the charity is well placed to undertake such new initiatives, thanks to the on-going support of BOAT and a small number of other charities.

Geraldine A. Johnson

Nicaragua

El Platanal

El Platanal is a rural school, seven kilometres north-west of Leon. All the primary grades are covered, plus a nursery class and two classes for mixed age groups. Our project, which we share with Oxford's Leon Link's own Nicaragua Education Culture and Arts Trust (NECAT), is similar to Grand Anse in that it aims to improve the children's diet by adding variety to the staples of rice and beans, and thus to keep them in school. At the same time it teaches the basics of food hygiene, relies on the help of the parents (especially the mothers), and encourages a feeling of solidarity throughout the school. This is how they described their work last year.

Benefits of the project:

- We attended to a total of 95 children and improved their nutritional level.
- We achieved 90.5% school retention which contributed to preventing child labour.
- We achieved 100% academic success by children which means that they all matriculated and proceeded to the next higher year group.
- There was 95% daily attendance and punctuality from the children.
- We involved the families of the children in the life and work of the school, since they are the ones who prepare the food every day.

We began the academic year with 95 children, 54 boys and 41 girls, attended to by four teachers. Amongst these children we soon found problems with 12 of the children because their parents had left the community. During the second term the parents who had left withdrew their children from the school. As a result we finished the year by attending to 86 children (90.5% of the original intake). The withdrawals were due to the families moving away to find work in order to improve their economic income. Some of those families went

to Costa Rica, others left for the capital city.

As a result of the school nutrition programme we observed an improvement health and nutrition. We also noticed that children were making better efforts in the classroom and achieving academic success, we noticed that they were getting along better together, learning new values



and in the end achieving a 100% pass rate. It should be pointed out that 80% of the families are dysfunctional, with the mother being in charge of the home

As a contribution of the school to the school nutrition project we encouraged the children to care for the school garden. For the gardening the care rota was divided between 8 boys and 11 girls who were responsible for maintenance and care of the garden on the basis of a rota that they established themselves. The plants cultivated and harvested in the garden included tomatoes, sweet peppers, spinach and spicy peppers, amongst others.

Some 13 mothers were involved in preparing the food for the school meals. Typically the rota ensures that on any particular day three of the mothers are there at the school preparing the food. They say they are grateful to BOAT for the support it provides for the meal and that it helps the children feel motivated for their studies.

In the process of the school meal we apply norms of hygiene, washing hands before and after eating, washing the plates and looking after the food, keeping it covered and away from the flies and cockroaches. The dining room, tables and place where the children eat are always kept clean.

The children say that a rich meal is made in their school and the mothers say that their children are healthier and better fed, that the Project is helping them in the family economy and they hope that in 2017 they continue supporting with their children's breakfast.

Difficulties: In comparison with 2015 when there was 100% school retention in 2016 it was 90.5% due to the emigration of families who left in search of work.

Expectations: To continue with the school nutrition project in 2017.

Thank you BOAT for so many years of guaranteeing our school meals. *Gracias BOAT*."

Ag MacKeith

Pakistan

Women in Struggle (WIS)

Women in Struggle (WIS) is an organisation based in Faisalabad which exists to empower women at the grassroots level, and promote participatory sustainable development. They strive to improve the domestic conditions of poor women by providing them sources of income and to promote education in rural and poor areas. The WIS team, consisting mainly of schoolteachers, works entirely voluntarily to run their local activities for long-term outcomes.

This year BOAT supported WIS in the construction of a new Skill Development and Training centre, which will provide a much-needed space for their work in helping women improve

their employment Another prospects. substantial project in 2015 was a fruit treeplanting programme in the village of Chak to create a reliable source of food and income. Additionally, WIS purchased backpack materials for school children, bought a number of Bibles, and hosted



Christmas lunch. All of these activities were made possible through the support of BOAT

In October of 2015 Lubna Ghani took the reins from the previous director, Anosh, who continues to provide some support as Treasurer. The invaluable work of WIS with the "poorest of the poor" continues to go from strength to strength, working through the church to support and encourage women through education.

