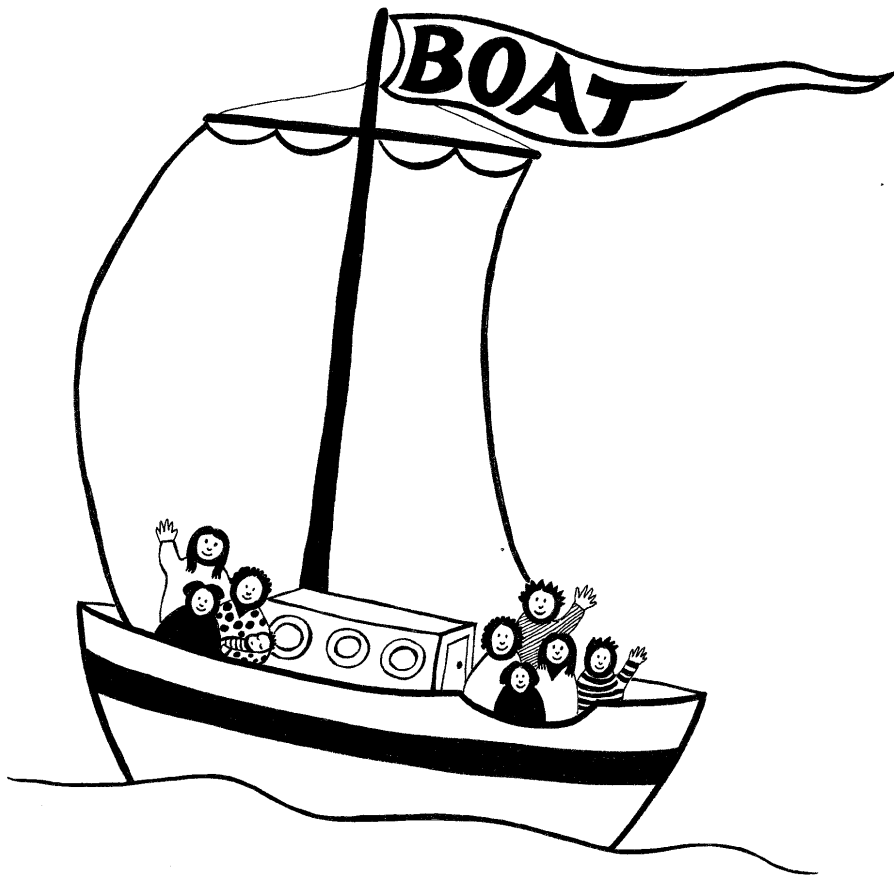


BLACKFRIARS OVERSEAS AID TRUST

Founded 1984 by Members of 9.30 Family Mass Congregation



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2015

Registered Charity 288585

BOAT COMMITTEE
May 2015 to April 2016

Chair	Anna Lucas	<i>Chairman's Report</i>
Secretary	Lucy Carpenter	<i>Cameroon</i>
Treasurer	John Thanassoulis	<i>Treasurer's Report</i>
Asst Treasurer	Filomena Nave	<i>Regular Donations & Brazil</i>
<i>Voting</i>	Mick Conefrey	<i>Zimbabwe (African Mission)</i>
	Jenifer Dye	<i>Tanzania</i>
	Geraldine Johnson	<i>India (Sugandh)</i>
	Ag MacKeith	<i>Annual Report and Nicaragua</i>
	Nicolette Michels	
	Rosaleen Ockenden	<i>Uganda (Kigumba/Kagadi/Mubende)</i>
<i>Non-voting</i>	Rene Banares-Alcantara	<i>Ethiopia</i>
	Julie Lynch Bridson	<i>Philippines</i>
	Samuel Burke OP	<i>Pakistan</i>
	Domenico Caprotti	<i>Grenada</i>
	Helen Ghosh	<i>Peru (San Benito) and Sri Lanka</i>
	Emerita Pilgrim	<i>Uganda Cancer Trust</i>

Italics indicate the project for which members are responsible.

**Of course everyone in the 9.30 congregation has a part to play in keeping
BOAT's large fleet of projects afloat. We are very grateful
for the generous response to our appeals for help, the initiative, skill
and hard work used to raise funds in so many ways**

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD 2015

Dear Friends of BOAT,

In this age of constant news, when anyone can promulgate on a worldwide scale – and in an *instant* – images of cruelty and horror, a feeling of hopelessness lurks in the shadows. Not only are religious beliefs challenged, so too are secular beliefs. The temptation to become introspective is strong; the garden which one must cultivate becomes a garden with high walls and no gate.

It is therefore such an incredible blessing to have another window on the world, through which we see human beings doing good with open hearts and awe-inspiring dedication. Thus, we see Fr Ed O'Connell continuing in his efforts to make the lives of women and children in the township of San Benito, Peru, more peaceful and fulfilling; we see Sr Kathleen Melia working tirelessly in the Philippine municipality of Midsalip to ensure that indigenous children are not denied their right to education; we see Sr Clemensia bravely battling against malaria in Kigumba, Uganda; we see the bright little faces of schoolchildren in Nicaragua and Grenada, whose quality of life and school attendance have improved tremendously thanks to the school meals programmes which BOAT supports.

And the brethren here at Blackfriars are instrumental in bringing good to the fore. Not only can we count on the brethren to give BOAT help in practical ways – by allowing committee meetings, AGMs, auctions and cafés to take place in the Priory, and by mucking in when tables and chairs need rearranging, and when cakes need baking! – but we can rely on their prayers and on their insights into the world. It was thanks to Fr Timothy Radcliffe's account of his visit to Iraq that we learnt of the valiant efforts of Sr Maria Hanna, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena, and her sisters, in refugee camps in Erbil, where the precarious and cramped living conditions meant that an outbreak of scabies was making life even more miserable. The purchase of towels and special, medicinal soap became the goal of the Lenten Appeal 2015. BOAT initially advised Sr Maria that the amount which would probably be raised would be in the region of £1,700; it was, in fact, £4,800.

