

St Brigid's Third World Group



www.stbrigids3wg.com

Charity Commission for NI Registration Number NIC102818

Annual Report 2019-20

Our Group

St Brigid's Third World Group was established in 1989-1990 in St Brigid's Parish Belfast. It was accepted as a charity for tax purposes by the Inland Revenue on the basis of its Constitution which provides that its object is to advance any legally charitable purpose and in particular the relief of poverty in the Third World. The Group is registered with the Charity Commission for NI. Its financial year runs from April to March each year.

In 2019-20 the Trustees of the Group were

Rosalie Flanagan – Chair

Michael McGrath – Secretary

Kevin Flanagan – Treasurer

Hugh Doherty – Assistant Treasurer.

This Report

This report covers the financial year April 2019 to March 2020. It has been considered and approved by the trustees. During this year the trustees have had regard to the Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

The Financial Statements and Report of our Independent Examiner are attached to this report. In the financial year ending 31 March 2020 the Group raised £130,949.63 and made grants of £126,983.57 to our beneficiaries.

Our purpose

As a registered charity, we are obliged to be able to demonstrate that we have complied with the purpose set out in our constitution which is “*the relief of poverty in developing countries*” and that our funding is providing the following public benefits

- *to prevent starvation and malnutrition and to assist in the physical development of children and their concentration and learning (feeding programmes)*
- *to alleviate and prevent suffering and disease and provide dignity for the dying (health and hospice care)*
- *to help people grow food and to prevent disease (wells and sanitation)*
- *to enable people to gain employment or make a living and support their families (education, books, equipment and training)*
- *to prevent homelessness and provide shelter and security (housing).*

Our beneficiaries

Attached to this report is a summary of the work done by our beneficiaries.

We have received reports from each of our beneficiaries over the last year telling us how they have used the funding provided by St Brigid's Third World Group to provide the public benefits listed above. Often our beneficiaries are working in areas where the internet availability is sporadic. They all work in difficult situations and often in dangerous conditions.

But the main thing that stands out from all the reports is the love and care shown to some of the most deprived and disadvantaged people in the world and that donations made through St Brigid's Third World Group have helped to relieve poverty through feeding programmes, education and training, health and hospice care, provision of clean water and sanitation and housing and shelter.

Our donors

The money we send to each of our beneficiaries who work to alleviate the many serious problems of very impoverished people in developing countries comes entirely from voluntary donations mainly from Saint Brigid's parishioners. We collect these funds through

- Standing Orders
- an annual church door collection in September each year
- bread and soup lunches in Lent and Advent
- practice interviews in November each year for potential medical students
- quiz nights in our parish hall in October and January each year
- legacies from wills
- occasional concerts or other events
- grants from the Summerhill Foundation
- other donations.

Finally it is important to note that all of the donations raised go directly to the beneficiaries we support. None of the money is used for administrative expenses. Any small expenses such as postage and printing costs are met by members of our parish group.

As we came to the end of our 2019-20 year, Covid 19 was spreading across the world. We know that it will have a devastating impact on the poor people we are trying to help. We hope you will continue to support these projects through your generous donations and your prayers.

Rosalie Flanagan

Chair

St Brigid's Third World Group

April 2020

Summary of St Brigid's Third World Group Beneficiaries

Father Neil Magill is a member of the Columban Fathers working in Burma. He uses funding from St Brigid's Third World Group to provide food for children who would otherwise have nothing and for a Higher Education Centre for 18-22 year olds to enable them to train for future employment. He is currently striving to establish a Foundation/Trust Fund so that this work can continue as he considers it to be the way out of poverty for the country.

Father Raymond McQuarrie is a member of the Missionaries of Africa also known as the White Fathers. He is working in South Africa using funding from the Group to help alleviate poverty through the provision of food and food supplements, medicine and healthcare and other basic necessities of life to people living in extreme poverty.

Sister Anne Patricia Flynn is a Missionary Sister of the Assumption who works in South Africa. She uses our funding to help people battling against the “relentless onslaught of poverty” with a focus on helping with education as the way to escape the grinding reality of poverty.