Samuel Burke OP

Peru

Lima: San Benito Township

We were delighted that Fr Ed O'Connell, who leads the Warmi Huasi project in his parish in Lima, was able to visit us at Blackfriars in August 2016. He was over here to see family and friends, and came along to the 9.30 to give a talk after the Mass about his work in San Benito Township. Despite being the Bank Holiday weekend, it was very well attended and much appreciated.

Fr Ed talked and showed videos of the work going on in the community. The township is

rocky and often muddy and lacks basic amenities (proper roads. lighting, pavements). Many of the children are at the mercy of violence and bullying while their parents are at work or struggling with day-to-day life. Warmi Huasi provides a safe space for the children to learn, to play and simply to be children. There are three homework clubs, a toy library and play centre, a monthly play day, a monthly Warmi Cine day and a very popular reading club



in Warmi Huasi centre. New reading clubs in the local State primary and secondary schools are well attended, reaching over 3,000 children, many of whom would otherwise be at risk.

In 2015, the children formed a Children's Commission called "Children of San Benito in

action" which is now working with the local council and the adults in the township to make a number of public places safer for them to play in, so they can move around without being molested, especially the girls. One of the most moving of Fr Ed's videos ("I have rights too") shows children talking about their experiences of bullying and violence, at home and in the streets. "Very few people



respect the rights of children," one says. Another describes the experience of having their football stolen in the playground and cut in half, and many talk about the violence they have seen. "Parents hurt children as well, mothers, fathers, their own brothers." They describe how the streets are full of "trash, pickpockets and drug addicts."

Warmi Huasi is a haven for these children. "It's safe there, and we get explanations." "You can have fun, and read ... there are lots of books and teachers who tell you what to look for." The project works with parents too, and one of the children on the video says, "I like that my parents don't fight anymore..." On Monthly Play Day, we see children enjoying very traditional childhood games – spinning tops, marbles, hula hoops, sack races, and playing at kitchens. ("I even play with my sisters" says one little boy!) It is a privilege to be able to support Fr Ed and his work, and help give the children of San Benito a happy childhood and prospects for their future. Perhaps one day some of them will be the leaders of Peru!

Helen Ghosh

Philippines

Midsalip Missionary Sisters of St Columban

Through the Sisters of Saint Columban, BOAT supports the Subanen Mission in Midsalip under the tireless leadership of Sister Kathleen Melia. This mission assists the indigenous Subanen people in accessing health care and education and in protecting their ancestral homeland which remains under constant threat by international mining companies.

BOAT continues to support the work of the Missionary Sisters of Saint Colomban in helping the indigenous Subaanen children in Midsalip, The Philippines gain an education. Over 72 children from 32 families were beneficiaries of BOAT funding for their education and over 30 other children received funds to help pay for school supplies. Nine high school students have BOAT scholarships and three BOAT scholars from last year are now undertaking technical courses in electrical, automotive and computer maintenance.

These funds were especially helpful this year as a ban on market days where farmers in the barrios of Midsalip sell their products to buy second-hand clothing have further impoverished the families in Midsalip who depend on the market, but are no longer able to buy this cheap clothing for their children. As Sister Kathleen Melia writes "Against this background the BOAT grant will be of enormous help to poor parents. Together with the 75 elementary children whom BOAT are helping in Cabaluran school, with your very generous grant we are able to help many needy students from other barrios in Midsalip, not just in elementary school but in High School as well. For this we are truly grateful, and I pray that God bless each of you and your families."

Julie Lynch Bridson

Sri Lanka

Child Development Initiative (CDI) Vavuniya

Sister Nichola Emmanuel continues to be a resolute and compassionate fighter for the Tamil women and children in northern Sri Lanka, whose lives were shattered by the civil war, and who continue to be the victims of poverty and abuse. The aims of the CDI are moving ones: to create a better and peaceful society for the traumatized and war-affected, specially children

and women, so that they can live with dignity as human beings and children of God in the post-war context.

