



www.supportingdalitchildren.com Tel 07909 705125

Easter 2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping well.

Supply of clean drinking water to the villages



We continue to support the vital service of supplying drinking water to remote villages. Analysis of these villages' communal tap water has shown that the mineral and bacterial content is not healthy. Therefore, without the daily deliveries of filtered drinking water, 12000 people in 20 villages would be at risk of contracting illnesses, both in the short and long term.

Each year there are preventable deaths from water-borne diseases. Quite simply, the more support we can give, the more families will benefit from clean water. It is great that there are now two tractors with water tankers that go to the villages daily – one of these tractors you may remember we sent funds for last year.

It still ceases to amaze me that there are so many people we know who don't have a direct water supply to their house, and who rely on clean water being brought to them. It would be unimaginable for us wouldn't it!

Thank you to all who support this drinking water project which is quite literally a life-saver.



Tailoring Centres



Two tailoring centres were opened in 2020 but unfortunately the pandemic led to the closure of one of them. However, 22 tailoring students have made excellent progress throughout the year and learnt the skill of tailoring quickly and proficiently. I was very interested to hear that the tailoring students have also joined an 'Entrepreneurship Scheme', enabling them to buy materials from Bombay through an agency, make garments and other items and then send back the finished products to the agency. So far the 22 women have each made 2500 Covid masks and sold them for 3 Rupees, earning 7500 Rupees for

one week's work. When you contrast this week's earnings with that of the alternative of extremely hard physical work i.e. labouring in the fields for 200 Rs per day, it serves as another example of just how worthwhile and liberating the Tailoring Project is.



Thank you to everybody who has supported these women by buying sewing machines.

News from Kapepaladi School



On the 1st February, the Government allowed 6th – 8th Std students to return to their classrooms and also to the hostel. All hostel students had to be tested for Covid and show their negative result card before they were allowed to return. As you can imagine, all these students are over-joyed to be back at school, as are Sr Reena and their teachers.

Due to the amount of time the students have spent at home this year, the Government has decided to finish the summer term in June rather than at the end of March.

The next academic year will resume in July.

The Easter cards this year have been prepared by the older students who are back at school.



Solar power to Kapepaladi school and hostel



For the past few months, Father Leo has been in negotiations with a solar power company to supply and fit solar panels at Kapepaladi school and the hostel. He has also arranged for solar-powered street lighting in Pannur, primarily to benefit the children walking to and from school.

In December we received a very sizeable donation from a primary school in Surrey. They had nominated Supporting Dalit Children as their international charity and had been

fundraising for 2 years. We discussed ways in which their donation could help, and they liked the idea of contributing towards the solar energy project. As a school the Deputy Head said how important it is to think about ways of improving their carbon foot print, therefore helping Kapepaladi school to do the same made a common theme across both schools. This school is also sponsoring 10 children of various ages, so that their students can learn more about life for the Dalit children, in particular the differences and similarities in the way children from both schools are being brought up and educated.

The photographs show the solar panels being blessed; this is done for any new piece of equipment at the Pannur Manvi Mission. The children in the photo above are standing on the hostel roof which has lovely views out over Pannur and the surrounding countryside. I was struck by the school motto on the back of their sports shirts – “Reaching the Unreached”, which is exactly what this collaboration between both schools has managed to achieve. I have to say that I am constantly overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people towards the Dalit children!



News from Pannur Health Centre



Sister Leena recently organised a free health camp that was very well attended by 156 patients, made up of men, women and children. She organised for a Pulmonologist and a Paediatrician to be present and said it was a great experience to see so many people making the most of this opportunity to be seen by a specialist.



The Pulmonologist did lung function tests as in Winter, asthma worsens. These tests revealed that many people were suffering from asthma and other lung diseases, due to smoking and exposure to wood smoke whilst cooking on open fires.

The Paediatrician is a Professor in a nearby medical College and also practices privately. 85 children had their blood tested and many were found to be anaemic, some to the extent of needing a blood transfusion. The Paediatrician asked Sister Leena to send these children to the Navodaya hospital at Raichur for further treatment and kindly said that he would arrange for free treatment.

It is such a blessing that the Pannur Health Centre is next to Kapepaladi school. The Sisters do incredible work all year round for the people who come from

miles around to be treated, as well as for the students at Kapepaladi school.

The Giving Lottery



The focus of our signing up (for free) to the Giving Lottery is to help a Dalit family who are really struggling to make ends meet. We would like to help educate siblings Godwin aged 5, and Meghana aged 8. Our aim over the next 12 months is to sell 200 tickets (at £1 each) through the GivingLottery, which then returns 40% to Supporting Dalit Children.



With our ethos of every pound donated being sent to India, you may wonder why we have signed up to this when 60% of each £1 spent on a lottery tickets goes to other causes, prize monies and admin? With the ongoing success of online shoppers using The Giving Machine who run the Giving Lottery, we are thinking of the Giving Lottery as a way of reaching out to a wider audience who enjoy playing a lottery, at no cost to ourselves. I did send an email about this, but had problems with my emails sending last week. If you would like more information, please get in touch or go direct to our page <https://www.givinglottery.org.uk/support/supporting-dalit-children>

So far we have sold 29 of 200 tickets so we are off to a very good start. Buying a ticket or 2 could be a good alternative to buying Easter eggs this year, but I'm not sure our children would agree!

Wishing you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy Easter.

Dinah and Peter