# OUR IMPACT

TRANSFORMING LIVES

ENABLING COMMUNITIES



## Hope Gardens is: DELIVERING HOPE

Our three programmes

- Hope for Churches
- Hope for Communities
- Hope for Children

are united in their purpose of transforming the lives of others and enhancing the life prospects of communities in Southern India.

## 17

churches

80%

bible college alumni working with us

## 30

communities served

**5,000** benefitted from medical or covid support

**60** sewing graduates in 2022

**5555** employed through our paddyfields **89** sponsored children and students in 2022

**125** children in after school clubs



#### THANK YOU -YOUR GENEROSITY IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support we have maintained a very steady income over the last 12 months, raising an incredible £163k.



#### **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

We continued to invest in our capital projects, raising £43.6k for this area of our work. This year our focus has been the purchase of our new paddyfield and with thanks, in particular, to our American supporters fully funding the building of Reverend Barnabus's church.



WHAT FUNDS HAVE WE SENT TO INDIA?

- Capital Projects: £49.2k
- Operational Funds: £105.3k

\*UK operations account for 8% of funds

#### Your generosity has enabled us to continue to support our three core programmes; Hope for Churches, Hope for Communities and Hope for Children.

The impact of Covid-19 has been long lasting and we have been working hard to provide support in all our communities. We've continued to increase our after school programme, fund our sewing programmes, support sponsored children, develop our SEN school and support our pastors and Bible College students.





#### **ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY**

Transparency and accountability are central to our work. We work closely with both our India based charities Rachel Mary Sugantha Trust (RMST) and Rhema Religious and Charitable Trust (RRCT). Our UK and US team are scheduled to visit in 2022 and early 2023 and we work very closely with all the team in India. Our Trustees based in the UK and the US provide essential guidance and oversight.

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#### Transforming lives

## HOPE FOR CHURCHES

Our Hope for Churches programme is central to everything we do at Hope Gardens. Our churches open their doors to the wider community by being places of worship, food banks, sanctuaries, medical centres, sewing institutes, and after school clubs. Through our faithful team we are empowering communities to help them lift themselves out of poverty.

## **80%** Bible College alumni work for Hope Gardens

**30** rural communities served

#### INVESTING IN FACILITIES

This year we have been investing in facilities to enable our churches to widen their ministry. Our focus for investment has been on finishing projects that were started during the pandemic. These facilities haven't just enabled us to extend our ministry but have provided a safe space for adults and children to be educated, gain skills, grow independence and develop their faith to fulfil their goals. Rev. Robin is so grateful for his compound wall which saved his home and church from the heavy flooding in October.

#### **SPOTLIGHT ON THENI**

We were delighted to be able to open our doors in Theni after a period of persecution which made this church extremely challenging to operate. We had to clear the building of Russell's Vipers and Indian Cobras and within hours of doing so 47 people came to the church to ask for help.





#### **OUR CHURCHES**

Our churches were able to reopen fully in August and have continued to flourish. We now have 17 churches across our network serving over 30 communities. Each Sunday we welcome congregations of 700+ and welcome more families to our social welfare programmes.

#### **BUILDING TOILETS & CHURCHES**

**Rev. Thomas** now has a toilet block for his community, **Theni church** has been reopened after making it safe for all and **Rev. Barnabus's church** is in its final phase of construction.

#### **BIBLE COLLEGE**

This year our **Bible College** has continued to train and support the young Christian leaders of the future. Our cohort this year was understandably smaller due to Covid. With many challenges at home we have been so impressed in how committed, resilient and diligent this group are. With a significant gap since our students took exams, it was an anxious time but our students bravely faced their May exams. We are delighted that our 2nd/3rd year students will return in July along with our freshers.

#### **JEMIMA'S STORY**

For the first time this year we've been so happy to welcome a student with special educational needs (SEN) into our Bible College. Jemima is just 17 years old and has always found studying hard but she has a strong faith and with the help of Vashti and our other Bible College tutors has been undertaking a pre-diploma in Theology. Jemima benefits from one-to-one lessons, an adapted learning schedule and extra time in exams. What a superstar she is! We're excited to see her progress over the coming year.

#### **OUR PASTORS**





"WOW It was wonderful to celebrate, at last(!), the graduation of students from the last three years. Despite covid they showed dedication and commitment and deserved their celebrations. We are excited for their future careers" Vasthi (Bible College Dean)



Our pastors continue to work with dedication and commitment within their communities. Under the guidance of Archbishop Samuel they come together on the second Tuesday of every month to worship and pray. This year we were able to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th with women in all the churches actively involved in church activities and preaching. We were also able to bring the pastors and their families together for a special Christmas celebration. It was wonderful for them join together again and celebrate.

#### **Empowering Individuals**

## HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

We are delighted that we have been able to adapt our programmes to support the local communities and government initiatives. Our medical centre continues to implement the national vaccination scheme and our empowerment programmes have reopened, providing skills training. Our extended paddyfield and small holding is increasing food independence and local employment.

Access to affordable healthcare is vital to improving the quality of life for all those in our communities.



#### A LIFE OF SERVICE

Mrs Packiam is a **Hope Garden's hero**. After she was widowed she came to live in the Gardens employed as our hostel warden to look after the children in our care. From her house she ministers to the poor, is a mentor to many and helps to feed many of the local widows each day at her lunch club.



