



St Brigid's One World Group

www.stbrigids3wg.com

Charity Commission for NI Registration Number NIC102818

Annual Report 2022-23

Our Group

St Brigid's Third World Group was established in 1989-1990 in St Brigid's Parish Belfast. It was accepted as a charity for tax purposes by the Inland Revenue on the basis of its Constitution which provides that its object is to advance any legally charitable purpose and in particular the relief of poverty in the Third World. The Group is registered with the Charity Commission for NI. Its financial year runs from April to March each year.

In December 2022, the Group, recognising that the term Third World had become increasingly outdated, passed a resolution changing its name to **St Brigid's One World Group** and amending its purpose to the relief of poverty in developing countries.

In 2022-23 the Trustees of the Group were

Rosalie Flanagan – Chair
Michael McGrath – Secretary
Kevin Flanagan – Treasurer
Hugh Doherty – Assistant Treasurer.

This Report

This report covers the financial year April 2022 to March 2023. It has been considered and approved by the trustees. During this year the trustees have had regard to the Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

The Financial Statements and Report of our Independent Examiner are attached to this report. In the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the Group raised £258,243.81 and made grants of £258,060.07 to our beneficiaries.

Our purpose

As a registered charity, we are obliged to be able to demonstrate that we have complied with the purpose set out in our constitution which is “*the relief of poverty in developing countries*” and that our funding is providing the following public benefits

- *to prevent starvation and malnutrition and to assist in the physical development of children and their concentration and learning (feeding programmes)*
- *to alleviate and prevent suffering and disease and provide dignity for the dying (health and hospice care)*
- *to help people grow food and to prevent disease (wells and sanitation)*
- *to enable people to gain employment or make a living and support their families (education, books, equipment and training)*
- *to prevent homelessness and provide shelter and security (housing).*

Our beneficiaries

Attached to this report is a summary of the work done by our beneficiaries. A number of our former beneficiaries have retired or moved to other projects. In some cases we have continued to support their former work and in some we have begun to support their new work.

We have received reports from each of our beneficiaries over the last year telling us how they have used the funding provided by St Brigid's One World Group to provide the public benefits listed above. Often our beneficiaries are working in areas where the internet availability is sporadic. They all work in difficult situations and often in dangerous conditions.

But the main thing that stands out from all the reports is the love and care shown to some of the most deprived and disadvantaged people in the world and that donations made through St Brigid's One World Group have helped to relieve poverty through feeding programmes, education and training, health and hospice care, provision of clean water and sanitation and housing and shelter.

Our donors

The money we send to each of our beneficiaries who work to alleviate the many serious problems of very impoverished people in developing countries comes entirely from voluntary donations mainly from Saint Brigid's parishioners. During 2022-23, we have raised these funds through

- Standing Orders
- the annual collection
- the special collection for Ukraine
- the special collection for the Syrian earthquake
- other donations
- quizzes
- Lent Bread and Soup lunch and Advent activities
- legacies from wills
- a raffle
- Gift Aid refunds from HMRC.

Fortunately, following an easement in the covid situation, we were able to reinstate the following fundraising events

- bread and soup lunches in Lent and Advent
- quiz nights in our parish hall in October and January each year.

Finally it is important to note that all of the donations raised go directly to the beneficiaries we support. None of the money is used for administrative expenses. Any small expenses such as postage and printing costs are met by members of our parish group.

During 2022-23, the cost of basic commodities and the cost of living had continued to rise significantly across the world with a devastating impact on the poor people we are trying to help. We are grateful for the continued support provided for our projects and special appeals through your generous donations and your prayers.

**Rosalie Flanagan
Chair
St Brigid's One World Group
May 2023**

Summary of St Brigid's One World Group Beneficiaries in 2022-23

Father Raymond McQuarrie is a member of the Missionaries of Africa also known as the White Fathers. He is working in South Africa using funding from the Group to help alleviate poverty through the provision of food and food supplements, medicine and healthcare and other basic necessities of life to people living in extreme poverty.

Sister Mary McAteer is a Missionary Sister of the Assumption who works in the Western Cape in South Africa as the Congregational Leader of that Order. She has replaced former beneficiary Sister Anne Patricia Flynn, who has now retired. She uses our funding to help run a special needs school called the Enkuthazweni Centre for children and young adults with disabilities

Sister Mary Anthony is a member of the Cluny Sisters and runs a feeding programme for destitute people in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She has replaced former beneficiary Sister Vivian Aduni. On average the programme feeds 35 destitute people. She also supports the local St. Anthony's Clinic which looks after small health needs like malaria, aches and pains due to old age etc.