The generosity of the 9.30 Family Mass congregation and of BOAT's many other supporters was also evident in the swift response to an appeal at the beginning of 2016, when financial planning for the year ahead included a reduction in the grant to each project from £2,100 to £2,000. Such a reduction was rendered unnecessary when a number of new donors stepped forward.

The card-recycling team continue to produce lovely cards on kitchen tables throughout Oxford and, in 2015, generated £1,048 for BOAT – thank you to Gill Emerson, Joshua and Jenifer Dubin, and Ag MacKeith, as well as to all those who have taken card "kits" home. Thanks also to Una and Andrea Goble who have been selling delicious honey for BOAT for over fifteen years. Of the termly BOAT cafés, the Advent Café deserves special mention due to the fact that it featured a very successful silent auction of a beautiful and cosy blanket knitted by Toni Lacey, as well as a fabulous print of the Priory Church by artist Jackie Conway (Toni's daughter). The auction raised £300 for BOAT.

As always, I would like to thank all the Committee; in particular, John Thanassoulis who, as Treasurer, continues to manage BOAT's finances with great clarity and efficiency; also, Filomena Nave who has again been meticulous in her work reclaiming Gift Aid (£7,811 this year). Lucy Carpenter has once more been a wonderfully organized and supportive BOAT Secretary. Thanks are also due to BOAT Editor, Ag MacKeith, for the fine report you see before

you. Finally, a big thank you to Jane MacKay who has readily given of her time and expertise in examining our accounts.

BOAT's Public Benefit

All charities, including smaller ones like ours, are required to report on the “public benefit” they bring through their activities, and to describe how they have achieved their objectives.

Our purpose

Under our constitution as a registered charity, the purposes of BOAT are to “provide support for the charitable activities of Christian parishes, organisations or societies, situated or working outside Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in (i) the relief of poverty, and (ii) the advancement of education”. Everyone attending Mass at Blackfriars or giving to BOAT on a regular basis is regarded as a member of the Trust. The formal Trustees are a committee of ten people, elected each year at our Annual General Meeting. A representative from the Dominican community – Br Samuel Burke since January 2015 – also sits on the committee, as a link to the Priory which is home to BOAT.

The benefit we bring

We have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Under our Principles for Giving, updated at our AGM in 2007, we have a very clear set of criteria for the projects we support and for assessing the public benefit that support will bring. On the key principle that we want our funding really to “make a difference” we aim to support relatively small-scale or grass-roots projects with regular grants (£2,100 in 2015). Some funding will be one-off but more often a project will be funded for three years and then considered for renewal on a rolling basis.

We always look for projects with some link to the 9.30 Family Mass congregation or the Dominican order; although most have Catholic leadership, that is not a requirement, and we don't fund any form of proselytizing. We make sure that there is regular personal contact, partly so that we can identify priorities and needs quickly, but also so that we can help the congregation's understanding of the challenges in developing countries. We aim to help communities find long-term solutions to their needs, rather than short-term fixes although, from time to time, we do give money to help with emergencies. As you read through this report, you will see that our projects fall broadly into three areas:

Health: especially primary health care and preventive medicine;

Welfare: especially for children, people with disabilities, refugees, and victims of war or poverty;

Education: particularly practical skills, women's education, and the provision of basic educational needs for children.

We are always looking for good projects to support on a one-off or regular basis. This is your charity, so please tell us if you know of a project which satisfies BOAT's criteria. And thank you, in this Holy Year of Mercy, for allowing us all, through BOAT, to share in the fears and hopes of the inspiring people you see in these pages, who spread good in such difficult circumstances.

Anna Lucas, Chairman

Brazil

São Paulo da Cruz, Calvário Church

BOAT has been supporting the Serviço Social e Promocional São Paulo da Cruz (SSPSPC), a centre for 120 school-aged children and teenagers from low-income families, since 2005. This day-centre is located in the district of Pinheiros, Sao Paulo City, a region where I have grown up and where I observed wealth and poverty living literally side by side. As a child, everyday I used to take a short-cut through a slum to my school. Some of my primary school friends left school at age 11 to go to work in local factories. Nowadays, children are supposed to stay in school until 16 years old, which is also the minimum legal working age. In reality, urban children from low-income families continue to have little chance to complete their education. Schools in Brazil have very short shifts, so children are left unsupervised for most of the day. Pressure to start working at an early age continues. An alternative, brighter picture exists for the children attending the SSPSPC centre.

The SSPSPC, based on the premises of the Calvário Church, offers social and educational activities and complements state school education. The place helps the parents too, as in the evening the premises are used for adult literacy courses that are attended by family members. There are regular talks and workshops for the families, who are encouraged to participate in the development of their children. What I find unique about this project is the support it gives to teenagers like the ones in the photo. It doesn't just keep them off the streets, it gives them skills that will be useful in their adult life. The children who go to this day-centre, have a real opportunity to complete school education and to break with poverty. Recently, a few of them have gone to university.



We get informed about the project in regular letters from Father Rogério Mendes (President of SSPSPC), who once more confirmed that BOAT's contribution is very valuable.

Filomena Nave

Cameroon

ARCH, Dibanda

Since 1996, BOAT has been supporting work of the Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) in Dibanda, South West Cameroon. ARCH aims to meet the physical needs of disabled people by providing rehabilitation and support services for them and their families. We have regular contact with Sr Leonarda Tubuo, the physiotherapist who manages a team of well trained staff there.

Sr Leonarda tells us that 2015 was, in many ways, a grand year for ARCH. Most notable was the 20% rise in the overall number of patients seen, when compared with 2014. Altogether, 2,195 patients received almost 10,000 sessions of therapy. In her report, Sr Leonarda says “We thank God immensely ... people come to us because we are doing the best we can for them. In short, our advertisement is by word of mouth from patient to patient.”

As well as health carers, ARCH has a workshop staffed by shoemakers, welders and carpenters. Workshop activities include the making of prostheses, insoles for flat feet, and other adaptations for persons living with disabilities. In her recent communications, Sr Leonarda tells us that during 2015, ARCH advanced technically in a very particular way with the specialist treatment of hand problems. As she says, “the lone hand surgeon in Cameroon was generous enough to invite about nine of us for training. It has changed the way we look at hand problems at our centre because we now have a clearer idea of what to do.”

