

# Round Up

## City of Lincoln Group of United Reformed Churches

### Trinity

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Elder</u>
3rd	Revd C. White (HC) Church Meeting	Frances
10th	Revd G. Poucher	Catriona
17th	At St. Columba's	
24th	Miss M. Ford	Barbara

### St Columba's

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Stewards</u>	
3rd	Ms L. Drew	Cathy	Trish
10th	Ministry Team	Janet	Matthew
17th	Revd M. Doughty (HC)	Allan	Sue A.
24th	Ministry Team	Janet	Ann

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### Trinity News

Eric Newton  
15 . 08 . 2023  
Safe in His Hands





## Church Meeting

3rd September

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## Prayer Handbooks

The new prayer handbook "Full to the Brim" will shortly be produced. The cost will be as follows:

A5 version £5.99  
 Large Print version £11.99

### Diaries

Pocket diary	yellow or green	£7.99
A5 diary	blue	£9.99

Synod can do a bulk order of prayer handbooks for collection at the Synod Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Could you either let me know by 14<sup>th</sup> September, or Synod by 18<sup>th</sup> September (and copy me in if you do this). I can then collect them at Synod.

*Catrina*

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## Race for Life

Dear Friends

A massive Thank You to everyone who supported us when we participated in the Race for Life back in July. Together we raised the wonderful sum of £330 for Cancer Research UK. This was my first time participating in a 10k event and with the brilliant support of Lizzi and Howard, I managed to keep going. It was windy and tough but we were so pleased we did it, with Paul and Georgie spurring us on, and the great choir singing the perfect song for sprint finish ..... 'Don't stop me now'!!!

Thanks again. Paula and Co xx





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## Baby's Basket

"Baby's Basket" is run by Bridge Church Lincoln and exists to provide Lincolnshire parents who are struggling financially with a Moses basket of baby items to help them in the first few weeks of parenthood. The basket contains 0–3 month baby clothes, blankets and toys in addition to a bag of toiletries and nappies/wipes.

For more information please visit

[www.wearebridge.org/babysbasket](http://www.wearebridge.org/babysbasket)

A cheque for £62 from the recent retiring offering has been handed over to "Baby's Basket" and was gratefully received.

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## St Columba's

*Saturday Lunch  
30th September  
£6 three courses  
all welcome*



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## Harvest Festival Service - 15th October

Our Harvest service is on 15<sup>th</sup> October and will be followed by a light lunch . Details to follow. Everyone welcome.

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## Advanced Christmas notice for your diaries!

Janet will be sending Trinity an invitation to bring a decorated tree along to our Christmas Tree Festival. This will be held on Saturday and Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Setting up and preparations on the Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Janet will send information soon.

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## Ermine



When it was first mentioned back in January that Ermine was facing closure it was hard to take in. Due to small numbers and facing a huge bill of £5,000 for the gas next year plus the other utility bills and repairs we knew we had no option but to close.

This was a very sad decision but we had no choice. What a lot of work we've had to do leading up to this point. We don't know where half the things came from that we found. Some of which we had never seen before. I won't bore you with all the details except to say that the past few months have been very stressful for Chris and myself. We have been guided by Cecil & Gillian for which we thank them as they led us through all the things that had to be done. So we visited the Archives and the Registrar. Then there was the shredding of documents. Boxes of it. We called in the Industrial Shredders for that job.

Enough of the practicalities. On Sunday 30th July we had our last

service in Ermine. It was lovely to see so many of our friends, and a full church. It was a lovely service of Thanksgiving for the life and witness of Ermine followed by lovely refreshments. Thank you to all the ladies of Ermine, Trinity and St Columba's who helped in any way with the baking of lovely cakes. Thank you Bert for all the lifting of tables and chairs and car park duties.

Now Ermine enters into the next chapter of her Life. The building may not be ours but the people of Ermine are still there as a Witness. Some have found new churches to go to and some are taking their time trying different places. Chris and I have been given a very warm welcome at St Columba's.

This whole process has been very sad as we've been sorting out the contents of our building and Chris and I spent 3 hours at church today (Wednesday 23rd August) as we watched the House Clearance men taking the last of our items. Just the organ to go next week. It is nice to know that Trinity, St Columba's, Grimsby and the Orthodox church all have some of our furniture and other items.

Father Philip from the Orthodox Church has kindly offered us a room so that we can still meet for Cameo. This will mean that we won't lose contact with our friends and they will still be able to play Scrabble. How kind that someone from another church has offered us a home.

