

### **Parish Lenten Project 2014 Charity Nominations**

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November the Parish Lenten Project Cttee considered ten nominations for a variety of very worthy causes. A number of people spoke in support of a particular project. After due consideration a vote was taken and the five charities with the most support were adopted for the 2014 Lenten Project. Those present voted in favour of adopting five charities this year as there was a tie for the fourth and fifth place. The chosen charities for 2014 are:

**SWAZILAND-** Abandoned Babies for Christ is a Christian project which ministers to the whole child; mental, physical, emotional and spiritual. Abandoned or unwanted babies, often close to death, are taken in and nursed back to health. Those not able to be reunited with their families are placed in Children's Homes in Swaziland. The organisation works closely with the Royal Swazi Police and Social Services Department.

**INDIA** – The Sisters of The Holy Cross are based in various parts of India. This particular project is in the Northern Province of Uttar Pradesh. The Sisters began a school 2 years catering for children between the ages of 3 and 8 years old. In order to continue next year they need to build a new classroom to house the children. Two young parishioners who attended Holy Cross School have visited the school and reported on the need that existed.

**PHILIPPINES** - The Prada Foundation was set up some years ago by Fr Shay Cullen, a Columban priest, who has worked in the Philippines for over 44 years. Money is required in the wake of typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) to set up a child feeding station and centre to provide a safe haven for the thousands of orphaned children and those whose families are still missing. The risk of abduction, illegal adoption and trafficking for prostitution is very high in this region. The centre will care for them and attempt to reunite them with their families. When the major Aid agencies retreat the Foundation will care for these children in the long term. Documenting each child is also a priority.

**INDIA** - This small community in Kerala is extremely poor. Most of the people earn their money through being daily wage earners in this mainly agricultural area. The average daily rate is approx £1.50 and less for women. They do not get paid when there is no work in the fields. There is no school in the area and the children sometimes attend a Government school where the teachers are unqualified and whose language skills are poor. The urgent need is to start a school giving these children the means to escape the poverty in the region. 500,000 rupees (approx £4900) would achieve this for the local people.

**MADAGASCAR** – The Sisters of Charity of St Louis are working in a very remote rural part of Madagascar. Sr. Josephine has visited them and they are isolated and following a devastating cyclone last winter the Sister's house was damaged and the school destroyed. The 'Lodging House' was for those children who lived too far from the school. They look after themselves but get support and food from the Sisters. The money raised would help to rebuild the 'Lodging House' so that more children could receive the education, food and care provided by the Sisters

A number of events have already been planned but we are looking for new ideas for fund raising. Please e-mail Phil Townsend (Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk ) if you have any suggestions. Many thanks.

Parish Project Committee 2013