Sr Leonarda was also pleased to report on staff training provided by two visits from specialists from Holland. One was a physiotherapy teacher who ran refresher courses during part of July and August, and the other an orthopaedic technician who came to refresh staff in the workshop. However, Sr Leonarda was sad to report the loss of a loving staff member who died from an enlarged spleen, despite this having been removed. As she says, “staff were quite traumatised and it took a session of psychological counselling and a day of retreat to help.... He left behind his wife and one child. May he rest in peace.”

Each year, Sr Leonarda tells us a moving and memorable story of a special patient cared for by ARCH. This year, she says that a little girl called Merveille “was involved in an accident with her mother. Her mother was considered the only survivor but she was in a coma and had a deep gash across her forehead. Her father who was not at home when it happened was the one who came back after two days to ask where the baby was. She was discovered in the gutter at the scene of the accident but still alive. She was declared paralysed but now she is picking up and it seems she will be able to walk with crutches after all. This is a miracle of God.” The picture shows Merveille doing therapy helped by Eposi, a mentally retarded girl who is a new member of the ARCH team.



As reported in 2014, BOAT had agreed to continue providing support to ARCH for one final three year period. The money would be spent on a poultry project which it was hoped would give ARCH sustainability to do things like major maintenance, buy needed machines and provide employment to one or two people. The project depended on obtaining support from another donor. Despite having worked hard in preparing a strategic plan and building a website, the additional support required failed to be found. Nevertheless, Sr Leonarda assures us that the support provided by BOAT in 2015 still “kept the centre afloat because the little repairs and provision of daily needs has kept us going even in very bad times”.

Lucy Carpenter

Ethiopia

Zizencho and Arekit

BOAT has been supporting the work of the Sisters of the Imitation of Christ, also known as Bethany Sisters, in providing education and medical care to hundreds of children in the villages of Zizencho and Arekit.

Zizencho and Arekit are located in the highlands of Ethiopia. This region was not as strongly affected by the droughts brought by *El Niño* last year unlike other regions in Africa, in particular the lowlands of Ethiopia, which suffered greatly.

However, the living conditions in the area are very harsh, mainly because the agriculture and farming methods are rather primitive. While farmers work hard, the outcome is at times insufficient for their needs. More could be done with better equipment and professional training.

This is where the importance of this project resides: in educating young people to improve and control their own future, and in providing medical service that saves the lives of mothers and children at birth. The infant and maternal mortality rate in Ethiopia is very high; it is estimated that in 2015 there were 350 maternal deaths and 5,337 infant deaths per 100,000 live births (almost 30 and 12 times higher than in the UK respectively, according to the *World Factbook*).



BOAT's contribution is channelled through the Jean Grove Trust and funds about 15% of the Arekit school overall budget. The school has roughly 250 students and annual expenses can be broken down as follows: 45% for student uniforms, food and stationery, 50% for teacher's salaries and training, and 5% for transport, petrol and buildings.



In his latest communication with us Abba Musiè, the Bishop from Emdibir in Ethiopia, sent this message: "It goes without saying that whatever achievement has been achieved during their year the credit goes to the help and cooperation of BOAT and the Black Friars who are assisting our social endeavour."

Rene Banares-Alcantara

Grenada

Grand Anse

BOAT has continued to support the School Feeding Programme at the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic School in Grand Anse, Grenada. 283 children aged between 5 and 12 years are enrolled at the school. Breakfast and lunch are provided to the children, many of whom receive their only meal of the day through the project.

Fr David Sanders, from the Oxford Blackfriars Congregation, shown in the picture with the children, has recently visited the school. He reports that the project is proceeding well and that the lively and enthusiastic children are very appreciative of the meals. Mr Gary Jones, the headmaster, is very grateful for the continued support and is taking a keen interest in the programme, personally ensuring that the children are receiving and eating their meals.

About Grenada: dubbed 'The Island of Spice', it's the world's largest exporter of nutmeg and mace. With an economy heavily dependent on agriculture and tourism, the island has a big wealth disparity and one of the highest unemployment rates of the Caribbean. The country's small size and its exposure to natural disasters are important factors contributing to poverty.



The school is located in one of the more deprived areas of Grand Anse and many of the children attending the school come from single parent families struggling to make ends meet. As a consequence many families cannot adequately provide daily meals for their children, who go to school on an empty stomach and find it difficult to concentrate in class. High rates of truancy are a direct consequence. With the increasing social problems of crime and drug use, the school has become a safe haven to many of the students. By providing a substantial meal at both breakfast and lunch, the project aims to provide valuable nutrition to the children whilst encouraging increased attendance to class.

As part of the project, the school has been looking to improve the kitchen and cafeteria facilities which are run down and have been in need of renovation for many years. General kitchen items needed include chopping boards and more utensils and basic items such as bowls, plates, forks, glasses and knives.

The project receives some support from the local parish and a limited amount from the government. BOAT's contribution helps the project stay afloat. Each meal supported by BOAT costs \$1 and 30 students a day are fed via the programme. BOAT's contribution helps to feed a class for almost 3 months.

Domenico Caprotti

India

Sugandh Society

Sugandh, which means ‘fragrance’ in Hindi, was founded to help children who work as rag-pickers and collect rubbish in the Khadar and Holambi Kalan slums in Delhi instead of going to school. Sugandh initially focused on providing basic literacy and numeracy skills to these children, as well as offering them midday meals and, for older children, tuition support and vocational training. Sugandh has since expanded its programmes to include giving practical assistance and advocacy support to other members of these desperately poor communities in order to empower them to improve their lives and receive the benefits – from education and medical care to access to clean water and electricity – to which they are entitled, but which they are often ill-equipped to claim for themselves and their families.



