

INTOUCH

Autumn 2026

**"...I was sick
and you looked
after me"**

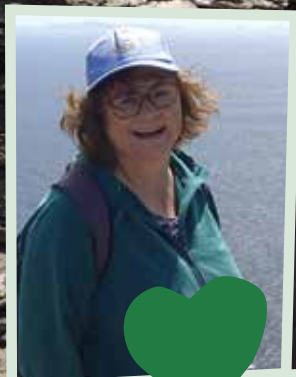
Matthew 25:36 (NIV)

**Read about how Mahima is the
hands and feet of Jesus in Nepal.**

**Coffee Morning in the Office
– 6th November!**

**THE
LEPROSY
MISSION** 
NORTHERN IRELAND

**Read how your prayers and support
are blessing persons affected by
leprosy across the globe**



Joy in the Journey...

Dear Friends,

Our hearts have been deeply saddened by the devastation and tragic loss of life in the recent catastrophic Flash Flood in Nepal.

This INTOUCH focuses on the impact your kind and generous support is reaping around the world (pages 10–11), and especially in Nepal. The Flash Flood has revived memories of the devastating landslides at Anandaban Hospital two years ago. Read how the healing work of the hospital continues (pages 4, 5) and how staff are continuing to demonstrate the compassion of Christ that transforms lives (pages 8–9). Your regular support is making such a difference!

At TLMNI, we've had a good summer. Highlights include the visit Ben and I had to Mozambique; meeting supporters old and new at Portstewart Keswick and Bangor Worldwide; having Phil join our team (page 3) and my Skellig Michael fundraiser exceeding all our expectations. We'd love to share with you about encouraging progress in Mozambique at a

Coffee Morning in the office on 7th November (details on back page). You are warmly invited! From Advent onwards, our meetings and resources will focus on Mozambique.

I want to say a huge thank you to all who sponsored my Skellig Michael challenge so generously. The climbing challenged my head for heights, but was also a lot of fun. The views were stunning. Together we've raised £4296, enough to find and cure a tremendous 179 persons affected by leprosy. Thank you! I marvel at the courage and commitment of 6th century Christians to battle the elements and establish a monastic settlement there that survived for six centuries. The identity of the founder is uncertain, but may have been 'St Fíónan the Leper'. An unexpected link! I'm sure this

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6: 9–10 (NIV)

won't be my last fundraiser. What about you? Is there something fun you could do to raise funds to help defeat leprosy and transform lives?

Your faithful partnership in this Kingdom work is precious. We specially thank you for standing with Nepal in prayer and support at this difficult time (pages 6–7). At this harvest season, may you see how your kind generosity is bearing abundant fruit around the world. Let us continue together 'to do good' for persons and communities affected by leprosy as the Lord grants us opportunity.

Joy

Joy Fleming



Joy and Ben on the road with the incredible Project Olikanassa team from TLM Mozambique

Meet Phil, our new Church and Community Partnerships Lead

Welcome Phil Kelly, you've been with the team since June and it's a pleasure to work with you. Tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Phil, I am married to Ruth and we're celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary this year! We have two daughters, Jasmine and Erin and we go to Emmanuel Baptist Church here in Lisburn.

You've been doing wonderful work since you joined us and have wasted no time in getting out and about. What has inspired you since joining the team?

Well one thing that's inspired me is the team itself. I have been inspired by their passion for those affected by leprosy and it's actually sparked a fire within me. I suppose, like many people, before I started the job I was thinking; 'Is leprosy still a thing?' And then you start to investigate and realise, yes, it really is. The more I hear my colleagues talking about it, and as we pray together, I realise I'm drawing from their passion a little as well.

So yeah, it's been really encouraging to come here and work with a passionate group of people and hopefully make a difference. I love that we are all like-minded. Coming from different denominations but being united in Christ. That inspires me as well,

that we are brothers and sisters, serving one another and those affected by leprosy, because of our shared love for Christ.

And you've done quite a bit of speaking already and have a really busy autumn ahead speaking at different churches and groups.

Yes, Autumn is busy. The diary has been filling up but I'm always looking for more engagements especially in the new year so if anybody would like an update about the work, please get in touch.

A verse that inspires Phil is

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)



Phil with his wife Ruth and daughters Jasmine and Erin.

Is there anyone you've met or any stories you've encountered that have encouraged you?