Sr Nichola paints a vivid picture of the challenge: "The war stole men and boys from their mothers and wives, and today nearly 90,000 female-headed households (FHH) struggle to meet their daily dietary and other requirements, whilst facing harassment from all sides. The women face social discrimination, harassment from security forces and are forced to bring up their children without proper housing and security. Their lives are a daily struggle, to say the least, and their mental conditions are no better. These conditions have created a group of victims whose need for counselling and care is a matter of priority if Sri Lanka is to adopt reconciliation and peace more fully."

The CDI, which also receives funding from two other UK charities and from an NGO in Australia, provides a variety of help and support to the families, including direct financial support to individuals, and the provision of day-to-day essentials like stationery for the children at school. BOAT funds support the central office which co-ordinates these programmes. Floods in the area in May 2016 produced a generous response, with direct relief

being distributed to 100 families.

BOAT money also helps the victims of sexual or domestic abuse, through a service provided at the local hospital. Sr Nichola writes: "When cases of child abuse and domestic violence are brought to Vavuniya hospital, CDI lends a helping hand by assisting for medical and immediate relief of the victim. Twenty-six girls



who were sexually abused and raped were assisted during the year, for immediate and medical relief. A number of women who underwent domestic violence and [were] brought to GBV desk have been assisted with immediate relief."

So the CDI is playing an important role in creating a brighter future for the women and their children, whose lives continue to be blighted by violence and poverty. As Sr Nichola wrote when we first began to support the Initiative: "I hope soon the day will dawn when they will stand on their own feet, in their own homes, and live as human beings and children of God with dignity and freedom". We share the same hope.

Helen Ghosh

Tanzania

Livingstone Trust

Livingstone Tanzania Trust is a grassroots development charity operating in Babati, northern Tanzania, which we have supported for a number of years. The focus is on improving education and supporting enterprise initiatives that are environmentally sensitive and sustainable. LTT has two programmes: the Education Programme, addressing the specific needs of individual schools; and the Enterprise Programme, empowering communities by providing resources and training to enhance their skills and build on their existing knowledge.

In 2016, the funds provided by BOAT were concentrated on the School Enterprise Programme at Managhat Primary School, 10km from Babati in the countryside to the east of Lake Babati. LTT has been working with the school since 2012, and a need was identified to improve their vegetable garden project, which had been operating for some time with varying success: poor rains, poor water security and livestock intrusion made it a challenge to get the best from it. Our grant helped towards setting up a market garden for the school which could be used to train young people to run a business of growing vegetables. This has now been successfully established, engaging the students and providing food to sell.

The tangible achievements of the project have been:

Infrastructure: water security through the provision of borehole well, pump and gravityfed irrigation system; cost-effective lockable wire fencing to prevent incursions by livestock; from manure the cows garden's returned to the biogas digester, making energy to cook school meals; former water stands have now been converted to a chicken coop.



- *Teacher Training*: the teacher responsible for the garden has received local training from an agricultural officer employed by LTT's local delivery partner, and attended a 4-day training course run by an NGO 200km away. Given autonomy to develop the garden, the teacher's greatest success was his initiative to introduce a vertical growing system for the tomato crop.
- Student engagement: all the children in Standard 6 (12–13 year-olds) played a part, regardless of gender, recording costs and income, building and tending the garden (including the rotas for weekend watering), harvesting and selling (including the establishment of a trading name and sales materials). They devised a handover ceremony to the next Standard 6 pupils, offering suggestions to improve the way the garden is run. Critical thinking is unusual in Tanzanian schools where much learning is by rote and asking questions is not encouraged, but this project required the students to analyse their successes and failures, especially with regard to market research, and to take part in face-to-face discussions with LTT about improving the garden's success through concrete proposals driven by mature reflection on the past year's progress.
- *Unintended (positive) outcomes*: excess vegetables were given free to the school to supplement the school meals, rather than persevering with selling them for little return when demand was low.