The photograph shows children at one of Sugandh’s major projects, the Children’s Development Centre in Khadar, which helps to integrate children from the lowest socio-economic groups into formal education and to equip them with vital life skills through holistic programmes that offer tuition support, school supplies and uniforms, and a daily meal, all free of charge. A good example of the kind of impact Sugandh can have is the case of two young sisters, Akash and Monica, who dropped out of their local school four years ago. Because the government no longer accepts their paperwork and will not let them re-enrol, Sugandh workers have been offering them tuition to help them catch up in their schoolwork with the aim of reintegrating them into formal education once they reach the age of sixteen and are allowed to rejoin their cohort in an Open School. Sugandh also runs a Tuition Centre in Holambi Kalan, which is particularly aware of the importance of encouraging families to support their daughters’ education. This year, all the older children receiving tuition at the centre passed their high school exams, including the all-important 10th and 12th Grade Board exams. Particularly impressive were the results achieved by Mukesh, the son of illiterate parents who scored an impressive 83% and was awarded a Distinction in his 12th Grade exams.



Another focus of Sugandh’s activities

are women's savings and self-help groups that seek to help women in disadvantaged communities save money effectively and use these savings to purchase collectively small plots of lands, start small businesses and fund their children's education.

These groups also promote awareness of important issues related to health, sanitation and education, with a particular focus on girls' education. A recent example of the kind of success achieved by these programmes is the story of Manju (*see photo*), a mother of three young children whose husband works in a factory and whose mother-in-law taught her how to sew. By borrowing a small amount of money from one of Sugandh's self-help groups, she was able to set up her own tailoring shop to mend old clothes and make alterations. The profits from this business can then be used to support her children, all three of whom are in formal education.

Donations to BOAT in 2014–15 paid the salary of one teacher/community worker at the Children's Development Centre in Khadar and underwrote the allowance for a part-time cleaner. BOAT funds also supported vocational training, community events, and some basic medical assistance, as well as contributing to the maintenance and repair of essential equipment such as a hand pump. A visit to Sugandh in February 2015 by the Mayr-Harting family, which helped to introduce the charity to BOAT, reconfirmed how important BOAT funding has been and continues to be in supporting this ambitious and successful charity.

Geraldine A. Johnson

Nicaragua

El Platanal

El Platanal is a rural school, seven kilometres north-west of Leon. All the primary grades are covered, plus a nursery class and two classes for mixed age groups. Our project, which we share with Oxford's Leon Link's own Nicaragua Education Culture and Arts Trust (NECAT), is similar to Grand Anse in that it aims to improve the children's diet by adding variety to the staples of rice and beans, and thus to keep them in school. At the same time it teaches the basics of food hygiene, relies on the help of the parents (especially the mothers), and encourages a feeling of solidarity throughout the school. The community leaders say it is invaluable in promoting school attendance, and we learn from Wilfredo that the school's success in keeping children in class and seeing them through



matriculation has led the government to pay their volunteer teacher to teach the 6–8 year olds, freeing up the existing teachers to take on the older cohort, and making room for a new volunteer teacher to take on the pre-school children. Other virtuous circles created by our

intervention are: the vegetable garden and orchard that the parents and children cultivate and the improvement in mothers' cooking skills and grasp of food hygiene.

Martin Roger, our contact from Leon Link, visited in October and sent us this account:

“For a number of years now the head teacher Mercedes and her deputy Norma have been diligently working at the El Platanal school, encouraging successive generations of children. It has not been an easy task because they have to teach multiple levels at the same time due to a lack of support staff and teachers. However they are very dedicated and do what they can to win outside support for the school given the limited resources available in the community.

During my visit it was obvious that there is a good relationship between parents, teachers and children and an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

There have been no further incidents of break-ins at the school since the robbery two years ago although this is partly due to reverting to more basic cooking equipment such as firewood stoves. The community do what they can to keep an eye on the premises but since this is a typical Nicaraguan village with housing dispersed over a wide area there are no houses in the immediate vicinity.

I was able to take part in the preparation of the tortillas and drinks and in the distribution of the food. The children evidently look forward to their school meals and didn't waste anything. A strict observance of the rules of hygiene was evident amongst the children and staff. It was explained that the state supplies the basic diet of rice and beans whilst the BOAT funds are used to supplement the diet with fruit, grains, cereals and occasionally meat. [Vegetables are grown in the school garden.]

The school library donated by NECAT in 2008 was still in use and in relatively good condition as was the school furniture manufactured and donated at the same time.

There was an assembly during my visit with a cultural presentation and speeches.

At the end of the assembly all the children came forward individually to express their thanks to NECAT and BOAT with either a handshake or a hug.

When asked if there were sufficient cooking utensils and cutlery the head of the parent teachers association told me that there was a shortage of plates for the children so Wilfredo and I purchased 30 additional plates at the market and delivered them the next day.

There were no requests for additional support but it was evident that the school meals project is much appreciated and they hope to continue with it.”

Ag MacKeith



Pakistan

Women in Struggle (WIS)

Women in Struggle (WIS) is an organisation based in Faisalabad which exists to empower women at the grassroots level, and promote participatory sustainable development. They strive to improve the domestic conditions of poor women by providing them sources of income and to promote education in rural and poor areas. The WIS team, consisting mainly of schoolteachers, works entirely voluntarily to run their local activities for long-term outcomes.



This year BOAT supported WIS in the construction of a new Skill Development and Training centre, which will provide a much-needed space for their work in helping women improve their employment prospects. Another substantial project in 2015 was a fruit tree-planting programme in the village of Chak to create a reliable source of food and income. Additionally, WIS purchased backpack materials for school children, bought a number of Bibles, and hosted a Christmas lunch. All of these activities were made possible through the support of BOAT

In October of 2015 Lubna Ghani took the reins from the previous director, Anosh, who continues to provide some support as Treasurer. The invaluable work of WIS with the “poorest of the poor” continues to go from strength to strength, working through the church to support and encourage women through education.

Samuel Burke OP

Peru

Lima: San Benito Township

San Benito is a township to the North of Lima, which has grown up since 1992, and now has around 12,000 residents. Many houses there lack running water, electricity and sewerage, and the people suffer from poverty, lack of jobs, and the violence that can stem from that. Fr Ed's aim has been to concentrate support on the mothers and children, focussing particularly on improving nutrition and educational achievement and giving them the resilience to cope with the domestic and street violence which is rife.

