

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2022
PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2023

†SFLG ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

Stopping leprosy in its tracks



Karuppayaa, affected by leprosy, Tamil Nadu, India.

Reflections on our progress in 2022

St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG) would like to say a massive thank you to all its supporters. It's been quite a year and you have changed lives with your generosity.

We were overwhelmed by your kind response to our Easter and

Christmas fundraising appeals. The money you donated is already supporting the vital work of Green Pastures hospital in Nepal and will make a huge difference to our five healthcare facilities in Uganda. On pages 10-13, please read how your compassion enables us to care for those affected by leprosy and support our work to stop the disease in its tracks.

In November 2022, at the 21st International Leprosy Congress in Hyderabad, India, we presented the interim results of our Active Case-Finding programme to a global audience. The programme finds and treats people with leprosy before they experience its devastating symptoms. On pages 8-9, please find details of the results we're achieving and how we're developing the programme in the future.



During his long-standing tenure as a trustee for SFLG, Michael Forbes Smith has made a huge contribution, latterly as its Chair of Trustees. Michael has retired as Chair this year and we would like to thank him for his commitment, dedication and ambition. Without him, SFLG would not be the organisation it is today. We are grateful that he is remaining as a trustee and extend a warm welcome to our new Chair, Edward Reed, who took over from Michael in May 2023.



Michael Forbes Smith



Edward Reed

Our CEO, Clare McIntosh, is leaving us after two and a half years of coordinating the delivery of the achievements described in this and the former two Annual Reviews. The trustees wish Clare every success in her future endeavours.

Everyone at SFLG echoes Michael's thoughts, expressed on pages 20-21, that we are fortunate to have had so many supporters who give generously in their lifetime and through bequests in their wills. We are enormously grateful for the generous gifts left to us over the past year and on pages 14-15 you can read how a bequest in a will makes a difference. You can also find out how to make or change your will for free if you are considering leaving a gift to us.

We hope you feel a sense of pride when reading the stories of people like Francis and Saraswati whose lives have completely changed thanks to your help. We continue to believe that by working together, we will see an end to leprosy in the not-too-distant future.



Leprosy and its impact

Leprosy is a disease that has always instilled fear in people. It is curable but hard to detect and thousands of people are newly diagnosed every year. Millions more remain undiagnosed and untreated, at risk of spreading the disease in their communities and developing life-changing disabilities.

Leprosy is a disease linked to poverty. People with depleted immune systems, poor nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene are more likely to catch it. It is not highly contagious, and it is thought that it is spread by airborne droplets and prolonged contact with infected individuals.

The first signs of the disease include discoloured skin patches and

sensations of numbness, burning or tingling in the hands and feet. If left untreated, the nerve damage that is responsible for loss of feeling makes people more vulnerable to injury caused by trauma or heat. This damage can eventually lead to the loss of fingers, toes or limbs and people can also lose their eyesight.

The severe disabilities caused by leprosy frighten people, making it one of the most stigmatised diseases in the world. People with leprosy are often cast out of their families or communities and left to beg on the streets for their very survival.

St Francis Leprosy Guild has cared for people with leprosy for over 127 years. Currently, we support 40 centres and projects in 14 countries in Africa, Asia and South America, reaching out to poor and remote communities to detect and treat people with leprosy before the disease takes hold.

Skin Camp in Maskan-e-Rahat.



SFLG's six Active Case-Finding projects have identified 486 new cases of leprosy in their first year. Three further projects were launched at the end of 2022.

The past year in figures...

The illustrations below are examples of the results that our supporters have helped us to achieve this year. Thank you for making it possible.

420,000

people
have been
screened
for leprosy



We have helped
to identify

1,480

people with
leprosy



12,484

people have
received
treatment for
leprosy



We have supported

40

leprosy
centres and projects



Our charitable
expenditure
was just over

£375,880



Our work spanned

14

countries



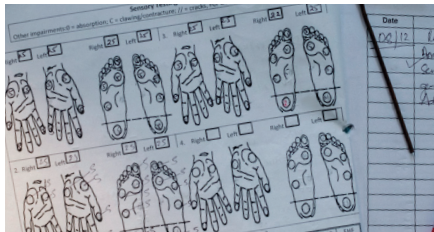
Supporting Zero Leprosy



Since 1895, St Francis Leprosy Guild has cared for people with leprosy by treating the disease and the disabilities it causes. Some patients need care for their lifetime, and this care may extend to their family members too. Today, our key strategic focus is to find and treat people affected by leprosy as early as possible and to start Multidrug Therapy (MDT) immediately to stop further transmission. Our operational strategy, known by the acronym TRACE, supports the global goal of Zero Leprosy.