Yes, I've loved getting on the phone and speaking to Church Reps. There's one lady I spoke to who has been a champion for those affected by leprosy since 1977, which is just incredible. That quiet, dedicated service, that often goes unseen by many, is so inspiring. So, I want to thank these people.

Are there any exciting opportunities coming up in November to meet you for a cuppa?

Oh yes, we're going to have a coffee morning here in the office on Saturday 7th November. I'd love to see you for a cup of tea (coffee for me). Joy and Ben will be sharing about their recent trip to Mozambique and we'll be around to meet and pray with supporters. Hopefully see some of you then!

(For more details check out our back page.)



ANANDABAN HOSPITAL

It's now two years since the landslides that had a devastating impact on the Anandaban Hospital site in September 2024. Your response then in prayer and support meant so much to the team in Nepal. It's our joy to bring you an update on how work at the hospital continues and also to share some of the ongoing challenges.

Anandaban Hospital still shines like a beacon of hope, nestled in the mountains of Lalitpur. The landslides taught the team the need to be flexible in their delivery of services to patients. In response, they have been decentralising services, offering leprosy and inpatient services from three different sites during the monsoon season (mid-June to late September). Leprosy in-patients are relocated to three centres around Kathmandu: Patan Clinic, New SADLE, and the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC). These sites provide easier access for leprosy patients during the monsoon season as they do not

need to travel the difficult journey up to Anandaban. All the same, these are difficult compromises – it's harder for staff and it is difficult to maintain the full range of services in each clinic. The consequences of fewer outpatients visiting the hospital also impacts other services due to lower patient footfall. The needs of leprosy patients are central; using satellite clinics means that services for them have been maintained to a high standard. Patients are encouraged to attend the Outpatient Department throughout the year, and as a result there has been an increase in the number of new cases of leprosy diagnosed.

Anandaban Hospital is still a beacon of hope and healing.



On 28th September 2024 heavy rains led to a landslide and flooding of the Anandaban hospital site. The landslide swept down the western slope of the hospital site, severely impacting many buildings.



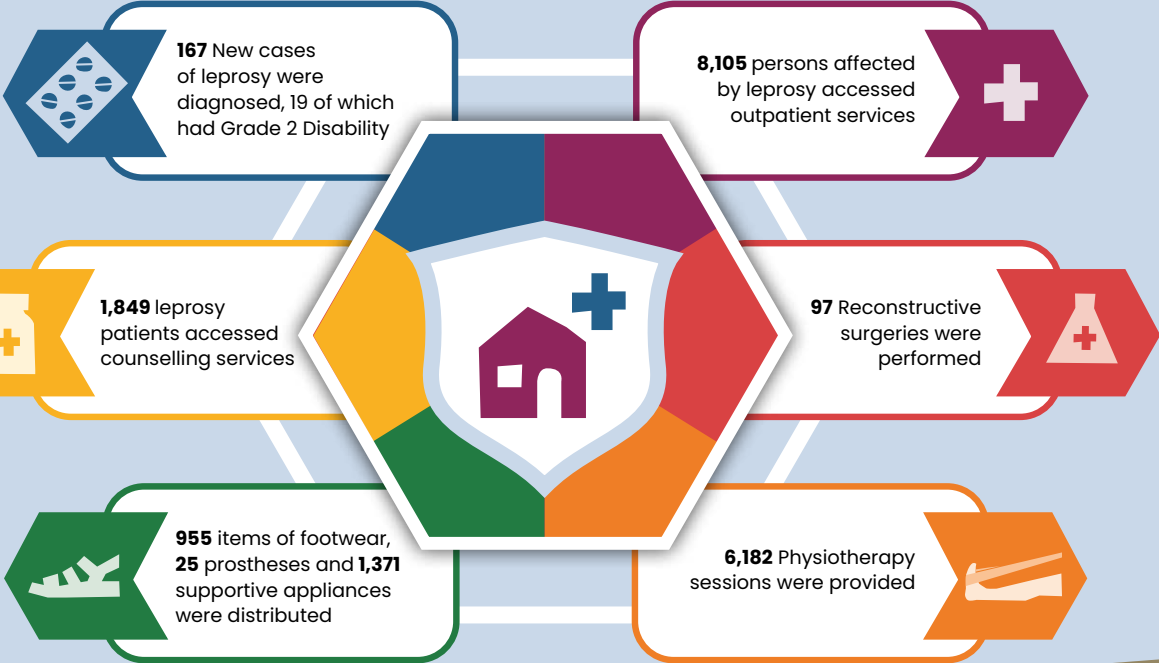
TLM Nepal staff provide expert care. Bir Bhan is pictured here receiving outpatient care.