We have been supporting this work since 2009. Fr Ed is a great correspondent, so there could be no better report than this extract from a recent newsletter:

Greetings from Lima!

I had two big celebrations during 2015. My 70th birthday in June, the party went on for a month! July saw the 20th anniversary of “Our Lady of the Missions” parish, where I have been since returning to Peru in 1999.

The photo is of me with young children in San Benito, taken earlier this year, as they raised awareness of their dignity and right to have a voice in the life of their township.



The work of *Warmi Huasi* in San Benito has been very

successful, thanks to your support. Three homework clubs, a toy library and play centre, a monthly play day, a monthly *Warmi Cine* day, a very popular reading club in *Warmi Huasi* centre and soon a new reading club in the local State primary and secondary school are well attended, reaching over 3,000 children, many of whom would otherwise be at risk, left to fend for themselves during the daytime as their mothers work. Recently the children have formed a Children’s Commission called “Children of San Benito in action” to work with the local council and the adults in the township to make safer a number of public places for them to play in and be able to move around without being molested, especially the girls. Watch this space to see how they get on with their plan!

Warmi Huasi has also opened up a new project with children in the Andean mountains in the department of Ayacucho. It will be based in the town of Pausa, and we are responding to a request from the local parish priest, as he and the parishioners are concerned about the high levels of abuse, physical and sexual, which children suffer in the area. Again, watch this space for further news!

I shall be home for a visit in 2016 so look forward to seeing many if not all of you.

Many, many thanks for your support, I am most grateful. May 2016 be a better place for all, especially those with no place to lay their head. *Blessings, Ed.*

Helen Ghosh

Philippines

Midsalip Missionary Sisters of St Columban

Through the Sisters of Saint Columban, BOAT supports the Subanen Mission in Midsalip under the tireless leadership of Sister Kathleen Melia. This mission assists the indigenous Subanen people in accessing health care and education and in protecting their ancestral homeland which remains under constant threat by international mining companies.

BOAT continues to support the work of the Missionary Sisters of Saint Colomban in helping the indigenous Subanen children in Midsalip, The Philippines gain an education. Over 72 children from 32 families were beneficiaries of BOAT funding for their education and over 30 other children received funds to help pay for school supplies. Nine high school students have BOAT scholarships and three BOAT scholars from last year are now undertaking technical courses in electrical, automotive and computer maintenance.



These funds were especially helpful this year as a ban on market days where farmers in the barrios of Midsalip sell their products to buy second-hand clothing have further impoverished the families in Midsalip who depend on the market, but are no longer able to buy this cheap clothing for their children. As Sister Kathleen Melia writes “Against this background the BOAT grant will be of enormous help to poor parents. Together with the 75 elementary children whom BOAT are helping in Cabaluran school, with your very generous grant we are able to help many needy students from other barrios in Midsalip, not just in elementary school but in High School as well. For this we are truly grateful, and I pray that God bless each of you and your families.”

Julie Lynch Bridson

Sri Lanka

Child Development Initiative (CDI) Vavuniya

The purpose of the Child Development Initiative which we support in Sri Lanka is to ‘Enhance the quality of life of Children and Women by creating a Peaceful and Safe Environment to a life with dignity and freedom.’ Under the energetic leadership of Sr Nichola Emmanuel, it supports Tamil women and children traumatized by the effects of the civil war and by life in the refugee camps, as they try to rebuild their lives

BOAT is the principal funder of this project, alongside some other charities, and Sr Nichola always sends a full report on all the CDI projects. Here is her report on the main activities which we funded in 2015:

“Education is vital to lasting positive change in children’s lives. Yet for millions of children and youth in developing countries, education is beyond grasp’ (*Save the Children Fund*). CDI wishes to focus on the education of children in order to provide lasting benefits for their future and development.



Over 300 children have been provided stationery, clothes, school bags and shoes with the help of a voluntary organization from Australia. This is a yearly program for Christmas. Children have been selected from the war affected schools of Jaffna, Puthukudiruppu, Kilinocchi and Mannar. Besides this, over 500 children have been provided with stationery right through the year with the help of an NGO ‘Lend a Hand’ in Colombo. Over 66 women were assisted for education of children paying tuition fees, training on computer classes, stationery and season tickets for the children to travel to school. This has been achieved with the assistance of BOAT UK.

A workshop on child protection awareness for 50 participants in the village of Kanaharayankulam was held in Vavuniya. The aim was to make children and parents aware of their rights and to protect them from sexual and physical abuse. When cases of child abuse and domestic violence are brought to Vavuniya hospital CDI is there to help the victims. During the year 26 girls who were sexually abused and raped were given immediate and medical relief. A number of women who underwent domestic violence and brought to the hospital desk have been assisted with immediate relief. This project is carried out with the financial aid of BOAT UK.



I would like to thank BOAT UK which assists with a solid fund of 2000 pounds yearly. BOAT is assisting financially since the inception of CDI. With the assistance of BOAT, CDI is able to run the office and continue the program of CDI in the areas of medical, relief, livelihood, hospital reception desk and education. CDI is able to continue with the activities with the assurance of this fund. It is through the generosity of BOAT UK that CDI is able to continue the work which is going a long way in assisting these women to stand on their own feet and look after their children and their future”.

So we know our money is well spent.

Helen Ghosh

Tanzania

Livingstone Trust

Livingstone Tanzania Trust is a grassroots development charity operating in Babati, northern Tanzania, which we have supported for a number of years. The focus is on improving education and supporting enterprise initiatives that are environmentally sensitive and sustainable. LTT has two programmes: the Education Programme, addressing the specific needs of individual schools; and the Enterprise Programme, empowering communities by providing resources and training to enhance their skills and build on their existing knowledge.

LTT has continued to work in Babati, and has started a relationship with a fourth community in a rural area. This is their biggest challenge as the poverty levels are higher and the needs greater within this community.

In 2015, BOAT's funds were concentrated on redevelopment of Malangi Primary School. The School has 293 pupils, eight teachers and average class size of 42. It is an eight-room school and was in such poor repair that the government was on the verge of closing it. For instance, the wooden rafters were infested with termites. In partnership with local leaders and LTT's sister organization the Manyara Community Development Organization, a planned redevelopment programme was agreed.

