



A huge thank you to everyone who so kindly donated to buy new high-quality play equipment for the children. You generously donated just over £3,000, which was matched by another kind supporter. The children are so excited! Equipment will be ordered this month and should hopefully arrive in March.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope that you had a fantastic Christmas celebrating with loved ones and friends. It was a different kind of Christmas for my family this year, welcoming a family from Nigeria, and one from Pakistan to our table. Both needing friendship and love, both deserving to feel like they belong. What a blessing it was to us to make new friends and share the joy of the season together.

Jesus calls us to open our hearts to those on the sidelines and to welcome people in His name.



Thank you for answering that call for children and people living with leprosy and HIV at Brighter Future. Your compassion means that they know someone cares and is walking alongside them. What a special gift of love!

Trusting God will bless you as you bless others this year.

Louise

Louise Timmins
UK Country Head (volunteer)

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Did you like your Christmas card? The children certainly enjoyed colouring it in for you. Thank you to everyone who sent a Christmas card or a gift for sponsor children. Everything arrived safely. Your children were so happy to know you had thought about them. Each gift was greeted by an audible "wow." Hair clips and earrings are new special treasures, and Lego kits were swiftly completed and displayed!

Christmas is always a special time for both the children and the elderly you so kindly support. This year was tinged with sadness as the first Christmas without Mary, but the wonderful team pulled together and worked so hard in her honour, making this year as perfect as they could.

Your kindness provided a fantastic day of celebration, dancing and feasting. Every child in our care received a gift to open. You also funded gifts of love for elderly and disabled people affected by leprosy. Clothes, blankets, toiletries and food all showed them that they were loved and valued.



TAKING YOUR LOVE TO INDIA!

Our lovely Chair Liz, travels to Brighter Future (self-funded) every year. She spends time with the children and people living in leprosy colonies across Vizianagaram.

It's always fantastic to hear first-hand about the wonderful transformation you create through your generosity and prayers. Liz has shared about a day in a leprosy colony and a day at the beach with children from Rainbow.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

Narasannapeta leprosy colony is a small community of people who have been pushed to the margins of society. Unwanted by the outside world, they exist simply because you love them. Your kindness means they receive food parcels to supplement their days begging in the local town. Your compassion means they also receive vital medical care which would otherwise be out of reach. But you're giving so much more than 'just' money, you're restoring health and hope. You're bringing beauty from ashes.

Last year at this colony, in a small dark room I met Chaudramma. She sat on a makeshift bed with a worn blanket covering the hand-woven slats. Ulcers caused by leprosy had become so infected that there had been no option but to amputate. A second leg lost to this terrible disease, and with it her mobility and independence.

Tears fell silently down Chaudramma's cheeks as she shared her story. She had to dress her wounds daily on her own. There was no nurse, no husband to bring her tea, no flowers to brighten her room and no hope for the future.

Victor sat beside her and offered her a bed at the health centre at Shanti Nivas. Chaudramma's face lit up as she listened, hardly believing the words. Her wound would be dressed properly by a nurse, she'd have nutritious meals, and even a TV to watch! But what meant the most to her, was that she would no longer be on her own. It was like a light had been shone right into the darkness.

Twelve months later, I met Chaudramma once more. Laughing, helping others, hair glossy, looking beautiful and moving with ease on two new prosthetic legs! Now it was my turn for the tears to fall. A precious life completely transformed thanks to your kindness and the dedication of the Brighter Future team. Chaudramma asked me to share how grateful she is. There aren't enough words for thank you for what you have done for this lovely woman.



I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE!

This year, wonderful students at Charlton CEP School in Dover, baked and sold cakes for Brighter Future. I was given a fantastic £300 to help pay for food parcels and an amazing day out for thirty children!

I was so blessed to be able to take part in this day of fun. The Brighter Future bus was filled with whoops of delight and excitement for a whole hour as we travelled to a playpark, and then the seaside. I have to say that even I had a go on the swings and slides, as the children took photos and giggled at aunty making a bit of a fool of herself!

This was followed by a delicious picnic, with vats of rice and curry demolished by hungry mouths. Then the very best bit – a dip in the sea.

As is cultural, the girls jumped in fully clothed, shrieking with delight in the waves! It was so lovely to watch everyone enjoy this precious opportunity to play. To just be a child despite all of the trauma they have faced in their young lives. This sense of freedom is something every child deserves.





COMING UP THIS YEAR.....

VICTOR VISITING THE UK

Victor has a scholarship for a 10-week course in sustainable farming at Marshal Papworth. The aim of this training is to increase sustainability and nutrition across all of the work that you support. He will be able to take these new skills back to Vizianagaram and Odisha and share with the team.

Following the course, Victor will be travelling around the UK to meet supporters. If you or your church would like a visit in July, please let us know.

YOUR PRESENT FOR THEIR FUTURE!

We've all got so much stuff, haven't we? And knowing what to buy someone who has everything is really difficult. Later in the year you'll be able to buy gifts through Brighter Future that will really make a difference. How about a goat for a family to provide milk, or some chickens? There will be gifts which meet everyone's interests including school packs and medical care, food and even shoes!

MAKE A NOTE!

While you're writing dates on your 2026 calendars, please note to send Christmas cards to us by Nov 6th this year. Louise will be taking them to India personally later that month.

The best way to get in touch with us is by emailing, but Louise loves chatting to you on the phone too! Please note the new contact number below.

IS THIS YOUR YEAR FOR AN ADVENTURE?

In October Louise will be leading an immersive visit to Brighter Future. From learning about leprosy, playing with the children, comforting the lonely and seeing the 'real' India, to a visit to the coast and local attractions – this will be a week to remember!

This is a non-profit making visit, and costs will be kept as low as possible. If you'd like more information, please get in touch.

LLOYDS BANK ACCOUNT CLOSING

You can count on us not to waste any of the funds you so faithfully give! To reduce fees, we are closing the Lloyds bank account in February.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already moved giving to the Metro account. Get in touch and we'll explain how to set up a standing order with Metro Bank if you would like to do this. We'd be sad to lose you!

WE LOVE KEEPING YOU UPDATED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING! HOWEVER IF FOR ANY REASON YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO HEAR FROM BRIGHTER FUTURE, PLEASE DO LET US KNOW.

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