

**Still Waters Trust Society · 68 Manor Road · Barnet · Herts · EN5 2LG**

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Registered Charity No: 1131594

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Dear Friends,

The Still Waters family together with the community in Sri Lanka have been living with the challenge of Covid-19 since March 2020. The country has been in lockdown and under long periods of curfew, and most of the daily-paid workers are out of work and have been unemployed for several months. As a result we launched an appeal to raise funds to support poor families.

We were greatly encouraged by the response from friends and supporters of Still Waters, whose generous donations totalled over £10,000. This enabled us to provide dry-ration parcels and help with utility bills for needy families in the area, some of whom had grown up at Still Waters. This fund is still open, and there are many poor families who still need help (see pictures overleaf).

After over 20 years at our home in Tangalle we are now on the move. Since the effect of the Corona virus children's homes in our catchment area have temporarily closed, and children have been rehoused with guardians, grandparents and/or extended family. Covid-19 has brought much fear and anxiety about children and adults living and working in residential-care settings.

Since early this year the Probation and Childcare Service have been in discussion with us about exploring different models for the provision of care and support for children from very poor families. The model most favoured is that of care and support for poor and vulnerable children in foster families. The Still Waters Trustees in Sri Lanka and the Trustees in the UK have discussed this and are in favour of this model. Staff in Sri Lanka would visit the families to offer support. Families would be referred to Still Waters by the Probation and Childcare Service, schools and churches.

After consultation with the statutory services the Trustees have decided to close the Home in Tangalle, and arrange for the children to be placed in foster homes. This new model for child care will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. To begin with we have identified ten families to receive children, and they would be eligible for a monthly grant to meet the expense of caring for a child. Still Waters staff will visit each family at least once a month to support and monitor the caring service. When fully operational this programme will care for forty children.

The children's home, together with the land, will need to be sold. It will also be necessary to purchase a small property to be used as an office and accommodation for some staff. From December 2020 it is our intention to continue the important work of supporting children but within a family setting.

We thank you for your prayers and generous support of the work of Still Waters and look forward to your continued partnership in the care of both children and families. Your regular giving is the means of tremendous encouragement and we thank God for your share in this ministry.

We had hoped to be able to visit Sri Lanka before Christmas, but Covid-19 has put paid to that. Nonetheless we send you our kindest regards and very best wishes for a peaceful, joyful Christmas and New Year.

The Chairman & Trustees.

Donations by Standing Order or by cheque to

**Still Waters Trust Society**

NatWest Bank High Barnet Branch Account No 82564078 Sort code: 60-23-36



*Tools for new self-employed start-up business*



*Collecting dry-ration parcels*



*Covid-19 relief parcels ready for distribution to needy families*

### **Old English Blessing**

May your joys be as bright as the morning,  
your years of happiness as numerous as the stars in the heavens,  
and your troubles but shadows that fade in the sunlight of love.