

## Friends of Palani Bulletin No 1

March 2019

The first meeting of the newly-formed Friends of Palani group met on 21<sup>st</sup> February at the Manse. There was a good attendance, and a few more people had said that they were interested but were unable to attend the first meeting. We met to plan ideas to help us to raise money for the Palani Mission. Having already sponsored two girls to train as midwives (who qualified in September 2018), Fleet URC is now sponsoring two more girls to train as community nurses, which will cost £1,200 per year.

As you will know, we also raised enough funds last year to buy goats, set up a sewing school, provide a rice kitchen, provide the children with an extra set of clothes, and also left some money with the minister for emergencies. We want to continue to support the Mission as much as we can and have come up with a list of possible ways to do so.

Our first fund-raising activity has already been planned: an Indian dance troupe from the Aldershot Malayaly Association will visit our church on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, from 5 to 7 pm** for a display of Indian dancing with refreshments. Tickets are available from Bee Griffiths, price £8 for adults and £4 for children. The proceeds will be shared between the Palani Mission and the Aldershot Malayaly Association. Please support this event if you can.

In addition a curry night has also been arranged for **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June**, so please put this date in your diary. More details to follow.

A Facebook page has been set up: [www.facebook.com/friendsofpalanimission](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofpalanimission), and the Palani Mission section on the church's website has been expanded, so you can keep up to date with our latest news in this way. Bee and I will also be putting all information on the Palani Mission fund-raising events on the old Commitment for Life noticeboard, so please watch that space, because we had quite a few ideas for upcoming events, such as:

Auction of promises, Scottish dancing, beetle drive, quiz, talent contest, coffee mornings, fashion show, sponsored walk/swim, plant and cake sales.

We are planning to send money out to Palani for the girls in the sewing school to make clothes to be brought back for a fashion show and sales here.

It is also hoped that we can set up a prayer group.

**Design a Logo!** We need a logo to identify ourselves and to use on any fundraising merchandise for Palani Mission. There will be a competition to design this – please watch the noticeboard for details.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm**, at the home of John and Christine Gibbons. New members and new ideas are welcome – please let me know.

Many thanks

Carol Rayner