I would just like to finish by saying Thank You to everyone for their help and prayers and I hope you will continue to pray for us as we find new places to worship and settle into our new churches. It will take a while for us to realise that it's a permanent move and that the life of Ermine is now at an end. I thank God that I have been able to spend 70 years of my Christian life at Ermine. It has been there for me through good times and not so good times. There has always been someone during the years who I could go to with my problems.

*Elaine*

## **The United Reformed Church is saddened to learn of the death of the Revd Alan Gaunt at the age of 88.**

Alan Gaunt was a URC minister and an internationally renowned hymn writer. Eighteen of his hymns are in *Rejoice and Sing*, a collection of hymns and songs for the URC which he helped to shape and edit. His hymns reached beyond the URC and many Christians sing and will sing his words.

Alan also wrote the responses added to the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC, which was approved by General Assembly in 1990 and is much more widely used now than the original version.

The Revd Dr Susan Durber, World Council of Churches President for Europe, for whom Alan was a long-standing mentor and friend, said: "Alan was one of our deepest thinkers and finest poets, convinced that finding words to express faith should be difficult and demanding because God's mystery cannot be contained.

"He worked hard at finding the best words he could for preaching, praying and singing and would settle for nothing less. To hear him preach was to be transported and uplifted – it was exhilarating and stretching.

"Few could ever match his hymn writing or his crafting of prayers - he was our Isaac Watts and our Cranmer, writing texts to treasure and with which to celebrate the Gospel. Being his apprentice was a privilege, but also a reminder that ministry is work, craft and perseverance. He was not always happy or contented, but he taught me and many others to live 'always from joy' and to give everything to the God who made us."

Born in Manchester in 1935, Alan attended Silcoates School, Lancashire Independent College and Manchester University, where he spent five years training for the Congregational ministry. He was ordained at Clitheroe in 1958.

*From the United Reformed Church website, 05.08.2023, by permission*

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## **History was made at the 2023 United Reformed Church (URC) General Assembly when its first black and ethnically-minoritised woman Moderator was inducted.**

Ordained in 2018, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson was inducted into the role of Moderator at the annual meeting held from 30 June to July 3 at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Dr Henry-Robinson has responsibility for four congregations in the East London Group, a multi-culturally diverse constituency.

Tessa's induction, as the first Black/ethnically-minoritised woman in the role, is a proud moment in the life of the denomination.

"This is a huge step for the URC," Tessa said: "I will take the opportunity to assist the leadership and the membership to bring the denomination into its true identity – one that is constantly seeking justice, that regards God's Word in the Bible as the highest authority, and as a place where all God's people are one.

*From the United Reformed Church website, 20.07.2023, by permission.*

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## **The Late Marcia Anita Hayes**

The Minister conducted the funeral of Marcia Hayes at Lincoln Crematorium on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Marcia was a member of Trinity although unable to attend through old age. Her husband Alan predeceased her. They had 3 children.

Marcia was a school teacher by occupation. She enjoyed her garden but missed her car during these latter years.

The church remembers the late Marcia with thanksgiving to God. May she rest in eternal peace. CEW

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## St Columba's Church & UGANDA 2024

**Some may already be aware that St Columba's Church sponsors children in Uganda: Daniel, Lillian and Edith.**

Janet Turner-Harrison, a church member, is travelling next year to Uganda to visit an orphanage in Kampala. Before then, Janet wants to raise as much money as possible to purchase various items at source in Uganda (helping the local economy and traders). The items she is raising money for are bars of soap and dry goods. Bars of soap serve a family of four for a month for all their washing needs. Food parcels are made up consisting of a variety of pulses that are sourced locally. She aims to provide as many parcels as possible with the money she hopes to raise. She also plans to take knitted goods and toys to distribute (the airline allowing her an extra bag as it is deemed a charity visit).

Janet would like donations of knitted cardigans, light weight children's toys (such as skipping ropes, balls, etc). If you would like to make a financial contribution, then that would be most welcome to help towards the travel costs and food parcel purchases when in Uganda.

St Columba's is planning to fundraise at its Christmas Tree Festival on December 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by a quiz night with food in the new year.

Contact Janet on: j.turner12@hotmail.co.uk CEW

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## Toilet Twinning

**Every day, over 700 children under 5 die from diarrhoea linked to unsafe water, sanitation and poor hygiene.**

Using monies from the Legacy Fund, Trinity has twinned its toilet cubicles! By doing so the church makes a statement of solidarity with those countries with insufficient latrines – not least those places where the water is impure or not 'on tap'.

Building toilets with washing facilities is essential for good health and so that is where ToiletTwinning.org comes to assist.