Services like ulcer management are quite quite challenging because most people prefer to visit Anandaban hospital rather than visiting local health facilities because of quality care and complication management.



Together with TLM supporters across the world, your support in 2025 enabled these results:

The team at Anandaban Hospital continue to do amazing work, defeating leprosy and transforming lives in spite of the challenges. They really appreciate your ongoing prayers and support as they plan how best to serve the needs of those affected by leprosy well into the future.



LIVES TRANSFORMED

Chattu first had early symptoms of leprosy 30 years ago, but was busy with his work and didn't know the risks if his leprosy was left untreated.

"It started from my hands (clawing), then gradually moved to my eyes, and I could not close my eyes properly. Around this time, I also started developing wounds in my feet that just wouldn't heal". The TLM Nepal Dignity First project team working in Madhesh province met Chattu and referred him to

Anandaban Hospital for treatment. Chattu's story shows how both TLM projects in rural areas and Anandaban Hospital are making a huge difference in people's lives. Chattu says, "I sometimes think about what might have happened if I had tried to learn a bit more about what leprosy was when that person informed me."

Read Chattu's story in full here:



Chattu receiving follow-up care at Anandaban Hospital

Learn about TLM Nepal's work in rural communities through the Dignity projects on our website www.leprosymissionni.org

NEPAL – Flash Floods

Many bridges and roads have been washed away. Losing this small bridge in Rasuwa means there is no access across the fast flowing river.

On 26th August a devastating Flash Flood swept from the China/Tibet border through central Nepal, leaving a trail of destruction across communities north of the Kathmandu Valley.

The Flash Floods demonstrate how vulnerable Nepal is to extreme weather events in a changed climate.

The dedicated team at TLM Nepal is no stranger to responding in times of crisis. They were there during the devastating 2015 earthquake and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Their experience, local relationships and the trust they have built within communities mean they are well placed to respond quickly and reach people in need.



Our team in Nepal have shared about a sense of helplessness with so many people missing after the initial Flash Flood.

**“Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.”**

Psalms 31:2 (NIV)

READY TO RESPOND

While the Nepal Government has been leading the wider emergency response, the Leprosy Mission Nepal team has been working alongside local authorities to provide targeted assistance, making sure that people affected by leprosy and other vulnerable families are not forgotten.

Their response has included supplies for the Nepal police, such as masks, disinfectant and hand sanitizers. They also conducted a health camp in the holding center, to support people who require ongoing medications for chronic conditions and to help seek out individuals affected by leprosy who are living there. One person affected by leprosy said they and others affected by leprosy lost relatives and people they know. They worry about what to do in the future now that the markets have been swept away.

Floodwaters can interrupt leprosy treatment, prevent people from reaching health facilities and damage essential assistive devices such as crutches and wheelchairs.

Wounds and ulcers can also become more difficult to manage when healthcare is disrupted.

Our team continues to work tirelessly to provide basic healthcare, essential medicines, wound and ulcer care, self-care support, psychosocial support and referrals for people whose usual access to services has been affected.

This work is crucial. It means that even in the midst of a disaster, people affected by leprosy can continue receiving the care they need.



Help is on the way, emergency supplies of PPE, sanitizer and other essential equipment were quickly shared from Anandaban hospital to the First Responders.



Please Pray

- Pray for our TLM Nepal Staff and all involved in the rescue and rebuilding process, that they may be filled with courage and hope
- Pray for wisdom for Mr. Shovakhar Kandel (TLM Nepal Country Leader) and Mr. Ashok Adhikari (TLM Nepal Board Chairperson) as they seek to respond and help persons affected by leprosy
- Pray for persons affected by leprosy and disabilities, that they would be able to access healthcare and help and not be neglected

Bringing hope in a time of crisis

The team cannot do this without you.

Your support enables the Leprosy Mission to stand alongside people affected by leprosy when they are at their most vulnerable.

It helps ensure that emergency assistance reaches those who need it, while essential healthcare and rehabilitation services continue.

