



**Chair's Annual Report  
for the Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
to the Friends of the Poor in South India  
Annual General Meeting  
held at Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, London.  
Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019**

This Report is to the eleventh Annual General Meeting following upon our registration as a Charity by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Our Trust Deed was signed and submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and a letter from the Charity Commission dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 confirmed our registration as a charity in England and Wales as of that date. We have been assigned the Charity number 1126907. We are therefore duty bound to keep the Commissioners updated on any change to our details on the Central Register and to comply with all other requirements of Charity Law. Our Trustees are currently Simon Bell, Christopher Brown, Philip Brown, Andrew Crighton, Laurie Green, Christian Jervis Read and John Wilde.

The Charity Report for the Friends of the Poor in South India states that the objects of our Charity are “1. the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of neglected poor people living, in particular but not exclusively, in the State of Tamil Nadu, South India, and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide, primarily by providing or paying for items, services or facilities and by aiding small businesses and other activities to create sustainable incomes. 2. The advancement of the education of the public, in particular persons living in the State of Tamil Nadu South India and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide. 3. The relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, in particular but not exclusively of persons living in the State of Tamil Nadu, South India, and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide.”

All expenditure from our accounts has been in accordance with the aims of our Charity. All meetings have been carried out in accordance with the regulations and procedures agreed in our Trust Deed, as above.

Activities during the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 have included the following. The Trustees have met on four occasions through the last twelve months with minutes of the proceedings being kept in the minute book. Once again we are grateful to the people of the parish of Christchurch Blackfriars for the free use of their premises for all our meetings. We also have met twice, on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 and 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 to discuss and decide the future direction of the charity. We are very grateful to Ms Fiona Sheil for freely making available her time to lead these discussions and to the law firm Morgan, Lewis and Bockius for the free use of their premises for these meetings.

We are grateful to all our officers for their care and hard work. This year, Mr Andrew Crighton was elected Secretary and Mr Christian Jervis Read elected as Chair. Mr Philip Brown was re-elected Treasurer. He resigned from this position on 1st May, 2019 and the trustees elected Mr John Wilde as treasurer in his place. The Trustees have received regular and full reports of our financial situation and transactions. We have applied for and received Gift Aid tax rebates where applicable.

We seek to keep all our donors fully informed of our activities by means of our website at [www.fpsi.org.uk](http://www.fpsi.org.uk) which is overseen by Dr Laurie Green, and by continuing email and postal communication, including our occasional Newsletter, the Friends' News.

In February, 2019, Ms Emily Brown visited Tamil Nadu and was able to visit and report back on our sponsored project partner RICH. No financial claims (expenses etc.) are made upon the charity for such visits and we are grateful to Ms Brown for undertaking this visit, for reporting back to the trustees following her visit and for attending, as an observer, trustee meetings, including those discussing the charity's future direction. We have continued to maintain close communications with SPRIT, our other sponsored partner.

We expect strict ethical standards to be always maintained by our partner projects in India and note that they are now undertaking safeguarding training, using UK online training resources. We receive continuing reports from all our funded projects in India and are pleased to see that our donations issue in the transformation of many poor rural villages and groups.

This year has seen our sponsorship of the continuing development of the Coconut Plantation, the purchase of appropriate transportation for Indian staff and beneficiaries, in addition to regular maintenance and further development of programmes continuing from former years. During the year we have been able to start two additional major fund-raising programmes for the future – the first regarding the needs of poor charcoal burners, the second, provision of new office and training accommodation around Natham. In July, 2019, the first group of young women from the charcoal burner community completed their six-month tailoring training and as a result are able to make a living other than from charcoal burning. A second group of young women expect to finish their training in January, 2020. During the year, Japanese sponsored the purchase of a site for the construction of a new training centre, plans for the new centre were finalised and fundraising for this project commenced.

We have fully conformed to Government Data Protection regulations and have published our Privacy Policy and a Legitimate Interest Statement. Our Members' Secretary alone holds agreed personal data information.

Our work continues to expand with emphasis on financially self-sustaining projects and such educational and building projects which underpin this employment-creating process. For our ongoing work we rely increasingly on the regularity of generous donations often made by Standing Order.

We continue to remain true to the distinctiveness of the work of our charity as follows:

- We have good local access and knowledge of all the projects we fund
- We support financially self-sustaining projects and programmes.
- We personally visit and monitor the projects, ensuring transparency
- Trustees claim no expenses and no one is employed in the UK by our charity.
- We encourage self-help, by funding co-operative groups to build better futures - and all this in the poorest parts of our world

In this eleventh year of our existence as a charity our total giving to date is nearly £300,000. We therefore look forward to the year 2019-20 greatly encouraged and with much gratitude to all our donors.

Additional to this Report is the Secretary's Report and our Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Christian Jervis Read, Chair  
26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

# FPSI

## Financial Statement Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Receipts/Income	2018/19	2017/18
Donations	£ 33,840.93	£31,302.66
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£ 33,840.93</b>	<b>£31,302.66</b>

Payments/Expenditure	2018/19	2017/18
Grants	£ 33,592.92	£ 34,374.97
Other expenses	£ 125.57	£ 186.73
Bank Charges		£ 172.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 33,718.49</b>	<b>£ 34,733.70</b>

**Surplus/Deficit** £ 122.44 -£ 3,431.04

Cheque(s) not presented

Balance B/F from previous year. 

£ 1,994.43	£ 5,425.47
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 Bank Current A/c Note 1

Balance(s) in hand at year end. 

£ 2,116.87	£ 1,994.43
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 Bank Current A/c Note 2

Note 1 2016/17 Split :

Unrestricted	£ 3,795.47
Restricted	£ 1,630.00
Total	£ 5,425.47

Note 2 2017/18 Split

Unrestricted	£ 364.43
Restricted	£ 1,630.00
Total	£ 1,994.43

Note 3 2018/19 Split

The actual donations and grants for each of the funds are as follows:

Natham donations £2,000 less Grants £1,638.14 = net £361.86

Napkins donations £700 less Grants £703.19 = net -£3.19 met from unrestricted funds

Charcoal donations opening balance £1,630 + £3,500+ £2,000 Radley = £7,130 less grants £7,003.06

Buildings donations £1,570 less Grants £227 = net £1,343

Dindigul tailoring donations £2,400 less Grants £2,775.77 = net -£375.77 met from unrestricted funds

Net in Unrestricted funds is Balance at 30/9/2019 £2,116.87 less Restricted amounts above £1,831.8

Unrestricted	£	285.07
Natham	£	361.86
Charcoal	£	126.94
Buildings	£	1,343.00
Total	£	2,116.87

# **Independent Examiner's Report**

**Charity Name: Friends of the Poor in South India. Charity Number: 1126907**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 'Friends of the Poor in South India' Trust. I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30th September 2019 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

## **Respective Responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) or under Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## **Basis of Independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ~ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 Of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- ~ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations.

have not been met or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Name: ANDREW AYTON

Profession: CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT

Address: 4 STONECROP  
COLCHESTER  
ESSEX  
CO4 5UG

Date: 25/11/19