Father Andrew Lappia works in the Diocese of Bo, Sierra Leone, West Africa. He uses funds from St Brigid's One World Group to provide food and other essentials for the extremely impoverished, to assist young people with education and training and to provide medical care.

Sister Florence Njokuis is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Fuka, Nigeria. She has replaced former beneficiary Sister Agatha Ezeokye. Our funding supports the work of their health clinic providing preventative/vaccination and healthcare programmes, the provision of boreholes for clean water, couples workshops to improve attitudes to and reduce violence against women and income generating activities for women.

Sister Jacinta Ugonma is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. She has replaced former beneficiary Sister Gladys Dimaku. They run the Consolation Project which supports families whose members have been assassinated as victims of urban violence to deal with their grief, overcome isolation and the stigmatization experienced. Funding from St Brigid's One World Group supports their therapy work, handicraft projects to help women develop an income, youth and peace-making projects, an awareness programme for Hepatitis B&C and Vaccination at a subsidized cost. Health education and testing is already ongoing. The project also provides nutritional support to 50 families and support for 50 patients with medical care.

Father Ignatius Malwa is a member of the Society of African Missions working in Zambia. This year the Group again provided funding for teachers' salaries to enable the SMA Education Centre to continue to operate. Parents of pupils were unable to contribute as normal since they lost their work as domestic servants because of Covid.

Rev Jim Campbell is a Presbyterian Minister who formerly worked in Malawi and established a shallow well building programme to provide clean water for communities thus improving both health and ability to grow food. Following his retirement, the Group continues to provide funding for the programme. The project is currently overseen by Alan Laverock.

Sister Patricia Speight is a member of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa. She runs the Love and Hope Centre in Nakuru, Kenya. The Centre uses our funding to provide food, shelter and healthcare to poor and vulnerable people suffering from HIV/Aids, cancer and other illnesses, education support to orphaned children and assistance to help people begin to support themselves.

This year we also provided funding through a grant from the Summerhill Foundation to enable Sr Patricia to continue a combatting gender based violence programme which had been at risk because of the discontinuation of funding from Trocaire.

Former beneficiary **Sister Elsa Joseph**, a member of the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians who was a doctor at Hope House, Manzini, Swaziland has moved to Western Cape, South Africa working with women, girls and children on addressing the problems of abuse, drug addiction etc , plus training health workers on palliative nursing care; as well as skills training on welding, tailoring, baking etc. She has not yet received funding from the Group in this new project but remains on our list.

Sister Mary O'Malley is a member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary working in Nairobi, Kenya. Funding from the Group plus a grant from the Summerhill Foundation supports her work on the prevention of human trafficking in its many forms and on helping the recovery of victims of trafficking through therapy and education/training for the future.

Sister Celestina Nnadi and Sister Charity Gathungu are nurses/midwives with the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary working in the Blessed Mother Teresa Friendship Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Sister Charity has replaced Sister Ruth Chetambe who has moved to Kenya (see below). Our funding is used for a food supplement programme for those suffering from HIV/Aids and Leprosy, the elderly poor and the destitute and to train people in new skills so that they can go on to support themselves.

Sister Ruth Chetambe is a nurse/midwife with the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. She is now working at the Holy Rosary Health Centre in Ngonyek, Kenya where funding from St Brigid's One World Group will help provide food, proper housing, education and accessibility to health care services and contribute to the alleviation of poverty in Ngonyek village.

Stephen and Melita Gordon are doctors working in Malawi. Our funding is used for education and vocational training, food and fertiliser aid for families affected by famine and prevention of child pneumonia and other conditions.

Sister Geraldine Henry is a Daughter of Charity based in Dublin and supporting the work of their Sisters in a number of African countries. Funding from the Summerhill Foundation is providing education scholarships for 3 young women in Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia. The Group also provided funding for food and a small income for poor families in Kenya.

The **Columban Fathers** based in Burma received funding this year from St Brigid's One World Group to provide food for people living in poverty.

Father Diarmuid Sheehan is a member of the Missionaries of Africa also known as the White Fathers who previously lived in Tamale, Ghana but is home at present. The Group continues to provide funding through the White Fathers to those who are still carrying out the work supporting people in that community with schooling and medical costs.

The One World Group provided funding through **Fr Fouad** for the Jesuit Refugee Service in Syria to help those affected by the war there. Following the earthquake the Group facilitated a special collection in the Parish with all money raised going directly to the Jesuit Mission in Aleppo, Syria who are providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the earthquake.

We also facilitated the collection in St Brigid's Parish for the **Irish Bishops Ukraine appeal** which spanned the 2 financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23.