BOAT's unrestricted donation of £2,100 was the first money allocated to the programme, and was hugely influential. It helped to kick-start the fundraising campaign, encouraging a range of other donors. Those other donations were for specific projects, and the other funders were eager to support the construction aspects of the programme. It is the unrestricted nature of the funds that BOAT provides which enable some of the most important aspects of the development to be carried out: BOAT's money was focused on rainwater harvesting, establishing a tree nursery and buying books for the students. The rainwater harvesting and book-buying are vital to achieving the desired impact of improved education, and the tree nursery enables the school's community to participate in one of several income-generating schemes established by LTT.

LTT have also further strengthened their participatory approach and their engagement with all stakeholders as they challenge traditional construction methods by

introducing new materials and ideas which provide greater building longevity: in particular, the use of metal rafters which are impervious to termites!

Our contact with LTT is Julian Page, who is based in London but is often in Tanzania, actively involved with all LTT's projects.

Jenifer Dye



Uganda

Cancer Trust

In 2015 we were put in touch with the Uganda Cancer Trust UK (UCT) by members of the 9.30 congregation. We met two of their trustees, Dr Michael Minton (retired Oxford Oncologist) and Liz Minton (Chair of Oxford's Maggie Centre for Palliative Care). They outlined the main palliative care goals of the UCT and the development of a local volunteer group whose programme was to enable more people with cancer to access good quality information and support about cancer and the care, services and treatment available.

The BOAT committee gave their support to this work and committed three years funding to the development of the Ugandan palliative care programme and the support of an information nurse to develop further information tools. The pictures show volunteers with the Mintons, (back, left) and sitting with a patient waiting for treatment for an eye melanoma.



The UCT newsletter describes a day in the life of a volunteer and the information nurse in their own words. "I am 27 years old, with a degree in information technology and have been volunteering since 2011. Being a volunteer has helped me a lot, especially the training sessions ... I have gained a lot of information about cancer and other life-limiting illnesses which has helped me to sensitize people in my community about cancer especially when I go out for outreaches."



The nurse speaks of the stress of a diagnosis of a terminal illness: "The nature of illnesses requires patients to learn about the illness, make difficult decisions regarding treatment, and cope with the consequences of the illness. It has been found that having relevant information not only helps patients understand the disease but also facilitates patients' decision-making and coping."

This year the UCT has partnered with the Ugandan Marathon 2016 to enable volunteers to take part in an exciting fundraising opportunity. They are looking for volunteers to take part in the Ugandan Marathon on 5 June 2016. They write "This is a chance for you to challenge yourself, while raising money for a great cause and have an amazing adventure all at the same time"!

Emerita Pilgrim

Uganda

Kasambya Catholic Parish, Mubende

During last year BOAT has been involved in helping Fr Sebastian's project to improve educational standards by providing desks for the school classrooms, as well as text books, exercise books and pens. In addition, school uniforms, a pre-requisite for attending school in Uganda, have been supplied for those too poor to buy them. The local people have given their labour to construct a girls' and a boys' dormitory for the greatly increased numbers that are enrolled at the school, many of whom have to travel great distances, as the parish is very large. These dormitories have still to be finished and then painted and equipped with bunk beds, using next year's grant. This work will be continued by Fr Augustine Norris Mirinda, who has replaced Fr Sebastian as parish priest.

After three years at Kasambya Father Sebastian has been moved to the parish of Christ the King in Butema. It is in a rural area of 225 sq. km, where there are 15 000 Catholics in the population, twenty-eight chapels, sixteen primary schools and two secondary schools. He asks for BOAT's help in improving water and sanitation facilities in his parish and also improving the standard of classrooms and equipment, starting with the three nearest schools: St Kizito's nursery school (120 children), St Bruno's primary (550 pupils) and St Cyprian's secondary (300 students). There is one small health centre in the parish, but no medicines and no health workers because of lack of funds. We hope to continue to support his work in this very poor area of subsistence farming, which was devastated by war in 1986. The reconstruction period has by no means finished.

Karungu Convent, Kigumba

Sister Clemensia, the mother superior of Karungu convent, reports on the valuable improvements which she has been able to make in their health centre unit, thanks to the grant from BOAT. She has been able to provide six new maternity beds, twenty mattresses and thirty blankets, as well as twenty basins and ten buckets. In addition she has stocked up with essential medicines. The pictures show a maternity bed and some mothers and babies at the Health Clinic.



Since the apostolate of her order, The Little Sisters of Mary, is to provide both health care and education, she plans to devote the next year's grant to helping the Infant Jesus nursery school, which is in their grounds. She writes that the poverty of the parents means that the local children are badly off for even the basic standards of education.

Kirala village, Kagadi

After the completion of the three year mosquito net project, BOAT was able to support the women in this village with a one-off grant to provide a maize mill. Previously the women had to walk eight miles and then stand in a queue to use the nearest maize mill. The mill is used for maize, sorghum, millet and cassava. Mrs Jane Bigambo, the chairwoman of the Catholic Women's Association, writes that the mill has greatly eased the burden on women. The photo shows the maize mill in its temporary shelter, which can be easily be moved if the district council carries out its plan to widen and possibly re-route the road. If the plan is confirmed, the villagers can move their mill and its shelter to another site without any problem. The use of the mill is free to the villagers, but users from other villages pay a small fee and this money will be used to service and maintain the mill.

Rosaleen Ockenden

Zimbabwe

African Mission

African Mission is a small, London-based charity, which is active in Uganda and Zimbabwe. Initially it revolved around the activities of Dr Ray Towey, a consultant anaesthetist who for over two decades has worked in African hospitals and clinics, but more recently it has expanded into education. BOAT has been supporting them since 2011, funding maintenance and construction and helping both children and staff at a number of schools in Fatima Mission, a large Franciscan-run mission in Zimbabwe.

The £2,100 that BOAT sent in February 2014 went towards the school fees for 100 primary school children and 25 secondary school children. A one-off grant awarded in June 2014 went to Fr Jeya, the local parish priest, and was used to buy much-needed seeds, after a disastrous harvest in the previous year.