Trinity's decision to twin 8 cubicles acts as a witness to premises users of the need for good sanitation and that we shouldn't take it for granted.

For more information go to <https://toilettwinning.org/> or visit one of our toilet cubicles to view a picture of a twinned latrine. CEW

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## Trinity United Reformed Church – Protestant Church (Pauleskirche) Hambach-Neustadt

There can be little doubt as to the impact of the global pandemic on communities. The partnership we have with our German friends in Hambach-Neustadt has been similarly impacted.

The Elders, at their 19 July meeting, resolved to do whatever is possible to keep the partnership alive. Although the prospect of travelling to Germany to maintain the partnership may be an ideal, the likelihood post-pandemic, and because of an ageing congregation, makes the prospect less likely. There are things, however, we can do to maintain friendship as Christian communities.

Although it has been customary for us to remember German friends on

Advent Sunday, with them remembering us on Palm Sunday, the elders feel it would be good to ensure that we intentionally mark the partnership on those Sundays when we celebrate Holy Communion. Further, this would be symbolised by the lighting of the partnership candle.

The Minister has been in communication with his German opposite, Pfarrer Oliver Jaehn, and they are indicating a willingness to ensure that friendship doesn't wane.

Why not refresh your appreciation of this special friendship by looking at the document declaring the foundation of the partnership on the wall near the font. Also, pause while you are there and offer a prayer for our friends.

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### **Ermine United Reformed Church**

Friends from other United Reformed Churches and ecumenical guests marked the closure of Ermine URC on Sunday 30 July. The Moderator of the East Midlands Synod, Revd Geoffrey Clark, who also preached, presided assisted by the North Lincolnshire Resource Area Ministers (Gillian and Cecil). Around a 100 people were in attendance. The Organist was Rod Callow.

Tributes were paid to all those who had contributed to the life of the church and stories were told of Ermine's 66 years of life and witness. Special thanks were given to the elders, Chris and Elaine, who received bouquets.

The service had a real note of celebration and thanksgiving to God.

Soli Deo gloria - Glory to God alone!

*CEW*



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### **Becoming an Eco Church**

It seems a while since it was first muted, but as long ago as November last year the Elders thought there might be some mileage in Trinity becoming an Eco Church. Subsequently, so too did Church Meeting.

Becoming an Eco Church means that Trinity would intentionally seek to be a church that cares for its environment and God's creation. To achieve Eco Church status (of which there are 3 award levels: bronze, silver, and gold) the church is about to embark on an audit where it reviews its life (premises, worship, resources, etc) against a measurement devised by the charity *A Rocha UK*. *A Rocha* states it is:

*... a Christian charity working to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people.*

*We aim to inspire individuals and families, equip churches and church leaders, build partnerships and manage land for nature and people.*

Many churches in the UK have taken up the challenge to seek accreditation, so too has our wider church organisation. Twelve out of thirteen URC synods have gained accreditation.

To assist Trinity's application the elders have asked 3 church members to manage this piece of work over the Autumn: Paula, Roy and Samantha. We are not thinking we can achieve the gold award, but there is hope that bronze might be attained.

Please pray for the group steering this important exercise and remember that each one of us has a part to play as we tend God's planet, Earth.

CEW

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URC Finance Department 9 August 2023

To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches  
and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships  
Ministry And Mission Fund - Annual Letter To Local Churches

#### **When will normal service be resumed?**

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-

opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

**Ian Hardie (Immediate Past Treasurer)**  
**Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)**

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## Awareness and Holy Days in September

*Please note: this is a small selection of special days, there are many more to be found online. For more information about them search online!*

1-30 September:	Blood Cancer Awareness Month
4-8 September:	Zero Waste Week <a href="https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/">https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/</a>
8 September:	The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8-17 September:	Heritage Open Days <a href="https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/">https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/</a>
13 September:	Roald Dahl Day
23 September:	World Peace Day <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace">https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace</a>
24 September:	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
26 September:	Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army
29 September:	Michael and All Angels
29 September:	Macmillan Coffee Morning (see below)

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## Unravelling the mysterious life of the Virgin Mary

On Friday 8 September Christians around the world celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While being the best known, and much loved, mother in history, she remains one of the greatest mysteries of all time.

Most of what we know about Mary are the brief mentions of her in the New Testament concerned with the birth and early life of Jesus, and that she witnessed his death on the Cross. She said very little apart from telling the waiters at a wedding feast to do as Jesus told them, which is good advice for us all.