Training

We train and equip outreach workers and volunteers to diagnose and treat leprosy. We also support education and awareness-raising activities in local communities and encourage people to seek medical care at the first signs of the disease. Those who are cured of



leprosy but are still living with its effects receive vocational training to help them secure work and an income.

Research

SFLG invests in vital research to prevent leprosy transmission and improve diagnosis and treatment. For example, a leprosy boot is being developed to enhance healing and prevent the worsening of tropical ulcers that are caused by leprosy. We have also supported research into new mobile technologies to help outreach workers in the field accurately diagnose, record and monitor people's treatment.

Active

To see an end to leprosy, we must find it wherever it exists. That's why we have launched several Active Case-Finding projects in isolated or impoverished communities where the disease is endemic. The earlier we can detect the disease, the more likely it is that we can find and treat people with leprosy before they develop disabilities. We also track and trace their contacts to stop the disease from spreading.



Care

We continue to build upon our 127-year legacy of providing care, compassion and practical support to those who suffer from severe disabilities and stigma. We fund everything from reconstructive surgery to education in self-care, assistive devices to vocational training, helping to restore people's dignity and independence.

Emergency

People affected by leprosy are some of the poorest and most marginalised in the world. This makes them especially vulnerable to emergencies such as pandemics, natural disasters and conflict. We therefore maintain an Emergencies Reserve in our annual budget to help our centres meet any needs that arise during periods of adversity.



Active Case-Finding: stopping leprosy in its tracks

In 2022, SFLG began funding six Active Case-Finding projects working with established partners:- ALERT INDIA, Bombay Leprosy Project, New Hope Rural Leprosy Trust (India), Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (Pakistan), Dhanjuri Leprosy Centre (Bangladesh) and Anandaban Hospital with The Leprosy Mission (Nepal). Our aim is to seek out people with early signs of leprosy in endemic communities.

The objective for the first six months was for our partners to screen around 200,000 individuals living in these communities and then report back to their country's national leprosy programme and to St Francis Leprosy Guild.

The results of the first six months were reported by our former Chief Executive Officer, Clare McIntosh, at the 21st International Leprosy Congress, held in Hyderabad, India in November 2022. The results were extremely encouraging.



Leprosy healthcare outreach worker conducting door to door survey, New Hope, India.

In six months, 244,287 people had been examined; 503 were suspected of having leprosy of whom 147 were confirmed; 12 had visible (Grade 2) disabilities and 15 were children.

These interim data still warrant further interrogation. However, with modest funding our partners have undertaken substantial screening for leprosy, and all have found individuals with the disease who have been treated, stopping the disease from spreading.

These promising results mean we have awarded further funds so our partners can continue these Active Case-Finding projects for a second year. Three new projects have also been launched in Dinajpur (Bangladesh), Fathimanagar (India), and West Nile (Uganda).

Only by seeking, identifying and treating leprosy early on, can we beat it, once and for all.

Our Active Case-Finding activities



**Raising awareness
and advocacy**



**Community based
skin camps**



Contact tracing



**Door-to-door skin
surveys and assessment**



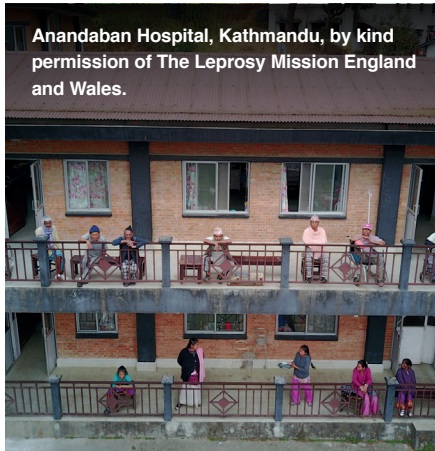
**Skin surveys
in schools**



**Referrals to hospital
or clinic**

Action for Nepal

Leprosy was declared eliminated in Nepal in 2010 with serious consequences for its people. Leprosy programmes were scaled back, healthcare professionals were no longer trained to diagnose the disease, and vital knowledge and experience were lost.



Today, it's clear that leprosy in Nepal is not eliminated. For every hundred thousand people in Nepal, there are eight who live with leprosy and may develop disabilities or become subject to leprosy stigma and discrimination.

Thanks to the fantastic response to our Easter fundraising appeal in 2022, supporters of St Francis Leprosy Guild are making a huge difference to the lives of Saraswati, and many others like her. Your gifts are supporting the work of Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara and our work with The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Leprosy Hospital in Kathmandu.