As Nepal begins the long road towards recovery, please continue to pray for the Leprosy Mission team in Nepal, and families and communities affected by the floods and landslides.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already responded so generously to the online appeal. Your support means the world to our brothers and sisters in Nepal.

May God strengthen those who are afraid, comfort those who are grieving, and bring hope and restoration to communities facing an uncertain future.

If you would like to respond to these needs you can do so directly on our website please scan the QR code here:



"Thank you for your heart for people affected by leprosy. Without you, we would not have come so far. Because of you, many lives have been completely transformed. You are helping to build God's kingdom here. Every day, we thank Jesus for you."

– Mahima

Mahima's calling to care



As the recent Flash Flood has shown, when monsoon rains fall in Nepal, life can change in an instant. Roads disappear, hillsides collapse, travel becomes dangerous, and communities can find themselves isolated from essential services. That's what happened in September two years ago when landslides severely impacted Anandaban Hospital. For persons affected by leprosy, whose health often depends on regular treatment and rehabilitation, these disruptions can have serious consequences.



Without the care he has received, Akhilesh could have lost everything. Now he has hope and a future. His story is not over.

Mahima encourages her patients on her ward rounds.



Yet through every season, Mahima continues to serve.

As Head Nurse at Anandaban, Mahima is part of a dedicated team caring for persons affected by leprosy, many of whom have experienced not only illness but also exclusion, poverty and loss. Motivated by Jesus' command to serve others, she begins each day with prayer asking God to help her meet the needs that await her.

The powerful words of **Ephesians 6:11** are on the wall of her office. As she stands with Christ-like grace and humility alongside people the world has pushed aside, **"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand"**, reminds her where her strength comes from. Mahima knows she needs both compassion and perseverance to care for vulnerable people. Every day brings new challenges, but also opportunities to share Christ's love through practical acts of service.

Persons affected by leprosy often have complex needs. As leprosy develops it damage nerves, causing a loss of sensation in hands and feet. Without the warning sign of pain, minor injuries can go unnoticed and develop into serious wounds. Infections, disability and long periods of rehabilitation are a reality for many patients. Emotional pain is also all too common, as individuals struggle with stigma, isolation and uncertainty about the future.

Mahima encounters these needs every day. Whether she is

cleaning wounds, encouraging a patient through rehabilitation, or simply taking time to listen, she understands that healing involves more than medical treatment alone.

One patient who has experienced her care firsthand is Akhilesh.

Only a few years ago, Akhilesh was following his dream to become a chef and support his family. He left home to work in a hotel kitchen. But as leprosy affected his body, it began to take that future away. Akhilesh's hands weakened, he suffered painful wounds on his legs, and he lost the ability to walk. He lost his job. Overwhelmed by his circumstances, he was losing hope and even thought about ending his life.

Akhilesh made the long and exhausting journey to Anandaban Hospital. Thanks to the generous support of TLM supporters around the world, the hospital doors are still open and a bed was waiting for Akhilesh. Mahima and her team cleaned his wounds, caring for him with dignity and compassion, showing the kind of love that Jesus showed.



Akhilesh

Akhilesh's condition was severe. An infection in his leg had spread to the bone and doctors were forced to amputate to save his life. Akhilesh was devastated. Throughout his recovery, Mahima and her team remained alongside him. Day by day they treated his wounds, provided rehabilitation support, and encouraged him when progress felt slow. They celebrated every milestone, no matter how small.

Today, Akhilesh is learning to walk with a prosthetic leg. He has benefited from reconstructive surgery on his hands, helping him regain movement and independence. Most importantly, he has begun to look towards the future once again. He speaks about work, returning home, about getting married and the life he hopes to build.

For Mahima, Akhilesh's story is a powerful reminder of why her work matters. Many people arrive at Anandaban feeling hopeless but leave with renewed confidence and dignity. Wounds heal, disabilities are overcome and lives are transformed.

The continued ministry of Anandaban Hospital is made possible through the prayers, encouragement and generous support of people like you who care deeply about those affected by leprosy. Your kindness has helped ensure that patients continue to receive expert treatment, rehabilitation and compassionate care when they need it most.