According to Sister M Danielle Peters, University of Dayton, there are four different occasions when Mary's words are recorded in the Bible:

- Luke gives an account of the Mary's dialogue with the angel at the Annunciation when she was told that she would give birth to the Saviour (*Luke 1:26-38*);
- Her encounter with Elizabeth her cousin that prompted a hymn of praise known as the Magnificat, (*Luke 1:46-56*);
- When Jesus, aged 12 years old was found in the temple (*Luke 2:41-52*).
- And Mary's words are recorded at a wedding at Cana (*John 2:1-11*) when she tells the waiters to do as Jesus tells them, and this results in the first recorded miracle performed by Jesus when he turned water into wine.

We can also unravel the mystery of Mary a little more in Matthew's account of an angel visiting Joseph who was betrothed to her. We are told that when Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

However, in an unsubstantiated document called the *Protoevangelium of James*, there are some more details of Mary's early life. It is believed to have been written in the 2nd Century by James, a brother of Jesus. According to *Mark 6:3*, Jesus had four brothers and two sisters: '*Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?*'

The *Protoevangelium* reveals that Mary was born miraculously to a wealthy man and his wife who up until then had not been able to have children. Her story seems to reflect the Old Testament account of the birth of Samuel to Hannah and her husband Elkanah. Mary was then shielded from the world in a sanctuary where she was cared for by '*undefiled daughters of the Hebrews*'.

At 3 years of age, the child was moved to the Temple in Jerusalem where she is said to have been fed by an angel. As she grew to puberty

at about 12 years old, the strict temple rules meant she could no longer live there and so a safe home was found for her with Joseph, a village carpenter, who we are told was a member of the 'House of David'.

Following the immaculate conception Joseph had a series of dreams that prompted him to marry Mary. And so when Jesus - a name chosen by God - was born he was a member of the House of David as had long been expected.

Just as there are many legends about Mary and her life following the death of Jesus, there are many legends about Joseph. But legends fuel mysteries, and while they can be fun, they can't distract us from the reality of God's love for each of us and the world he created for us.

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## Did you just book it? Or Thomas Cook it?

*By Sally Churchus*

Thomas Cook did not start his travel business with the primary goal of making money. Motivated by his Christian faith, it was to help combat the dangers of alcohol and to help the victims of alcohol misuse.

Thomas Cook was born in 1808 in Derbyshire. At the age of 20 he became a Baptist missionary and toured the region as an evangelist distributing tracts, and in the 1830s, he became involved in the temperance movement. He was a cabinet maker by trade.

With the expansion of the railway network around 1840, he had the idea of combining rail travel with the cause of temperance. He arranged to take a group of temperance campaigners from Leicester Street railway station to a teetotal rally in Loughborough, 11 miles away. On 5 July 1841, he escorted 485 people, who paid one shilling each for the return rail journey and a meal, on his first outing. Many say that this is when the modern travel industry was

born. Other excursions followed, including one in 1851 for 150,000 people to travel to the Great Exhibition in London. Four years later he was running trips abroad.

By 1865 he had acquired business premises on Fleet Street, which included a shop selling travel accessories such as guide books, luggage, telescopes and footwear. He and his wife also ran a small temperance hotel above the office. As the business grew, he built an imposing Temperance Hall and hotel in central Leicester and used much of his money to support the poor, often the victims of alcohol misuse.

In all the excursions he went on to organise, he wanted to bring people closer together and nearer to their creator by making 'God's earth with all its fullness and beauty' accessible and affordable to all.

Eventually his son, John Mason Cook, became a partner in the company and the name was changed to Thomas Cook & Son. Towards the end of his life his attitude towards profitability brought him and his son into conflict, including the issue of allowing lower fares for fellow Baptists.

He died aged 83 in Leicester in 1892. After several mergers and takeovers the company collapsed in 2019, but he had given many the opportunity to experience the beauty and variety of God's world because of his strong Christian faith.

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## World Peace Day still required after 2,000 years

2,000 years ago, Jesus left God's peace in the world when he told his followers: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. (*John 14:27*).

The Bible teaches us that God's peace is to be shared with everyone,

yet today the opposite of peace — war and violent conflicts — still rank alongside climate change and hunger as one of the most serious issues facing our world. Indeed, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, 'Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty, and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes. Climate chaos is all around. And even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization.'

An International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly to highlight this issue. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate it as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year the UN International Day of Peace is on Saturday 23 September. While a special day for the laying down of arms and to encourage people to think and act peacefully is an excellent idea and should be welcomed by all, to achieve the true, lasting peace that God had in mind when the world was created requires every person to accept the gift of peace that Jesus brought into it, and then share it with everyone they meet every day of their life.