Green Pastures Hospital treats people with leprosy using Multidrug Therapy and supports their rehabilitation with reconstructive surgery, counselling, education in self-care and the

provision of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs.

Our supporters' generosity ensures that Green Pastures continues to provide free leprosy treatment to around 3,000 people affected by leprosy every year, making vital healthcare accessible to those who cannot afford it.

Anandaban Hospital is one of our partners in our Active Case-Finding programme and provides treatment for people who are diagnosed with leprosy through this project.

Thank you so much to all those supporters who donated to our Easter fundraising appeal, helping to make this important work possible.

After reconstructive surgery at Green Pastures Hospital, you would never know that Saraswati has lived most of her life with leprosy.



Thanks to your generosity, Francis and others like him have a home for life and the chance to go to school.

† SFLG ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

+ UGANDA
CHRISTMAS
APPEAL

A different Christmas story

Francis featured in our 2022 Christmas fundraising appeal. When he first showed signs of leprosy, his father planned to kill him - he thought Francis was possessed by evil spirits. Thankfully his uncle found out and stole him away, leaving him at one of the centres we support in Northern Uganda.

Francis wants to say thank you. He has been treated for leprosy and has not developed lifelong disabilities. He has been given a permanent home and, thanks to the generosity of our supporters last Christmas, Francis and the other abandoned children that we care for will receive an education. They have a bright future ahead of them.

More screening, treatment and care for people with leprosy

In Uganda, people with leprosy are the forgotten ones – rejected by friends, family and neighbours who, just like Francis’ father, believe leprosy is a curse and are terrified of catching it themselves.

The generous donations we received last Christmas will make a real difference. We can now screen and treat people with leprosy much sooner. You have made it possible for the Ediofe Health Centre, in Arua, to purchase a motorbike so health workers can visit patients who live in remote villages and care for them in their own homes.

You are also contributing to the renovation of a dilapidated and unused building at St Francis Hospital, Nyenga. This old building will be converted into a new hospital block and will provide eight new rooms for leprosy screening, treatment and care.

We are determined to provide the long-term care that makes our patients feel loved and secure and thanks to you, we can. We constantly seek new ways to expand the capacity of our centres to monitor, diagnose and treat leprosy before it spreads in communities, causes severe disabilities and destroys lives. Thanks to your generosity, we are achieving just that.



A long-term resident at Nyenga.

Transform lives with a gift in your will



Dal, centre, with friends who visit him in Pokhara.

Dal Bahadur Pariyar lives near Pokhara in Nepal and has received treatment from Green Pastures Hospital.

By the time we met Dal, he had been treated for leprosy, but his eyes, face, hands and feet were disabled or affected by the disease. Dal moved to Lamatarra 30 years ago when the small settlement was built. Now, he has nobody to care for him since his wife died of leprosy two years ago. He needs a walking stick to get around and his eyesight is failing. *"I don't have limbs,"* he says about his lack of fingers, *"and my eyes are getting poorer. What will happen to me in a few years' time? How will I wash, cook or clean?"*

With a gift in your will you can help SFLG continue to care for people like Dal in the years ahead. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated and will support our work until the fight against leprosy is finally won.

If you would like to leave us a gift, you can make or change your will for free with the help of our partner, Your Legacy Solutions. To register your interest in using this free service visit stfrancisleprosy.org/wills-and-legacies, telephone us on **020 8050 4201** or scan the QR code with your mobile phone to go to our website and download our legacy pack.

When leprosy is finally defeated, you will know that you played your part.



SCAN ME

The difference your gift can make

One generous legator wrote her will in 2012 and passed away in March 2019. In her will she left specific gifts of money to her family and friends and divided the remainder between her six favourite charities, which included St Francis Leprosy Guild. Her generous

gift of £84,000 will enable us to help fund the work of Dr Tony's team and hospital boat in Labrea, Brazil for the next eight years. They will continue to seek out and treat people with leprosy in remote communities along the Amazon.

We are extremely moved and thankful for this generous gift. That legator's name lives on in our Book of Remembrance and we will continue to remember and pray for her at our Annual Mass.



In 2022, Dr Tony's hospital boat identified 37 people with signs of leprosy and provided 64 patients without access to healthcare facilities with ongoing treatment.



Remembrance and In Memoriam

We remember with grateful thanks our supporters who passed away in 2022 and left a gift to St Francis Leprosy Guild in their will. Their generosity means a leprosy-free world is becoming even closer.

Almeda Gyves

Peter Crocker

Most Rev Mario Conti

Reverend Father Kieran Dodd

Ms K M A Malley

Mrs Anna Nguyen

Mark Hitchens

Helen Baird

Without their commitment to ending leprosy, thousands of lives would remain unchanged.