- Accounts and forward planning: the pupils kept accounts (in parallel with the head teacher), learning book-keeping and other enterprise skills. The project earned real income, and in the coming year most of the income will be ploughed back into the garden's development.
- Impact: The school was emboldened to enter the School Challenge, run by Teach a Man to Fish, even though most of the entries were from secondary schools. They won a monthly photo competition, although no big prizes but the real impact was engagement with the wider world, a big step for children from this small rural community. All 48 pupils in the year are growing vegetables at home, inspiring family and neighbours to do the same and employing the cultivation lessons learnt at school. The pupils now have the skills to begin small-scale enterprises of their own
- Future plans: these include working closely with the local Community Agricultural Support Office, re-starting fish farming, farming chickens to diversify the project, developing the compost system, and introducing shade netting. The total budget identified for the improvement of the garden is £3,510.

LTT's full report for BOAT is available on request.

Our contact with LTT is Julian Page, who is based in London but is often in Tanzania, actively involved with all LTT's projects.

Jenifer Dye

Uganda

Cancer Trust

In 2015 we were put in touch with the Uganda Cancer Trust UK (UCT) by members of the 9.30 congregation. We met two of their trustees, Dr Michael Minton (retired Oxford Oncologist) and Liz Minton (Chair of Oxford's Maggie Centre for Palliative Care). They outlined the main palliative care goals of the UCT and the development of a local volunteer

group whose programme was to enable more people with cancer to access good quality information and support about cancer and the care, services and treatment available.

The BOAT committee gave their support to this work and committed three years funding to the development of the



Palliative Care Programme and the support of an information nurse to develop further information tools. In December 2016 the Mintons visited the volunteer team (*in the photo*) at the Makerere Palliative Care Unit in Uganda to see the progress being made.

They saw first-hand the difficulties being faced by patients, medical staff and volunteers while the Mulago Hospital is being redeveloped, and the dire effect on the patients of the loss of Uganda's only radiotherapy machine for treating cancer patients, which broke down beyond repair last year. This left thousands unable to get potentially life-saving treatment. Mulago Hospital gets 44,000 new referrals a year, from Uganda as well as from neighbouring Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan and 75% of these may require radiotherapy. The machine at Mulago Hospital was second-hand when it was donated in 1995 and has been repaired several times in the past, but efforts to fix it this time have failed.

The Palliative Care Team are adjusting to these new realities and Liz and Michael are keen to help and support them in any way they can to provide a continuing service to the cancer patients and their carers. The Palliative Care Nurse, supported by BOAT, with help from the staff from the American Cancer Society, has been developing and providing leaflets to support the cancer patients and their families. These information leaflets support patients such as Bob and Immaculate; the following is a summary of their stories demonstrating the work BOAT is supporting through the volunteer palliative care team.

Bob's story Nineteen year old Bob wants to study to become an accountant to support his mother and siblings. His plans have been put on hold while he receives treatment for melanoma of the eye. The Palliative Care Team have befriended him and were present when the medical team were discussing his management plan; they are now helping him to adjust to his future.

Immaculate's story Last June, Nurse Florence from the Makerere Palliative Care Unit, whilst in S.W. Uganda carrying out mentoring, met 22 year old Immaculate who had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and a mouth cancer called Kaposi's sarcoma. Immaculate was receiving treatment for the AIDS virus but there was no treatment for her cancer. Nurse Florence organised for her to be transported to the Uganda Cancer Institute in Kampala where she was able to get chemotherapy.

Emerita Pilgrim

Uganda

Kasambya Catholic Parish, Mubende

In 2016 Father Sebastian, who is a great initiator of projects and an inspiring executor of them, was moved by the bishop to a new parish to start a programme of improvements. His work in Kasambye was taken over by Father Augustine Norris Mirinda, who carried out the third and final year of the project which BOAT was supporting. Father Augustine completed the boys' and girls' dormitory project. He had the building finished and painted and installed the beds in the dormitories. He has sent his financial report and expresses his gratitude to all those who donated to BOAT to make the completion of the project possible.



Karungu Convent, Bweyale

Because of the severity of the malaria crisis, Sister Clemensia initiated a project to provide mosquito nets for mothers and families, especially those with young children. They were able to purchase 250 mosquito nets to distribute. They were also able to treat all the old mosquito nets, so that they could be re-used. They were able to buy medicines to treat the poorest children who were suffering from pneumonia and malaria and to stock their health unit with quinine injectables, coarterm and arthernerm. She thanks BOAT and the 9.30 congregation for the enormous difference that the grant has made to the work done by her order, the Little Sisters of Mary, to save lives and improve the health of the community they serve..

