

# The Friends of Sacred Heart Group: Our Remit

The Sacred Heart, 56 John Street, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 8NE

*More than a decade funding overseas development projects*

## What we aim to do and how we do it.

### 1. Background and context

The Friends of Sacred Heart was established in December 2005. It is part of what the parish does to engage with the wider community. On its behalf a group of parishioners meets regularly to organise fundraising and the allocation of funding to overseas projects.

Friends of Sacred Heart targets projects that are not supported by major charities. They are usually suggested by members of the parish because of a personal link, recommendation or knowledge of what they do.

Friends of Sacred Heart uses a formal application form to consider potential projects. Projects provide written reports and photos to show how the funding benefits the people receiving the service or provision. There are no administration costs: 100% of the money goes to the projects.

### 2. Aims and purpose.

- Our values: we try to put into practice our belief that people in need in developing countries are our brothers and sisters in Christ regardless ethnicity, circumstances, religious belief, no belief, or 'labels' of any kind.
- Our priority is fund raising to provide **long-term financial support** for projects. For example:
  - The provision of five *water boreholes* in Nigeria costing an average of £4,000 each.
  - Care and support for *people affected by HIV and leprosy* in India through St Joseph's Hospice, Tamil Nadu. £1,000 per year.
  - *Further education and vocational training* for 21 young people in India, via Meerut Seva Samaj, the social wing of the Catholic diocese of Meerut. £1,000 per year.
  - Promotion of *self-employment* skills, and thus financial independence, and safety from harm of young women in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burma through the charity Youth for Economic Justice and their partners the Good Shepherd Sisters. Regular donations of £500.
- To provide **short term or one-off** financial support for development projects. For example:

- Vision Aid: £1,500 for an eye testing kit for a vision centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
  - Uganda Development Services: £500 provision of funding for science laboratory equipment (sinks and benches) for a school.
  - Chhahari Nepal, Kathmandu: £500 for support of women and men living on the streets affected by mental health difficulties. They are often cut-off by their families, have experienced sexual harm and are of the lowest caste groups in Nepal.
- To promote a better parish understanding of the needs of others overseas in need by helping to support practical local projects.

### 3. How we achieve our aims

- Regular **meetings** of the Friends of Sacred Heart group: meetings will have a chairperson, minute taker, an agenda and minutes. The group is open for all parishioners to join. We encourage anyone to come along and see what we do – **we always need new members**.
- We make **decisions** about raising money, funding projects and monitor progress with longer-term projects.
- **Fund raising** events will be organised e.g. car boot sale, craft fair, social events, Promises Auction, seasonal fairs, ceilidhs, coffee mornings, quiz nights, a race night, sponsored cycle rides etc.
- In addition to parish fund raising events a major source of regular **income** is via the Friends of Sacred Heart box at the back of the church. If you are a tax payer please **Gift Aid** your contribution using the white envelopes next to the box. £1 then becomes £1.25; £5 becomes £6.25. For every £1,000 the parish Gift Aids Friends of Sacred Heart receives £1,250. Another source of income is one-off personal donations and bequests.
- The parish will be kept up-to-date with **progress** via the Friends of Sacred Heart notice board in the Michael Room, occasional newsletters, verbal updates at the end of Mass etc.
- **Financial accounts** will be kept of income and expenditure.

### 4. Evaluation and review

- The work of the Friends of Sacred Heart group will be **reviewed** at regular intervals to ensure that it is meeting its stated aims as detailed above.
- The group is **accountable** to the Parish Priest and the parish community.