Our donation for 2015 was used for a new project, set up by Fr Jeya for disabled children. In a desperately poor region, where expectations are low and there are very few facilities for the disabled, African Mission plays a vital role in offering these children access to schools and education. Our grant of £2100 covered the fees and living costs for one term for a group of fourteen boys and girls, who range in age from 9 to 17. In addition to their physical handicaps, several are blind or mute. They live at a church-run pastoral centre and attend a local school. Some have no parents at all, others come from single parent families who could not afford to pay their school fees. The photo shows some of the children making music. African Mission is envisaged as a long-term project for BOAT and we will continue to fund them for at least a further three years.



Mick Conefrey

2015 Lenten Project

Our Lenten Project in 2015 was in aid of Iraqi refugees living as best they can in shipping containers and a half-built shopping mall in Ankawa, a suburb of Erbil. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in this makeshift housing are served by the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, themselves also refugees, having fled their home in Qaraqosh in August 2014 as ISIS encroached. Out of a total population of 34,800,000, Iraq has about 3,276,000 IDPs, many thousands of those are the Christians and other minorities who fled their towns and villages of the Nineveh Plain over the summer of 2014.

The sisters teach and look after the needs of the refugees as best they can. Fr Timothy Radcliffe visited the sisters and IDPs at a camp in January 2015. On his return, he told us about the valiant work being done by Sr Maria Hanna, Prioress, and others in very difficult circumstances. He urged BOAT to raise funds to help alleviate the hardships of the people he had met. In spite of their difficulty, Fr Timothy spoke warmly of their dignity and hope.

Sr Maria Hanna wrote recently, “Everybody is physically and psychologically exhausted. It does not seem that there is any solution. People risk their lives. Immigration is increasing in all directions.” She said, “There were some challenges that really burdened our mission. There are so many IDPs that sometimes we feel as if our work is inconsequential. Also, we were not prepared for this kind of work, nor have we skills to deal with it. Most shocking was the unexpected death of 10 sisters (most of them were in their 70s) in a very short period of time (three months). Despite that, our ministry continues to be strengthened by the Lord, who blesses our efforts no matter how modest they are. Being occupied with such projects, we do not forget our mission to preach the word of God for our troubled people.”



The generosity of our congregation in response to our appeal was immense. We raised an impressive £4,404, which, when gift aid was added, meant we could send them £4800. The money was used by the Sisters to provide and distribute towels and soap to 10,000 families for the treatment and prevention of scabies, which was rife in the refugee camps. Sr Nazik Matty OP, a former student of Blackfriars, now living and working in Ankawa wrote, “We are very grateful for what you have sent for our people. Your support was really significant.” They ask for our prayers and we shall continue to keep in touch with them to see how they are doing.

Samuel Burke, OP

Reserves policy and risk management

The Trustees' policy is to maintain reserves of approximately £5,000. This was a decision made by the Trustees at a meeting in April 2002, and it remains their policy. This sum is sufficient to meet emergencies, but at the same time ensures that grants are made to beneficiaries without undue delay.

Risk Management

In the light of the Trustees' desire to keep reserves at the relatively small level of £5,000, any surplus cash is held on a bank deposit until needed. The Trustees monitor the level of cash held and would review this policy if the levels of cash held were to increase significantly.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed or explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Trustees

Anna Lucas

Chair

for and on behalf of the Committee of BOAT

January 2016

Treasurer's Report on the Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2015

I can once again report that BOAT continues to be a financially healthy charity which, with the thinnest sliver of costs, is able to move money to support health and development projects in some of the most needy parts of the world. However we are not quite as financially healthy as we were the previous year. Our accounts indicate that our unreserved incoming resources were just shy of £37K. This is almost £13K less than in 2014; a reduction of over 25%. There are three main reasons which together explain this reduction:

1. During 2015 a substantial donor had to lower their support on account of changes in their personal circumstances.
2. The prior year had been flattered by some unusually generous one-off donations due to a bequest and a very successful fundraising campaign organised by a pupil of the Dragon School.
3. The gift aid reclaimed from HMRC in 2014 included tax reclaimed on donations in prior years. A comprehensive exercise was undertaken to make sure we had all the required donor information to allow us to make the reclaims. This year the gift aid reclaims were up to date so there was only one year's worth of donations on which to reclaim gift aid. This and the reduced donations meant the figure for the year was significantly reduced.

We had been careful with our buffer and so there had been no financial impact during 2015. However at the start of 2016 we intended to adjust our planned expenditure to match our new economic conditions. This turned out to be unnecessary: after an appeal in the Sunday 9.30 Blackfriars' Mass we acquired a number of new regular donors. In addition a further donor came forward anonymously and agreed to make good the entire shortfall to our planned expenditure for 2016.

We are incredibly grateful for this generosity. It implies that we can continue through 2016 to support all the good causes we had intended at an unchanged level of £2,100 each. We will therefore in 2016 continue to support a full stable of sixteen projects in the poorest parts of three different continents.

I would like to say a particular thanks to a number of people who have worked selflessly to raise money for BOAT. Firstly Mr Andrea Goble has for many years sold honey after the 9.30 mass in aid of BOAT. He is soon to retire from this, and so this is a good occasion to thank him for the huge impact he has had both in keeping the profile of BOAT high amongst the parishioners, and also in generating a steady income stream for our charity: £470 in 2015. Next I would like to thank all those involved in the manufacture of the BOAT cards. This too serves a dual purpose of raising BOAT awareness and generating an income. My very grateful thanks to all involved. Finally I again would like to thank the generosity of Catholic People's Week.

We remain ever grateful to all of our donors, without whose support none of these projects or good works could be supported.

