

# Kalutara Temple

– a possible project to support through the parallel fundraising for overseas building projects

Kalutara Temple is a Buddhist Temple situated in a poor area south of Colombo. It works with the local community in a number of ways. It supports 150 tsunami orphans so that they can live with extended families rather than go into orphanages, and provides them with a monthly meal and social event. For the wider local community, the Temple offers:

- after-school Computer classes for children who would not otherwise have the opportunity
- a full-time "Montessori School"
- sewing classes for women to enable them to make a livelihood
- a fertilizer programme to recycle cow dung and temple flowers and teach the people horticulture
- cultural events

On 26th December 2004, the Temple was damaged by the tsunami which passed straight through it, after which 78 tsunami families were supported in temporary housing in the grounds for several years before being rehoused. Pam Wootton, living in Sri Lanka, and Anne Shaw in Wolvercote, have given the Temple a lot of support. Pam and Anne became involved in working with tsunami affected women and children through the High Priest. Since then, their support has continued, and with the personal commitment of a number of people, including St Peter's congregation, much has been achieved.

The High Priest has long wanted to build a Vocational Centre which would house various community projects including:

- the Sewing Centre
- Disabled Children's Centre
- a Reading Library where the children could read English books and ask questions but not borrow
- Ecology teaching and events
- traditional dancing classes and cultural and community events

and be available for use by other community groups. This could be a buildings project we support with part (perhaps up to half?) of the £25,000 we have committed ourselves to raise for overseas projects.

Pam wrote to Anne as follows: "When I was at the Temple yesterday, I talked to the High Priest about what we could do should some money for building become available. As you know he has always wanted to build a Vocational Training Centre. We looked again at the foundations that exist there and I asked him about them. Apparently the foundations were put in about 40 years ago with the aim of starting a school for Monks but it never materialised. About 10 years back, an NGO called SERVE put in the columns in the hope of building but their funds were only sufficient to build the small "Montessori School" which is presently well in use. I asked him if we could get a quote to put on 4 walls and a roof. He immediately phoned a friend (as you do!), who is a Very Honest Contractor. He did seem very pleasant and after walking round and doing some sums, I believe we have the answer.

To put a single storey onto these very solid foundations would cost in the region of £11,293. This was off the top of his head, working it from the area which is 40' x 30', at Rs1,600 per sq.ft. The columns may need replacing because the reinforcement may have rusted in which case the cost could go up a bit.



I still have £1,000 for building costs remaining from a talk I gave to a school about 2 years ago. As it was given for building, I have not spent it. The Contractor promised to email me a Quotation which I hope to get tomorrow and then I'll ask Don to get his QS to check it out. If all is well, then maybe we can put this to Mark as our Proposal.



I know from our previous discussions that you are happy to do something like this. I think we should transfer all the sewing machines over from the Pamela Sewing Centre, and have them all in one place. I am keen for the High Priest to introduce something for children with disabilities, and he seems quite keen on this idea. He mentioned he would like to have somewhere for the elders to meet for a chat. It could serve many purposes. The nice thing as far as we are concerned, is there would be something permanent there from the Wolvercote Church "from whence cometh our strength".

The quotation duly arrived and is as follows:

### SUMMARY

Bill no

		Rupees	Pounds (UK) at £1=160 Rupees
02	Demolition, Excavation and Earth Work	Rs. 97,355.00	608.47
03	Concrete Work	Rs. 819,092.50	5119.33
04	Masonry Works	Rs. 173,990.00	1087.44
05	Water Proofing	Rs. 168,000.00	1050.00
06	Doors and Windows	Rs. 165,800.00	1036.25
8	Electrical Installations	Rs. 89,870.00	561.69
9	Finishes	Rs. 248,483.00	1553.02
10	Painting	Rs. 0.00	0.00
11	Drainage Systems	Rs. 0.00	0.00
12	Plumbing works	Rs. 0.00	0.00
	Engineer's Estimate	Rs. <u>1,762,590.50</u>	11,016.20
	15% VAT (Exemption MAY be granted by Government of Sri Lanka)	264,388.57	1,652.43
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>2,026,979.07</u></u>	12,668.63