Rosaleen Ockenden

Zimbabwe

African Mission

African Mission is a small, London-based charity, which is active in Uganda and Zimbabwe. Initially it revolved around the activities of Dr Ray Towey, a consultant anaesthetist who for over two decades has worked in African hospitals and clinics, but more recently it has expanded into education. BOAT has been supporting them since 2011, funding maintenance and construction and helping both children and staff at a number of schools in Fatima Mission, a large Franciscan-run mission in Zimbabwe.

The £2,100 that BOAT sent in February 2014 went towards the school fees for 100 primary school children and 25 secondary school children. A one-off grant awarded in June 2014 went

to Fr Jeya, the local parish priest, and was used to buy much-needed seeds, after a disastrous harvest in the previous year.

Our donation for 2015 was used for a new project, set up by Fr Jeya for disabled children. In a desperately poor region, where expectations are low and there are very few facilities for the disabled, African Mission plays a vital role in offering these children access to schools and education. Our grant of £2100 covered the fees and living costs for one term for a group of fourteen boys and girls, who range in age from 9 to 17. In addition to their physical handicaps, several are blind or mute. They live at a church-run pastoral centre and attend a local school. Some have no



parents at all, others come from single parent families who could not afford to pay their school fees. The photo shows some of the children making music. African Mission is envisaged as a long-term project for BOAT and we will continue to fund them for at least a further three years.

BOAT Card Recycling 2016

This home industry, set up years ago, continues to recycle Christmas and greetings cards to raise money for BOAT. Our net profits in 2016 were around £1000 (although only £983 had gone into the bank when BOAT's accounts were made up). Our best sellers are always the Fine Art Christmas and greetings cards, but our range is wide, and there are many different styles of cards available singly and in packs. These are on sale at key times after the 9.30 Mass during coffee in the Priory Refectory, and our cards for sale in the Porter's Lodge attract a constant trickle of customers.

We aim to produce cards of a high quality, so we meet weekly throughout the year, over coffee and cake, to sort the cards we receive and make sure they are suitable for recycling, check fine art pictures for attributions, cut them to shape, fold the mounts, and pack them into boxes with glue, ready for our cohort of stickers. When they come back they pass through Quality Control, are sorted into packs with envelopes and stored in the Lodge ready to sell. We could not do this without plenty of help from members of the congregation – especially the original Card Factory founders, Yvonne Miskin and Anna Baidoun. We are grateful to the select band who call in to help us on a Friday, or take home prepared boxes to stick. Nor could we sell so many without the Dye-Dubin's commitment to setting up our stall, and Joshua's humorous adverts for their sale, which stand out among the notices! This year, too, we have Mari Girling to thank for taking the cards to Catholic People's Weeks and other events, Marcus Robbins for our smart new display boxes and Philip Owens for looking after the displays in the Porter's Lodge.

When it comes to the initial sorting of the cards, the more helpers the merrier — we need an eclectic set of tastes to make a wide selection. To some extent we can deduce which cards you like from the ones that sell (or don't sell!), but we would welcome more feedback on what people would like to be able to buy. We are always short of religious cards to recycle outside of Christmas. This year we experimented with packs of Christmas cards for children.

Cards we can't recycle are given to Orinoco, the recycling store, once we have taken off the backs. They pass them on to local schools to use for their projects, and are delighted to receive them!

Finally, Thank You again to everyone who helps us to make and sell these cards.

Ag MacKeith and Gill Emerson

2016 Lenten Project

Our Lenten Project in 2015 was in aid of Iraqi refugees living as best they can in shipping containers and a half-built shopping mall in Ankawa, a suburb of Erbil. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in this makeshift housing are served by the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, themselves also refugees, having fled their home in Qaraqosh in August 2014 as ISIS encroached. Out of a total population of 34,800,000, Iraq has about

3,276,000 IDPs, many thousands of those are the Christians and other minorities who fled their towns and villages of the Nineveh Plain over the summer of 2014.