John Thanassoulis, Treasurer

4 March 2016

Further Reference and Administrative Information

BOAT address: Blackfriars Priory, 64 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Carfax, Oxford, OX1 4AA

Charity Number: 288585

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust ("the Charity")

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31st December 2015 which are set out on the following pages 22 to 27.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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") and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ◆ Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- ◆ Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- ◆ 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 Commissioners. 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 considerations 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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 Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - ◆ proper accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
 - ◆ accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act: 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

Antonia Jane MacKay ACA (8480710)

March 2016

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2015

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2015	Total 2014
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations	26,178	7,004	33,182	41,843
Events and Sales	3,762	-	3,762	8,010
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources	29,941	7,004	36,944	49,853
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising	326	-	326	211
Charitable Activities	39,496	7,004	46,500	48,241
Governance Costs	237	-	237	210
Total Expenditure	40,059	7,004	47,063	48,662
NET RESOURCES Incoming/(Outgoing)	(10,118)	-	(10,118)	1,191
Total Funds Brought Forward	16,493	477	16,969	15,778
Total Funds Carried Forward	£6,374	£477	£6,851	£16,969

The notes on pages 24 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust
Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at Lloyds Bank	6,851	16,969
	6,851	16,969
Net Current Assets		
	6,851	16,969
Total Assets	£6,851	£16,969
 The Funds of the charity:		
Restricted Income Funds	477	477
Unrestricted Income Funds	6,374	16,493
	£6,851	£16,970

Approved by the Executive Committee on 24th January 2016 and signed on its behalf by

Anna Lucas
Chair

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in 2005.

a) Income

1. Donations and grants are included in the accounts when they are received.
2. Interest income is included in the accounts when it is received.
3. Tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid donations is included in the accounts when it is received.

b) Expenditure

All grants to partner organisations and other expenditure are included in the accounts in the year they are paid.

c) Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received for the objects of the charity without a specified purpose and are available as general funds. From time to time the Trustees may establish Designated Funds out of the Unrestricted Funds to meet contingencies.

d) Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

2. DONATIONS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Donations received under Banker's Order (unrestricted)	18,028	24,950
Donations received under Banker's Order (restricted)	660	660
Other Donations (unrestricted)	4,101	2,044
Other Donations (restricted)	6,344	11,742
Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	7,811	10,457
	£36,944	£49,853

3. EVENTS AND SALES

	2015	2014
	£	£
Harvest Auction	470	582
Christmas Café	661	378
Card Sales	1,048	1,090
Honey Sales	470	245
Summer Café	246	210
Spring Café	251	
Catholic People's Week	616	
BLEAT	-	57
Donations in honour of the late Miss Mary Hodges	-	1,524
Dragon School donation	-	1,563
	£3,762	£5,648

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants (Unrestricted) to Overseas Projects	2015	2014
Nicaragua, Leon	£2,100	£2,100
Brazil, St. Paolo	£2,100	£2,000
Pakistan, WIS	£2,100	£2,100
Cameroon, ARCH	£2,100	£2,100
Sri Lanka	£2,100	£2,100
Peru, Ica (Columban Sisters)	0	£2,100
Tanzania, Livingstone Trust	£2,100	£2,100

Uganda, Cancer UK	£2,100	£0
Uganda, Mrs Bigambo (maize mill – one-off)	£3,000	£1,500
Uganda, Fr Benyumiza, (school)	£2,100	£2,100
Uganda, Sr Clemensia	£2,100	£2,100
Ethiopia, Jean Grove Trust	£4,200	£0
Uganda, Makondo	£0	£2,100
Philippines, Columban Sisters	£2,100	£2,100
Zimbabwe, African Mission Dungu	£2,100	£2,100
Zimbabwe, Dominican Sisters	£0	£2,100
Peru, San Benito, Br Ed O'Connell	£2,100	£2,100
India, Sugandh	£2,100	£2,100
Grenada Grand Anse, Primary School	£4,200	£0
Iraq, Lenten Appeal (gift aid contribution)	£796	£0
Lenten Appeal 2014	£0	£238
4x4 Emergency vehicle -- Fr Sebastian	£0	£500
SUB-TOTAL	£39,496	£33,738

Grants from Restricted Funds	2015	2014
Kenya Education	£1,000	£1,000
Uganda Education	£2,000	£4,500
Lenten Appeal	£4,004	£2,362
4x4 Emergency vehicle -- Fr Sebastian	0	£5,000
San Benito Peru (Dragon School)	0	£1,563
San Benito Peru (BLEAT)	0	£78
TOTAL	£46,500	£48,241

5. COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Costs of Printing the Annual Report	226	211
Contribution to cost of BOAT cards	100	
	£326	£211

6. GOVERNANCE

	2015	2014
	£	£
Bank Charges	237	210
	£237	£210

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any member of the committee or to any person known to be connected with them.

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	477	2,578
Incoming Resources	7,004	12,402
Expenditure	(7,004)	(14,503)
Balance at 31st December 2015	£477	£477

9. GENERAL FUNDS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	16,493	13,200
Incoming Resources	29,941	37,452
Expenditure	(40,059)	(34,159)
Balance at 31st December 2015	6,375	£16,493
Represented by:		
Current Assets	6,852	£16,970

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT) Registered Charity No 288585

A Banker's Order for regular donations, which can be cancelled by you at any time, greatly helps BOAT. We need more people to give regularly so that we can predict over a year how much money we can send to our projects overseas.

Banker's Order

To *Name of your Bank*

.....

..... *Address of your Bank*

Account Number Sort Code No.

Account Name

Please pay to Lloyds Bank plc, 1 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4AA (Sort Code No. 30-96-35)
for the account of Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust, Account No. 00087533

the sum of £monthly / quarterly / annually (*delete as appropriate*)

until further notice.

This instruction cancels any previous order made by me in favour of Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust.

Signed Date

Return to: **The Gift Aid Treasurer, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust (BOAT), c/o Porter's Lodge, Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LY** (*NOT to your own Bank*)

If you are a UK tax payer and you sign a Gift Aid Declaration Form, we can make your gift worth even more to BOAT.**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

As a tax payer I want BOAT to treat all donations I make as Gift Aid donations.

Signature _____ **Date** / /

N.B. To be eligible, you must pay an amount of income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations (currently 25p for every £1 you give). Please let us know if your circumstances change. Thank you.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Title **Forenames** **Surname**

Address

..... **Post Code**

Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust
Registered Charity No. 288585
c/o Blackfriars Priory
64 St Giles
Oxford OX1 3LY