

# The East Sheen Chengannur Trust

Registered Charity No 293567



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*Trustees: Russell Mattin, Richard Breese A.C.A., Stuart Mattin*

NEWSLETTER No. 104

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

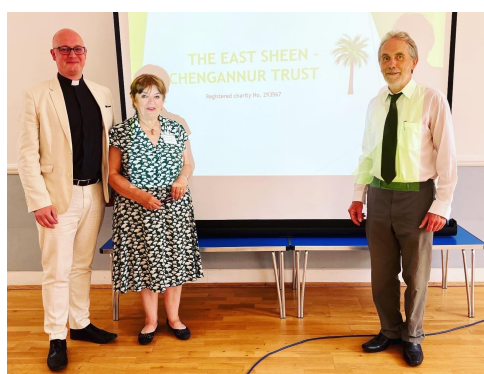
## **`HUNGRY FUND` ACTIVITIES**

As well as regular distributions of staple foodstuffs to help feed poor and destitute people, our `Hungry Fund` was also used to provide a special Christmas event thanks to a donation of £100 from our supporters Geoff and Ting Thorsby. Christmas seems a long time ago now but we thought it worth sharing some of our works from then. Jacob Punnen our dedicated Project Manager in Chengannur sent us the following report....

“With your help, we were able to give a grand Christmas lunch on December 21st at a nearby old age home to about 50 inmates - men only. It was a very satisfying occasion to sit with them for a meal. Each of them had their own sad stories to tell. Some of them had to be helped to be served. In this happy world of ours, it gives a tinge of sadness, when they queued up for their scarce lavish meal which included both fish and chicken and finished up with a cup of ice cream. I took along pastes and bathing soaps and also could give away some of Vinu's (my late brother in law) unused clothes. No doubt they were very happy about it and Deepa and me shared some valuable time with them. Thank you for making all this possible.”



## **PRESENTATION TO EAST SHEEN & MORTLAKE PARISH CHURCHES**



Rev Jonathan Haynes, Mireille Stanton and Russell

Mortlake with East Sheen Team Ministry is a combination of three churches: St Mary's Mortlake, Christ Church East Sheen and All Saints East Sheen. Several of our supporters attend these churches and last year we were recommended for their annual support grant for overseas charities. This support lasts for 3 years and is worth around £2750pa.

Following an invitation from them, Russell Mattin, trustee of the Trust, gave a presentation to members of the congregation after a Sunday service. We would like to thank the Vicar Rev Jonathan Haynes, Kate Woodhouse and our long time supporters Mireille and Geoff Stanton for arranging this. It was a good opportunity to show how we operate and everyone was impressed by the wonderful work done by Jacob in India to convert every penny of donations into valuable outcomes.

## **POSTAGE STAMPS WANTED**

Don't forget we still collect postage stamps of any type. Please send to the address at the top of this newsletter if you are able to collect any.

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## FINAL HOUSE HANDOVER

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, because of the rising cost of house building, we are intending to spread our funds across more families by carrying out repairs and upgrades rather than build complete houses from scratch. With this in mind Jacob sent the following report of the recent handover of what will probably be our final completely new house. (Details of the family were given in newsletter 103 which is still available on our website [Newsletter 103 pdf.pdf](#) )

“Covid must have had its toll on many across the world but it proved lucky for a few. It was during the online classes then that the teachers saw on the mobile Bhadrath's run down house. It was then that Rosemary Riddell came forward wanting to build a house for a challenged child in memory of her beloved husband Ian. So it all fell in place together and their dream of a house materialised on Jan 9th when



we handed over a beautiful house to Bhadra and family. It was a joyous occasion for all. His school friends who are also physically challenged were present on the occasion with their teachers and of course friends and well wishers. The contractor, Santhosh, though he wouldn't have made any profit, did it wonderfully with a hall, 2 rooms with a small prayer corner and a well laid out kitchen and toilet measuring about 600 sq ft in all. The family were over the moon. The priest from our church blessed the occasion and we had a high tea which everyone enjoyed on that breezy evening.



The priest said a word of prayer, before he cut the ribbon, Bhadra too said his prayers and I thought it conveyed everything that it meant to the family. On their long bus rides to school, Bhadra seeing all the big houses around, would often ask his mother, Reena, when they will have their own house to which she would reply that his father Ani was only a daily

labourer and they would need to win a lottery to accomplish that. That day they actually won a lottery through YOU so thank you for making all that happen. As for us, it was a pleasure to build the house for Bhadra, though it had all its challenges amidst rising costs of material and labour. The family will remain grateful to you for ever.”

## SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Another report from Jacob.....”We were able to give a Christmas lunch to the Government Lower Primary school in a nearby village called Ala. We provided lunch to 45 students, 10 teachers and 10 guests. Being a govt school, children from the lowest strata usually study there and so it was a great occasion for them. The meal included fried rice, chicken curry, pickles and pappads and finished off with ice cream. The children had a whale of a time as we also bought them drums, santa caps, a Christmas tree and balloons as seen in the picture. Some of the guests were making long speeches and sensing the mood of the children, we turned it around when Deepa and I played jingle bells on the mouthorgan and sang. The children really enjoyed themselves so much that the headmistress of the school



commented afterwards in a message to us that over the years they have received many guests but the children have not enjoyed any this much and they wanted her to invite `uncle and aunty` to more functions! As a request, the school wanted a public address system and also some magazines for their library which we are looking to provide.”