

# The East Sheen Chengannur Trust

Registered Charity No 293567



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Welcome to our latest newsletter which will also be available to view on our website.

## ACTIVITIES DURING COVID AND RECENT FLOODS

As reported in previous newsletters some of our activities have been disrupted by Covid. However this hasn't prevented our tenacious and conscientious Project Manager, Jacob Punnen, from keeping aid flowing to where it's needed. Apart from emergency aid distributed in recent floods and during the pandemic, just a few examples of our other recent work includes:



### OLD AGE HOME

Jacob says `There is an old age peoples home where about 150 helpless men live here in Chengannur. Most of them have a sad story behind them and many have no relatives, have been thrown out of their homes or have left home with some issues. There is a genuine man running it and he wanted a food grinder. This is to powder rice etc for their breakfast to make something here called "dosa and idlis". We managed to order one from the next state from an Industrial town and gifted it to the home. It cost about £320 and they were really happy with it. It has a coconut grater also attached to it. The number of residents being large, this is very handy for them and they are able to have decent breakfast these days. They have expressed their gratitude to us`



### SCHOOL AID

The schools in Chengannur have reopened after a gap of almost two years of covid (only online classes were held). We were able to distribute about 200 books and some bags to children in a nearby village called Pandanadu. Earlier we had helped them during the floods and also back in 2018. The distribution took place in front of the local government nursery school – a rather run-down building. Children were thrilled to have the school essentials, which don't get provided by the government. (See photo on next page)



## ROADSIDE SHOP STALL

The local YMCA gifted this small shop to Lethi and her aged father Bhaskaran. Lethi is aged about 37 but has health issues and although she had no job she still has to look after her ailing parents. We gave her about £25 to buy some small stock items to get her business started. She was delighted and reported that she is doing ok. She expressed her gratitude to the Trust for this kind gesture

## HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT

30 years ago we built our first house with a donation of around £1000 from a sponsor and since then we have built around 50 basic single story brick or concrete homes usually with 2 rooms plus a kitchen and/or bathroom. These have transformed the lives of the family involved as often they were living in shacks, tents or decrepit structures that could barely be called a house.

Due to changing circumstances the trustees and Jacob have now made the decision that we will no longer build houses from scratch for the following reasons:

- Over recent years the costs of building these has risen to around £7000
- The administrative work relating to a new build is more than Jacob can manage on an ongoing basis. One of the major difficulties is finding recipients with land but without an adequate house and sorting out legal issues and to ensure our houses aren't just sold when completed.
- We have in recent years been carrying out far more smaller works instead such as roof repairs, installation of wells or toilets and general repairs and small extensions and this is how our building fund will be used in future. This does also spread the benefits more evenly around the community as well as having the added advantage of making the work easier to manage.

The Trust does plan to build one or possibly two further houses which it has committed to on behalf of donors and details of these will be shared as and when they progress.

## AMAZON SMILE

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