National Gallery explores St Francis of Assisi's life and legacy



By permission of the National Gallery-Francisco de Zurbaran, St Francis in meditation.

One of history's most inspirational and revered figures is being featured in the first major UK art exhibition that explores St Francis of Assisi's life and legacy.

It brings together paintings from the National Gallery Collection by Sassetta, Botticelli, and Zurbaran with international loans including works by Caravaggio, Josefa de Óbidos, Stanley Spencer, Antony Gormley, Giuseppe Penone, Andrea Büttner, and an exciting new commission from Richard Long.



SFLG community fundraiser, Eileen Murray, is a practising artist and has a particular fascination for this wonderful saint. She is inviting our supporters to join her on a free tour of the exhibition to understand why St Francis remains a figure of enormous relevance to our time. You will hear about his spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for peace, and openness to dialogue with other religions. There will also be an opportunity to update you on the important work of SFLG.

The exhibition runs until 30 July 2023 and Eileen will be running free guided tours.

If you would like to join one of our free tours, Eileen would love to meet you. Please email eileen.murray@stfrancisleprosy.org



A time for reflection and celebration

Our Annual Assembly and Mass is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who plays a part in the work of St Francis Leprosy Guild to celebrate our achievements over the past year. It is also an important moment to give thanks and pray for all those benefactors who have made our work possible over the years. We'd like to thank everyone who attended our 127th anniversary Assembly and Mass last November at the Jesuit Church at Farm Street in London. It was wonderful to chat with you in person and we are very grateful for the generous donations we received.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to this year's Annual Assembly and Mass. We hope you can join us at one or both events.

Annual Assembly and Mass 2023

This year, our Annual Assembly and Reception will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4th October in the Crypt at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria St, London SW1P 1LT. It will be preceded by our Annual Benefactors Mass in the Cathedral at 5.30pm for those who wish to join us. Bishop Philip Moger is our chief celebrant.

We look forward to meeting you.

Unsung heroes on the front line

It's always a pleasure to publish our Annual Review and share the highlights of the past year with our supporters. This year, we thought you might enjoy seeing some of our unsung heroes - people in the front line in the fight against leprosy.

With 40 leprosy centres spread across 14 different countries, it's impossible to include all our partners but we're pleased to introduce you to a few individuals and their important work.

Technicians, Green Pastures Hospital, Pokhara, Nepal.



Meal preparation, Tuticorin, India.

Jacob, Staff Leprosy Supervisor, St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, India.



Sister Mercy, St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, India.



Dr Ramesh Sharma, Head of Dermatology and Leprosy,
Green Pastures Hospital, Pokhara, Nepal.



Nurse Navid at St Francis Hospital, Nyenga, Uganda.





Michael Forbes Smith, Chair of St Francis Leprosy Guild.

A farewell message from the Chair

As I retire after nine rewarding years as Chair of Trustees, our original 1895 Objective - the alleviation of the suffering caused by leprosy throughout the world – remains as strong as ever. But in addition, as reported elsewhere in this Review, since 2020 we have rolled out new and exciting programmes reflecting the changes taking place in the struggle to end leprosy once and for all. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued commitment and support towards achieving this task.

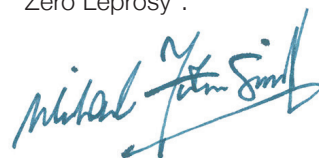
Trustees of charities seldom get thanked for the unremitting work they do. I should like to thank them, on your behalf, for their enormous commitment to the charity over the years. First, those former trustees who took the courageous step of adopting our first Strategy Review in 2017- “A Pilgrimage of Hope”- which began the revitalisation of the Guild. Maggie Hood, Chris Wyatt, our then Honorary Treasurer, Veronica Melia, Claire Kitione, Paul Leavy, Phillip Newill, Sister Helen McMahon FMM, Gosia Brykczynska and Professor

Robin Graham-Brown recognised that our aspirations towards our beneficiaries could no longer be met solely by volunteer trustees, however selfless. So, in 2018 we appointed our first professional Director, Kieran Kettleton. Kieran's long expertise was evident in the way he quickly revolutionised our fundraising activities and laid the foundations of our operational strategies. Following his retirement, his successor and CEO, Clare McIntosh, rolled out our first Active Case-Finding projects and oversaw a tripling of the support being delivered to our centres. Also, since 2018, the Board of Trustees has been reinforced with the arrivals of Professor Noel Gill, Nicholas Hall until his untimely death, RIP, Cecilia Taylor-Camara, Liam Allmark representing the Bishops' Conference, Clare Barton, Maggie Burgess, Michael Heathcote (our new Honorary Treasurer), Edward Reed (my

successor as Chair) and Bill Dibb. Our spiritual adviser, Father Michael Cops OFM, continues to bolster our faith. To all of them I cannot say how grateful the Guild is for the commitment they make to our work.

