



The John Foster Memorial Home

Kamamur Village, Mangalamcombu, Southern India

NEWS UPDATE

May 2019

John Foster Charitable Trust

The Knights of St Columba confirms that their next two year National Action Project, from October 2019 to October 2021 will be the John Foster Memorial Home.

The Trust's most desperate need is to re-build the old original house. During the winter, in the middle of the night, there was an electrical fire. Luckily all the boys escaped safely with the help of the villagers and the fire buckets, but the upper floor of the house was destroyed. The building was made safe by removing the top floor. This incident coincided with new regulations being introduced by the Indian Government which required the Trust to provide 40 sq. ft. of floor space per boy. This meant that the Trust had to drop the number of boys from 40 to 28 to comply.

Many other regulations were introduced at the same time although the Trust had already met the standards they were requiring. For example the home provided better nutrition, fire buckets and regular medical checks, which was provided by nursing sisters from the local convent. Unfortunately 60 homes in Tamil Nadu did not meet these new requirements and were closed.

To be able to take 40 boys again, the Trust will need to demolish the old wattle and daub building and replace it with a new purpose built house with bathroom and toilet facilities, solar energy for lighting and power.

Newly hand-crafted bunk beds by local carpenters together with mattresses have already been purchased thanks to a generous donation from St Bernadette's Parish in Bispham, Blackpool. The boys no longer need to sleep on mats on the flag floors.

Donations to fund the construction of a new building, equipment and urgently needed transport (a twelve year old Jeep that is costing more to repair than run) needs your support.

Thank you.

Ken, Sheila and Sue
Trustees of the John Foster Charitable Trust

WHAT IS NEEDED?

A NEW HOUSE



The new house which will be called "Columba House" will cost approximately **£45,000.00** to clear the site and rebuild.

COMPUTERS, I.T. EQUIPMENT, STATIONERY and SEWING MACHINES



It is important that the boys learn about modern day technology and practice sewing skills, as the boys may take up the tailoring profession.

Computers, I.T. Equipment, Stationery and
Sewing Machines **£5,000.00**

An urgently required NEW JEEP



New Jeep **£12,000**