The sisters teach and look after the needs of the refugees as best they can. Fr Timothy Radcliffe visited the sisters and IDPs at a camp in January 2015. On his return, he told us about the valiant work being done by Sr Maria Hanna, Prioress, and others in very difficult circumstances. He urged BOAT to raise funds to help alleviate the hardships of the people he

had met. In spite of their difficulty, Fr Timothy spoke warmly of their dignity and hope.

Sr Maria Hanna wrote recently, "Everybody is physically and psychologically exhausted. It does not seem that there is any solution. People risk their lives. Immigration is increasing in all directions." She said, "There were some challenges that really burdened our mission. There are so many IDPs that sometimes we feel as if our work is inconsequential. Also, we were not



prepared for this kind of work, nor have we skills to deal with it. Most shocking was the unexpected death of 10 sisters (most of them were in their 70s) in a very short period of time (three months). Despite that, our ministry continues to be strengthened by the Lord, who blesses our efforts no matter how modest they are. Being occupied with such projects, we do not forget our mission to preach the word of God for our troubled people."

The generosity of our congregation in response to our appeal was immense. We raised an impressive £4,404, which, when gift aid was added, meant we could send them £4800. The money was used by the Sisters to provide and distribute towels and soap to 10,000 families for the treatment and prevention of scabies, which was rife in the refugee camps. Sr Nazik Matty OP, a former student of Blackfriars, now living and working in Ankawa wrote, "We are very grateful for what you have sent for our people. Your support was really significant." They ask for our prayers and we shall continue to keep in touch with them to see how they are doing.

Samuel Burke, OP

Reserves policy and risk management

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £5,000. This was a decision made by the Trustees at a meeting in April 2002, and it remains their policy. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies, but at the same time ensures that grants are made to beneficiaries without undue delay.

Risk Management

In the light of the Trustees' desire to keep reserves at the relatively small level of £5,000, 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

Anna Lucas
Chair
for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT
January 2017

Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2016

I can once again report that BOAT continues to be a financially healthy charity which, with the thinnest sliver of costs, is able to move money to support health and development projects in some of the most needy parts of the world. Further, I am delighted to say that our level of incomings recovered somewhat after falling during 2015 towards the levels we had received in 2014 and before. This positive movement was in part due to generous new donors coming forward.

You will see in the accounts that our total incoming resources over the year were above £44,000. This is over £7,000 more than we received in the previous year. New charity commission rules on banks affected the pace at which we could send money out during Autumn 2016. This had the effect that the final year's donations have actually gone out during January 2017 and so will be reported in the next year's accounts.

Some notable events during 2016 were:

- Given 2015 was a lean year we were considering reducing the level of support we give to each of our projects. A one-off generous donation from an anonymous donor made up the shortfall in one fell swoop. Thus I am delighted to report that all projects supported received the full £2,100 during 2016.
- The Lenten appeal supported Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. We raised £5,190 for this cause! At the time of writing this has now all been sent to the camps in Lebanon.
- Br Sam raised £1,749.53 to support work with children in Iraq.
- We received £170 support from Our Lady's Abingdon for which we are very grateful.
- We received £250 support from Nanoporetech for which we are very grateful.
- BOAT cards made £893 which BOAT has sent to the needy. We are very grateful indeed for all the hard work of the many volunteers that make this happen.

We remain ever grateful to all of our donors, without whose support none of the projects or good works could be supported. Our costs are minimal: only the electronic money transfer charge at Lloyds Bank, and the cost of printing the AGM report. Otherwise all money raised goes to the projects we support. You have read about these earlier in this report.

John Thanassoulis

BOAT Treasurer

13 March 2017.

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 31st December 2016 which are set out on the following pages xx to yy.

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.