Father Diarmuid Sheehan is a member of the Missionaries of Africa also known as the White Fathers who previously lived in Tamale, Ghana but is home at present. The Group continues to provide funding through the White Fathers to those who are still carrying out the work supporting people in that community with schooling and medical costs.

Sister Catherine Jarra is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny working in Sierra Leone. Our funding is used for a feeding programme (rice and sauce) and some medical help for 25 mainly elderly people and their grandchildren.

Father Andrew Lappia works in the Diocese of Bo, Sierra Leone, West Africa. He uses funds from St Brigid's Third World Group to provide food and other essentials for the extremely impoverished, to assist young people with education and training and to provide medical care.

Sister Joan Melinn is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary who was working in Fuka, Nigeria. She has now returned to Ireland and her work has been taken over by **Sister Agatha Ezeokye**. Our funding supports the work of their health clinic providing preventative/vaccination and healthcare programmes, the provision of boreholes for clean water, couples workshops to improve attitudes and reduce violence to women and income generating activities for women.

Sister Gladys Dimaku is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. They run the Consolation Project which supports families whose members have been assassinated as victims of urban violence to deal with their grief, overcome isolation and the stigmatization experienced. Funding from St Brigid's Third World Group supports their therapy work, handicraft projects to help women develop an income, youth and peace-making projects.

Sister Maeve O'Driscoll is Cross and Passion Sister working in a huge shanty town called Villa el Salvador in Peru where some parts have no running water and some of the roads are just sand tracks. She uses our funding for a Programme for the Elderly which provides medical attention and medicines and a hot meal twice a week for about 70 older people who have been abandoned by their families – there is no social security or old age pension for them. She also uses some money for a “useful holidays” summer programme for children who would otherwise have no chance of a holiday.

Rev Jim Campbell is a Presbyterian Minister who formerly worked in Malawi and following his

retirement **Lyn and Johnny Dowds** continue his work there. The Group provides funding for the shallow well building programme to provide clean water for communities thus improving both health and ability to grow food.

Sister Patricia Speight is a member of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa. She runs the Love and Hope Centre in Nakuru, Kenya. The Centre uses our funding to provide food, shelter and healthcare to poor and vulnerable people suffering from HIV/Aids, cancer and other illnesses, education support to orphaned children and assistance to help people begin to support themselves.

Sister Elsa Joseph is a member of the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians and is a doctor at Hope House, Manzini, Swaziland. Hope House provides hospice care for terminally ill patients and their vision is to provide a sanctuary of peace of mind for people in their need. Funding from St Brigid's Third World Group is used for food and medicine for the patients.

Sister Mary O'Malley is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Nairobi, Kenya. Our funding supports her work on the prevention of human trafficking in its many forms and on helping the recovery of victims of trafficking through therapy and education/training for the future.

Sisters Celestina Nnadi and Ruth Chetambe are nurses/midwives with the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary working in the Blessed Mother Teresa Friendship Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our funding is used for a food supplement programme for those suffering from HIV/Aids and Leprosy, the elderly poor and the destitute and to train people in new skills so that they can go on to support themselves.

Stephen and Melita Gordon are doctors working in Malawi. Our funding is used for education and vocational training, food and fertiliser aid for families affected by famine and prevention of child pneumonia and other conditions.

Father Sean Cassin is a Franciscan priest working in Vietnam with DASATT – Development and services Anti Trafficking Training. St Brigid's Third World Group funding supports training for young people who are at high risk of being trafficked to people traders because of the destitution faced by their families.

In addition to these beneficiaries whom we have been supporting on an on-going basis, in 2019-20 we also held a special appeal for the rebuilding of a creche in Mozambique which was destroyed by Cyclone Idai (SERVE/ Young Africa) and made donations to a hospital in Zambia (Fr Brendan O'Shea), to a project supporting mentally ill adults in Nigeria (Sister Geraldine Henry) and to a school for disabled students in El Salvador (Sister Mark Hollywood).