

PARTNER PLAN

An ecumenical appointment with:



Gillian Rose - Bangladesh December 2015

Bollobhpur Hospital
PO Kedargonj
District Meherpur
Bangladesh

Gillian Rose is an
Ecumenical Partner of the
Church of Bangladesh Group

Christmas 2015

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ
(Christina Rosseti)

Dear Friends in Scotland

Sunday 22nd November 2015 and notices in church this morning remind us that next Sunday will be Advent Sunday, with another Christmas day creeping up on us unawares not far behind.

And as it is not possible to stop the days from skimming past at lightning speed, it is high time to sit down to write you a Christmas letter and to hope that it will not get lost in the Christmas post as in a previous year.



We are all enormously grateful to you all for your faithful keeping alongside, with your prayers and your gifts, your generous donations that are enabling us to feed and clothe and train our girls, and recently some more parcels of woolly jumpers and cardigans for our tiny babies as the weather cools down and winter draws near, gifts from our generous Scottish knitting friends.



It was not recently that I arrived back to take responsibility for Bollobhpur hospital, but way back in July 1996, all those many years ago, and your friendship has supported us since. And the incubator, so generously sent out to us by our friends at St Ninian's, is still helping tiny babies to find new life, its old no-longer functioning workings now being replaced by two 100 watt light bulbs.

And an even older model, donated by generous friends in the Isle of Wight, when Sister Carole was in charge, was also fitted up with two 100 watt light bulbs. Now, this incubator too is working

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full time, and indeed received tiny triplets arriving by ambulance at one o'clock in the morning two days ago!!

And so with your prayers and support we continue to provide a service for the people of this highly populated border area of Bangladesh. Bollobhpur hospital has admitted and cared for hundreds of patients, poisoning cases have been rehabilitated and discharged well.



Hundreds of babies have been born and tiny babies cared for in the incubators.



And in the surrounding villages, our field workers have brought weight monitoring and nutrition support for small children and babies, care for the elderly in their homes and pregnancy care for every women in or near her own village. And our senior laboratory students have brought basic blood and other tests to the village centres, enabling care for village people near their own homes, rather than an expensive and time-consuming trip to the nearest town.

And as I write, our laboratory students have arrived for their midday meal – their meals are served on my verandah – and it is not only a joy to watch them downing plates heaped with rice and delicious fish curry, but also to remember with thanks that your generosity has made this new venture of ours successful. Thank you.

But to recap...

I concluded my last letter with news of the newest group who were coming to the end of their three month preliminary training, and it is good to be able to report that they have all worked and studied well, and on Monday October 19th they sat their final examinations and all passed very well. And on Sunday November 1st 2015, amidst the All Saints Day celebration in church, they filed up to the front to kneel at the altar rail as Billian, our Parish priest blessed their new caps and placed them on their heads. Then they rise to their feet and with lightened candles in their hands they repeat the Nightingale Nurses oath, promising to lead clean lives and to uphold the standard of Nursing. Pray that they all complete their training together.

And alongside this we are completing lists of new applicants for nursing training in 2016 and they will all come for interviews together on November 30th. Our "boys" (laboratory students) have also completed their three months preliminary training, have studied extremely well and passed with good results. They have moved to their new hostel and are very happy and busy. They now commence their training proper. Please keep them in your prayers.

There seems little need to mention the political scene in the country as it is being echoed in many countries across the globe. Here foreigners are being targeted and now the Christian church, with priests and pastors receiving death threats on their mobile phones. No one feels safe anymore and we have all been warned to be very careful – though how careful can one be!! I was refused my monthly Khulna trip again this month. The police are in a tight spot, being ordered by the government to protect everyone, and are only allowing limited movement. The daily papers do not make nice reading!! We pray on for peace and stability in this beautiful land and that the perpetrators of such crimes may come to their senses.

I close with Christmas greetings and many, many thanks. God's blessings be on you all.