She is also a senior member of our church and helps with other areas of ministry. What an amazing, selfless women she is. **60** sewing graduates

**14,000** *kgs rice* 

5,000

patients treated

#### **ENHANCED FACILITIES**

We are delighted that we have made progress with our enhanced services for maternity care at our medical centre. A second floor extension starting this year will deliver superior ante and post natal care as well as a larger laboratory for more sophisticated testing.

Physiotherapy is vital for so many of our children at our SEN school, we are delighted that we are building a new physiotherapy suite for our children and the wider community

#### **OUR SERVICES**

We referred all covid cases to the government hospitals, giving us time to run vaccination clinics in towns and villages locally. Despite various closures we have still treated 5,000 patients on site. Care has been



given for many conditions including; hypertension, anxiety, diabetes,

anaemia, ulcers, diarrhoea, dysentery, asthma, dermatology, sceptic wounds and maternity support.



#### **EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS**



Covid has impacted our sewing programmes, however, all 6 sewing institutes are back up and running and going from strength to strength in the most remote of communities. We are delighted that these essential programmes aren't just bringing skills, they are offering women a safe space, the confidence to run their own businesses and earn money for themselves. Our compassionate tutors ensure that these women are fully supported.





#### SMALL HOLDING

We're delighted that we had a new calf born this year. Our 7 animals give us c.11 litres of milk each day. We had two successful coconut harvests this year despite the weather conditions. We are able to feed our local community and also generate income selling our vegetables, cattle, rice and coconuts.

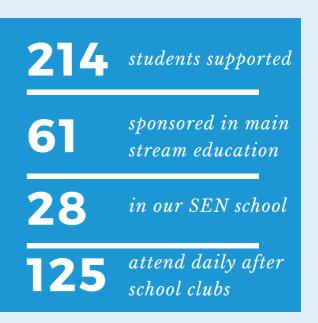
#### PADDYFIELD NEWS



This year we had our 5th and 6th harvests from our paddyfield. The additional land has enabled us to harvest even more rice and employ 555 local men and women. Our last 2 harvests were so successful we were able to meet all Hope Gardens needs and sell spare bags of paddy, adding to our local income. Total rice harvested this year: 14,055kg with 555 jobs provided (200 men and 355 women).

# Enhancing life prospects HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Covid has impacted children in many ways with disruption to family life, inconsistent learning and heightened anxiety. Our special educational needs (SEN) school, hostel, sponsorship programmes and after school clubs have all had to step up to embrace these challenges.





#### **RICHARD'S STORY**

Richard has been sponsored since he was in primary education. He has overcome the challenges of additional learning needs, lockdown and a severe burn to achieve his dream. With the support of Hope Gardens he has completed 12th Standard and is now heading to university to study aeronautical engineering. We are so proud of this incredibly brave and determined young man. Richard is just one of our 61 children who are sponsored and attend a government school.

#### CRICKET & TUTORING 🔰

Since January when all the after school clubs could fully reopen our staff have stepped up again, providing specialist tutoring, counselling and of course cricket(!) to support 125 children each week. "We are thrilled how our after school programmes are growing, Theni is now established and we have a shelter for Shanti so her sessions can run whatever the weather. Upokottai's new club is running at weekends and this year we will expand even more." Sugantha



#### SENSORY ROOM

What a joy this room has brought to our children.

Our sensory room has provided a haven for children to feel calm and also improve their visual, auditory and tactile processing. Our teachers report that many of the children have enhanced their fine and gross motor skills using the resources of the sensory room.



#### HEALING COVID SCARS

It has been a period of huge adjustment for our children. So many of them thrive on routine and need specialist support which they were unable to access through lockdown. Each child has their own learning journey but our emphasis has been on counselling, one to one time and spending time with the family to support the children both in and out of the classroom.



SMILES ALL ROUND "N.Karthi age 11 came to us this year non verbal, unable to pick up objects and very reserved. We're delighted that he can now feed himself, use key words such as amma, akka,

mummum and indicate that he needs the bathroom. But to us the most important thing is that he acknowledges conversations and smiles which makes us all smile!"



WORTH THE WAIT!



Lockdown delayed the essential purchase of our new school bus. We're so grateful for the generous donation from individuals, GEM and Souter Trust. Since arriving at the Gardens it hasn't stopped! This bus has enabled food parcels to be dropped off and children to be picked up! This bus enables families from remote villages to come to our school and gives parents the option to work whilst we care for their children.

Sugantha (Children's coordinator)

Recognising and celebrating our Hope Gardens

## HEROES

Our charity is fuelled by the most incredible team of compassionate, proactive and faithful individuals who are dedicated to serving others and improving their life prospects. Hope Garden heroes are around every corner and evident in every community we serve.





bus driving heroes





sewing heroes



teaching heroes





superhero Shanti





paddyfield heroes



medical heroes

A Message from Archbishop Samuel

## THANK YOU

"Great joy, love and prayers from Cumbum. For us the last year has been a great success for so many reasons. We have no words to express our gratitude for your big hearts towards all of our various projects. Your faithful giving and continuous support blesses so many."













# THANK YOU

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### Keep in Touch

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#### Support us