[To be Signed by]

Antonia Jane MacKay ACA (8480710)

April 2017

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2016

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2016	Total 2015
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations	33,776	7,562	41,338	33,182
Events and Sales	2,925	-	2,925	3,762
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources	36,701	7,562	44,263	36,944
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising	178	-	178	326
Charitable Activities	29,366	5,000	34,366	46,500
Governance Costs	176	-	176	237
Total Expenditure	29,720	5,000	34,720	47,063
NET RESOURCES Incoming/(Outgoing)	6,980	2,562	9,542	(10,118)
Total Funds Brought Forward	6,374	477	6,851	16,969
Total Funds Carried Forward	£13,355	£3,038	£16,393	£6,851

The notes on pages xx to yy form part of these accounts.

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at Lloyds Bank	16,393	6,851
Net Current Assets	16,393	6,851
Total Assets	£16,393	£6,851
The Funds of the charity:		
Restricted Income Funds	3,038	477
Unrestricted Income Funds	13,355	6,374
	£16,393	£6,851

Approved by the Executive Committee on 24th January 2016 and signed on its behalf by

Anna Lucas

Chair

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2016

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.

a) 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.

b) Expenditure

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure are included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

c) 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.

d) 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

	2016	2015
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	20,246	18,028
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	660	660
Other Donations (unrestricted)	9,504	4,101
Other Donations (restricted)	6,902	6,344
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	6,950	7,811
	£44,263	£36,944

3. EVENTS AND SALES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Harvest Auction	523	470
Christmas Café	496	661
Card Sales	893	1,048
Honey Sales	300	470
Summer Café	296	246
Spring Café	247	251
Catholic People's Week	-	616
Nanoporetech	250	-
Our Lady's, Abingdon	170	-
BLEAT	74	
	£3,249	£3,762

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas	Projects	2016	2015
Nicaragua, Leon		£2,100	£2,100
Uganda Cancer UK		£2,100	£2,100
Brazil, St. Paolo		£2,075*	£2,000
Pakistan, WIS	*sent in USD	£2,091*	£2,100
Tanzania, Livingstone Trust		£2,100	£2,100
Uganda, Sr Clemensia		£2,100	£2,100
Uganda, (this year Kasambya school)		£2,100	£2,100

Ethiopia, Jean Grove Trust	£2,100	£4,200
Philippines, Columban Sisters	£2,100	£2,100
Zimbabwe, African Mission, Dungu	£2,100	£2,100
Sri Lanka	£2,100	£2,100
India, Sugandh	£2,100	£2,100
Grenada, Grand Anse Primary School	£2,100	£4,200
Peru, San Benito, Br Ed O'Connell	£2,100	£2,100
Cameroon, ARCH	£2,100	£2,100
Uganda, Mrs Bigambo (maize mill – one-off)	-	£3,000
Iraq, Lenten Appeal (gift aid contribution - final instalment)		£796
SUB-TOTAL	£29,366	£39,496
Grants from Restricted Funds	2016	2015
	£	£
Kenya Education		1,000
Uganda Education	2,000	2,000
Lenten Appeal	3,000	4,004
TOTAL	£34,366	£46,500
5. COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS		
	2016	2015
	£	£
Costs of Printing the Annual Report	178	226
Contribution to cost of BOAT cards		100
•	£178	£326
6. GOVERNANCE		
	2015	2015
	£	£
Bank Charges	176	237
-	£176	£237

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 them.

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Balance at 1st JanuaryA	477	477
Incoming Resources	7,562	7,004
Expenditure	(5,000)	(7,004)
Balance at 31st December 2015	£3,039	£477

9. GENERAL FUNDS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	6,375	16,493
Incoming Resources	36,701	29,941
Expenditure	(29,720)	(40,059)
Balance at 31st December 2016	£13,356	£6,375
Represented by:		
Current Assets	£16,394	£6,852

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT) Registered Charity No 288585

A Banker's Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled by you at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so that we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.

Banker's Order

То	
Account Number	Sort Code No.
Account Name	
Please pay to Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Stre	eet, Oxford, OX1 4AA (Sort Code No. 30-96-35)
for the account of Blackfriars Overseas Aid	
the sum of £	monthly / quarterly / annually (delete as appropriate)
until further notice.	
This instruction cancels any previous order	r made by me in favour of Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust.
	ackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge,
Return to: The Gift Aid Treasurer, Bl Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3 If you are a UK tax payer and	ackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge,
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