The true, everlasting peace that we all long for can only become a reality if it begins to be shared by individuals and spreads upwards and outwards into the world, rather than from the top down.

There's an excellent example of how this 'bottom-to-top' peace-spreading idea works in the Old Testament book of *Ezekiel* (47). Ezekiel writes about a vision he saw of the Temple in Jerusalem. The water he sees coming out of the Temple contains the Holy Spirit that had been poured over the altar. Instead of soaking away into the dry ground as water would usually do, the Holy Spirit turns the water into a stream, then into a river that gets deeper and stronger. It eventually travels from one of the highest places in the world — the site of the Temple — to the deepest, deadliest place, the Dead Sea, where it

brings new life and abundant food.

This is how we can expect the Holy Spirit to work within us when we share God's love and peace with others and encourage them to share it with their families, friends, neighbours, colleagues, and everyone they meet.

This bottom-to-top process is what the UN's World Peace Day is all about. We can't all initiate ceasefires in our neighbourhood, but by doing peaceful acts of kindness and love to all whom we meet we can help peace spread into the world — and don't forget, there are 364 more days in the year that we can start spreading some peace or Shalom, which is Hebrew for all the good things in life that God wants for each of us, including peace!

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## United Kingdom Rescue Organisation Festival for Rescue - 14th - 16th September Hosted by Lincolnshire Fire And Rescue

Locations: The Lawn Car Park, Lincoln Castle, Lincoln Cathedral,  
Westgate Water Tower, Exchequer Gate  
Challenges: extrication, trauma, cadet, rope, canine



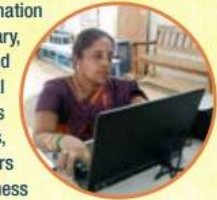


**Goodwill Children's Homes**  
Care and Education for Destitute Children in South India

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMS LESSONS INTO ENGAGING EXPERIENCES



A laptop and projector purchased with a generous donation received in 2018 from the King's School Ottery St Mary, are making lessons visually more stimulating and captivating for our Goodwill children. The visual classes have been warmly received by the learners, as teachers teach them the alphabet, rhymes, numbers, and games using these resources. Both teachers and learners recognise the importance and usefulness of these devices in their teaching and learning process. It greatly contributes to the enhancement of practical skills and overall learning abilities and makes the lessons more interesting.



## TORP student SARITHA completed Class 12



Saritha is a lovely and bright young woman from Kadaisikadu village. She was born in a thatched dwelling in the village where both her mother and father still reside. Saritha's mother stayed at our Goodwill Home in 1998 and completed class IX before leaving school to marry someone from their village.

Saritha has an elder brother studying B. Com at Palaniandavar College with the help of Goodwill TORP. Her mother is a village health worker working with Dr Rajkumar at the CF primary health centre in Pachalur. Saritha started her studies from class I to VIII in Dindigul and then she joined and stayed at Our Lady of Lourdes Girls Higher Secondary School in Dindigul with our help. A tragic incident occurred during her stay at the hostel: her dear friend Varsha, who was studying in class 11, passed away from a snake bite while sleeping in the room. This incident left a lasting impact on her, instilling a deep fear that hindered her ability to stay and pursue her education in the hostel. Seeking professional help, she received counselling which helped her understand that the incident was an unfortunate accident. With the psychologist's support, she gradually found relief from her fear, allowing her to overcome her reservations about staying in the hostel.

With the support of her friends, she persevered in the hostel and completed her education without any disruptions. Additionally, her talents shone through when she participated in her school's annual day function, where her remarkable dance performance earned her well-deserved prizes. She expressed her gratitude towards the hostel, acknowledging its provision of hygienic food, spacious rooms, and exceptional teaching, all of which contributed to her positive experience.

She successfully completed her 12th grade with a score of 368 out of 600. She had hoped for a higher mark of around 450+ and felt disappointed with her result. Undeterred by this setback, her aspiration to pursue a B.Sc. in Geography remained unwavering. She diligently applied to multiple colleges in Tamil Nadu, and she is currently preparing to study in Coimbatore, where she intends to embark on her chosen academic path.

She eagerly looks forward to studying a range of subjects in college. Should she choose biology, she holds a strong desire to explore topics such as climate, marine life, geology, and legumes. Her anticipation for college is fuelled by the excitement of meeting new friends, discovering unfamiliar places, and delving into new subjects. Furthermore, she embraces the prospect of adapting to the unique climate, situations, and circumstances that college life will bring.