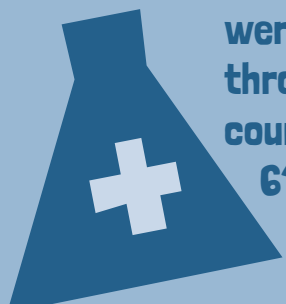
As Anandaban looks to the future, Mahima is committed to her calling. Despite the monsoon rains and challenging conditions, she serves every day with faith, humility and determination. And every day, with hands skilled in nursing and a heart devoted to Christ, Mahima helps bring healing, hope and dignity to people who might otherwise be forgotten.

Annual Impact 2025

Thank you – your support over the last year has made this possible!

Your support is bringing us towards a world without leprosy, thank you. Your prayers and financial giving are bringing hope and healing where it is most needed.

ACROSS THE GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP LAST YEAR



9,980
new cases of leprosy were reported through TLM countries, including 614 child cases

1.64 million people were screened, leading to a further **926** new cases of leprosy being found!

985 reconstructive surgeries were performed, restoring damaged hands

21,740 pairs of protective footwear were provided

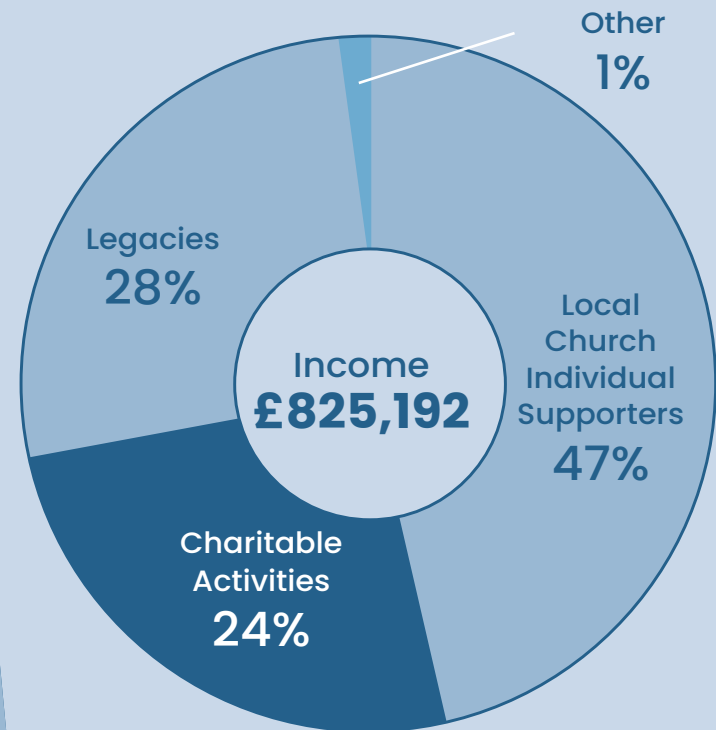
943 people were provided with prosthetics



Chattu, pictured here, has received incredible care in Anandaban Hospital, thanks to your support! You can read more about his story on page 5.

INCOME FOR 2025

Support from Northern Ireland goes towards projects in six different countries.



Towards a World Without Leprosy

You can read our report in full here:



"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble."
– Psalm 9:9 (NIV)

BANGLADESH

– Activating & Engaging Partnerships to reduce Leprosy (AEP) Project

A total of 773 new cases of leprosy were found by AEP teams and contact screening was done for 97% of them. 11,557 individuals in leprosy affected communities received SDR-PEP (Single Dose Rifampicin Post Exposure Prophylaxis), a leprosy preventative medication endorsed by the WHO. This blanket approach to delivering SDR-PEP helps break the chain of transmission and prevent leprosy from spreading.

Self-Help Groups are making a huge difference in Bangladesh. Just this year, 696 self-help group members accessed loans to initiate or expand income-generating activities. Your support is transforming lives and enabling people to climb out of the poverty trap.

ETHIOPIA

– Dare to Dream Project

Dare to Dream's two case finding campaigns last year involved health workers, religious leaders and leprosy champions. This led to 144 new cases of leprosy being found. Furthermore 110 health workers received training in diagnostics and SDR-PEP administration.

145 self-care groups with 803 members were formed to help leprosy patients manage their condition, reduce stigma and increase peer support. Self-care products were distributed via these groups.

Your support in Ethiopia is helping keep leprosy on the agenda, ensuring that those suffering are not forgotten and the hidden cases are able to be found and cured in Jesus name!