As reported earlier in this Review, Clare McIntosh herself left us earlier this year: I and the trustees wish her every success in her future endeavours. Our Acting Director, Katharine Jones, has known the Guild since 2019, and was an outstanding PR consultant for us until her present appointment. She has long experience of leprosy, having previously worked for ILEP and The Leprosy Mission. All our trustees have been greatly encouraged by the commitment and energy of our Executive Team: Charlotte John, our Programmes Manager, Rosie Threakall, our Administrator, and Eileen Murray, our Community Fundraiser. To all of them I say thank you.

Since Multidrug Therapy (MTD) that cures leprosy was first issued free by the World Health Organization in the 1990s, great progress has been made in the battle against the disease. But much remains to be done. We may be on the final mile, but there is nothing harder than going that final mile. We have been blessed by you, our benefactors, who, for 127 years, have given generously in their lifetime and through bequests in their wills. With your continued and growing financial support we will continue to play our part in achieving the WHO's goal of "Zero Leprosy".

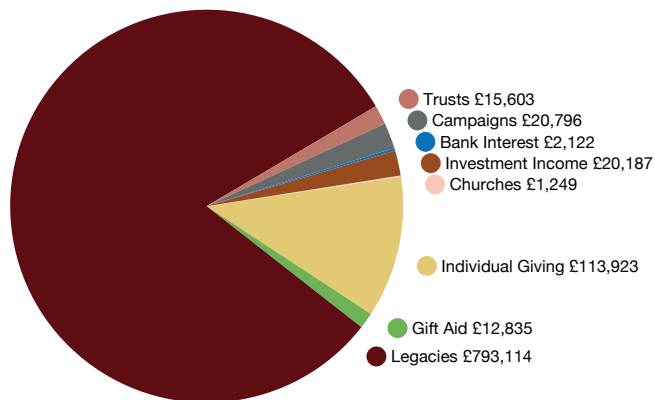


Increasing our support to help end leprosy

With help from our supporters, we have increased the funds provided to our centres and projects, as this comparison shows.

Expenditure on TRACE activities	2021	2022
Training	£25,499	£9,222
Research	£3,575	£40,000
Active Case-Finding	£60,500	£130,203
Care	£127,382	£159,000
Emergency Relief/Equipment	£56,000	£37,455
	£272,956	£375,880

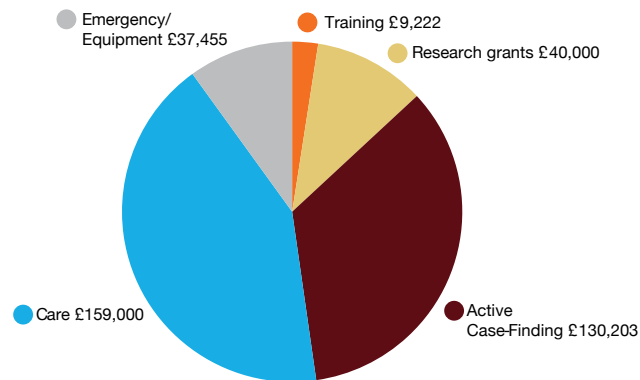
Funding our centres and projects in 2022



Total Income £979,829

The difference between income and expenditure for 2022 can be accounted for by a significant legacy that was received towards the end of the financial year. We expect our 2023 expenditure to reflect that legacy.

People affected by leprosy are some of the poorest and most marginalised in the world. Their situation makes them especially vulnerable to emergencies such as pandemics, natural disasters, and conflict. Therefore, we maintain an Emergencies Reserve to meet any



Total TRACE expenditure £375,880

needs that may arise due to adversity. In 2022, none of our centres requested any emergency relief. The budget was used instead on capital equipment such as a motorcycle, solar panels, a Hilux pick-up truck and water tanks.

The financial information shown on these two pages is based on interim figures. When published, the full accounts will be available from the website www.stfrancisleprosy.org/reports-and-publications.

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Global Partnership for
Zero Leprosy



LEPROSY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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REGULATOR

Our thanks go to photographer, Tom Bradley, for his kind permission to use photographs of Green Pastures Hospital, Nepal and St Joseph Hospital and Puliypampatti Village, Dindigul, India.

All individuals featured in this Annual Review have given their permission for their photos to be used.

