

The Lenten Project AGM was well attended on Sunday, 29th November. It was reported that the total raised during Lent this year a total of £16, 276.45 had been raised. This, although not the highest annual total, was excellent when the Old Chapel appeal was running concurrently. Each of the four charities supported by the 2015 Lenten Project will or has received £4,050.

At the same meeting, nine charities were nominated for support in 2015. After presentations on each proposal, it was decided that our charities for the 2016 Lenten Project will be:-

Iraqi Christians in Need was established to help the needy Iraqi Christians who as a result of the war have been suffering, displaced, destitute and persecuted. It provides financial relief to refugee families in the care of the Catholic Chaldean, Syriac and Orthodoxes churches in Irbil, Northern Iraq. The money raised will go to those most in need until they are able to work, medical aid and the education of their children.

John Lyall Charity The charity provides educational and community programmes for street children and families in Wawa, a shanty town in the Philippines. The charity aims to raise awareness of child protection, health and hygiene, provides educational and nutritional support to help young people to reach their full potential. They are looking for support of the education of 3-4 year old including numbers, letters, storytelling and basic hygiene. They also need financial support of livelihood skills development to adults to encourage self- sufficiency as well as coordinating social activities to build community resources.

Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti (MPVASS) is a registered Society run by the Catholic Mission Diocese of Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India. It cares for around 160 physically and mentally handicapped autistic children in the districts of Ujjain, Shajapur and Rajaghat in the Diocese of Ujjain. The society has started a training and rehabilitation for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb children and adults. They urgently need a class room with sensory training and mobility facilities and two toilets with disability friendly facilities for the deaf and blind.

Ugandan Children's Trust is a charity committed to helping the disadvantaged Children in Kampala, Uganda. Their aim is to support homes for disadvantaged children and develop sustainable self sufficiency. Disability in all forms is considered by many Ugandans to be a curse or punishment. Following the success of the programme for deaf children they now wish to start a unit for blind children in 2016. The charity now want to start a similar facility for blind children in the region and will use money we raise to establish this programme. They promote education and healthcare for Ugandan children and child refugees from neighbouring countries. They are based in Koboko in the remote far north west of Uganda on the border with Congo and South Sudan