INDIA

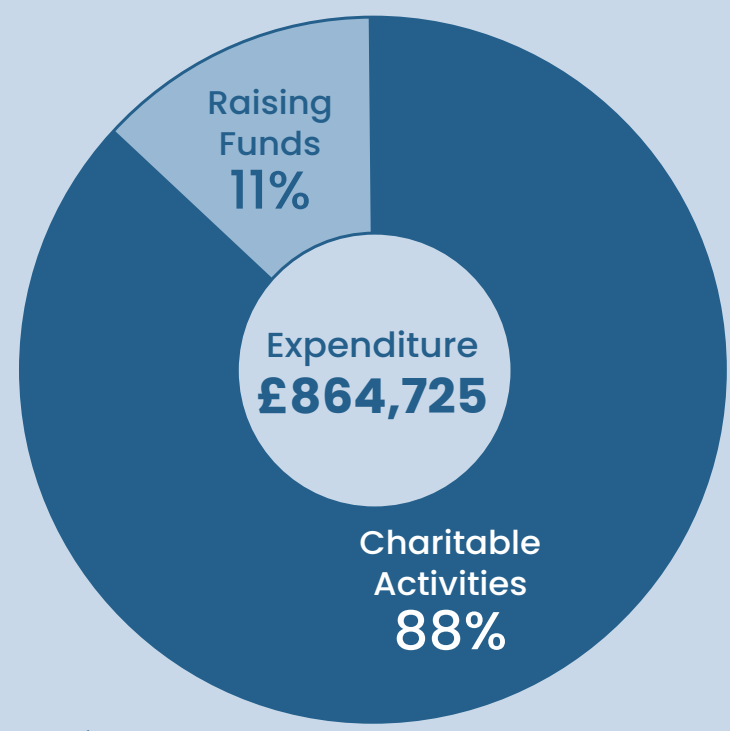
– Purulia Hospital and Children Unite for Action Project

In Purulia Hospital 368 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed and treated. 30 patients received reconstructive surgery and 84 cataract surgeries were performed, protecting eyes from loss of sight. An incredible 1,769 items of protective footwear were made for persons affected by leprosy too, each one shielding the foot of a person affected by leprosy. Your support has enabled these things.

In the CUFA project 1,390 individuals were screened across 14 health camps, resulting in the early detection of 20 new leprosy cases. When found and cured early, leprosy has minimal long term effects. 161 leprosy awareness programs were conducted in schools, reaching more than 10,000 individuals with information about leprosy and children's rights. 246 children affected by leprosy were identified for educational support to ensure leprosy did not affect their access to education and 52 students enrolled for Vocational Training Courses.

In a country of 1.45 billion there is such need, but your support is making a difference to the one. Each child found and cured of leprosy is worthy of celebration!

EXPENDITURE FOR 2025



We give thanks for every supporter who has made a contribution this last year. Your support in the mission to defeat leprosy is making a vital impact!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A COFFEE MORNING IN THE OFFICE.

**Saturday 7th November
10am-12pm**

Join us for a cuppa and update.

This will be an informal and relaxed morning, giving everyone an opportunity to catch up over coffee and learn more about the work in Mozambique.

10:00am Coffee morning begins
10:30am 15 minute presentation on the work in Mozambique
11:30am Presentation repeated
12:00pm Event concludes

We will also have a selection of Christmas cards, 2027 Diaries and other items from The Leprosy Mission Shop available. A gift bought from The Leprosy Mission Shop contributes vital funds towards the work of The Leprosy Mission. Gifts for Life are also available online, more details below.

We look forward to welcoming you for a morning of fellowship.

This Christmas would you consider buying a Gift for Life™ from the Leprosy Mission Shop?

You can choose an item and amount suitable for your loved ones this Christmas. The impact of your kindness will be felt in the life of someone affected by leprosy.

For many more Gifts for Life including e-cards, and for all your Christmas cards and gifts, visit www.theleprosymissionshop.com



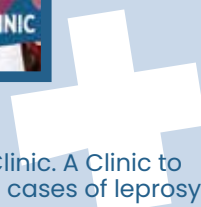
£24

The cure to leprosy



£111

A Pop-Up Clinic. A Clinic to find hidden cases of leprosy



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Leave a legacy where leprosy is defeated – leave a gift in your will to The Leprosy Mission – contact us for details at info@leprosymissionni.org