



# The Grail Trust

Registered Charity 272411  
- supporting disadvantaged children in South India since 1995



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Website: [www.grailtrust.org](http://www.grailtrust.org)

## Christmas Message 2021

Dear Supporters and Friends



Vallioor



Vallioor



Kanya Kumari



Kovalam



Living in poverty



Schools closed for 20 months

Thank you once again for your interest and support for our work in Tamil Nadu, south India, where we support 110 children in and around the busy town of Vallioor.

It is one hour away from Kanya Kumari, the southern-most tip of India and a tourist magnet, and a bit further to the idyllic resorts of Kerala, notably Kovalam, where balmy weather and sea breezes soothe a European's body and mind. In Vallioor it is bustle, noise and energy: everyone is busy making a living and trying to help their children get on in life - better education, better job prospects, part of a global scene in which India can be a key player. We can help our children get ahead of their often limited circumstances: many are one-parent families

living in rural poverty outside the town with no cushion of social security. The deprivation for these children since lockdown has been considerable; Covid shut the schools in April 2020 for over a year; only in November 2021 did primary schools fully re-open, secondary schools and colleges a little earlier.



Managing Trustee Mr Natesan presenting J. Jeberson with the cheque for his college fees

Should you go there as a tourist you will meet young men like **J. Jeberson** in the 3rd year of hotel management at the Srimania Institute of Hotel Management, shown with our Indian chairman, Mr Natesan, with his fee cheque from us for his course fees.



J. Jeberson in his 'whites'

Here are the sisters **Miss V. Divya** **Priya Dharshini** 8th standard and **Miss V. Nithya Sri Devi** in her 2nd year of a Bachelor of Engineering degree; they are sponsored by two of our supporters *(we would like to encourage more of our supporters to undertake sponsorship, for primary or secondary education years or both, creating a personal link: further details on request)*. Lynda and I have visited this family several times; father died in an accident, mother works in a printing shop and granny cares for all. The five ladies live in unbelievable conditions - we showed you their home in the last mailing (one small hut, no running water and primitive toilet) yet here you see these graceful young women who are a joy to meet and support.



Sisters Divya and Nithya



From,  
V. Divya Priya Dharshini,  
282 South Street,  
North Aramparambalam,  
Tirunelveli District.

To,  
Mrs. Lynda,  
Gmail Trust,  
Chiramanalpuram.

Dear auntie,

I am fine here. How are you auntie? It's been a long time to talk to you through this letter.

Auntie, Now I had studying 8<sup>th</sup> standard in Beach Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Madakkaripatti, Tirunelveli. I had completed my 7<sup>th</sup> standard with good marks. As the pandemic was more in India they had conducted online exams. It's very easy to take good marks auntie. My mom is very thankful for you as a single parent who can't be able to manage to spend for our studies. At the time from till you had helped us a lot.

Thankyou auntie for helping me I hope you will help me for my further studies to.

yours Thankfully,  
V. Divya Priya Dharshini

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V. Nithya Sri Devi  
Thanthi Periya Government Institute of Technology,  
Barguram, Vellore, 632002

To  
Dr. Sadie Francis,  
Gmail Trust,  
Chiramanalpuram.

Dear Auntie,

How are you? I am fine here. It's been a long time to talk to you through this letter. I had completed my schooling and now I am pursuing my second year of Engineering in Thanthi Periya Government Institute of Technology, Vellore. I had done my exams well and I had passed my 1st year without any issues. When my mom was struggling to pay my fees you were very helpful for us. Thankyou auntie for helping me. We were all grateful to you.

Yours lovingly,  
V. Nithya Sri Devi.

As travel to visit our children in India is still not possible, we are very grateful to our Grail Trust partners in India for providing us with up-to-date photographs of just some of our children for this Newsletter.



G. Thanga Suji

To the left is Miss G. Thanga Suji, who is studying at 7th Standard at the Hindu Maravar Middle School in Malayadipurthur. She will be 12 in March 2022 and although she is seen drawing a picture here, her favourite subject is Maths and she wants to be a doctor!

Miss J. Mahalakshmi also attends the Hindu Maravar Middle School. She is described as a "very brilliant student" and will be 12 on Christmas Day! She shines in all of her subjects, although Maths is her favourite. Inspired by her school, she wants to train to be a teacher.



J. Mahalakshmi



N. Vaishnavi

Miss N. Vaishnavi is another of our Grail Trust girls attending the Hindu Maravar Middle School, now studying at 8th Standard. Her favourite subject is Science and she also hopes to be a doctor. Vaishnavi lives with her grandmother: her mother is dead and her father has left her - a scenario all too familiar in India!

Next we have Miss M. Muthulakshmi, seen here reading

from her English primer - her favourite subject is English. She is in the 5th Standard and attends the Hindu Maravar Middle School. Her father is dead: her mother has two other children to provide for, all on an income of Rs (rupees) 3,000 a month. That is about £30. Hence the Grail Trust's contribution is a lifeline.



M. Muthulakshmi



M. Angeline Mary

Miss M. Angeline Mary is 10 years old, studying in 5th Standard. Both her parents have died and like Vaishnavi, she lives with her grandmother. She loves her school work at the Hindu Maravar Middle School - her favourite subject is also English.

Miss E. Siva Udhaya is studying in 7th Standard at the Nirmala Roman Catholic Middle School in south Vallioor. She is 10 years old and lives with her mother and sister. Her father is dead.



E. Siva Udhaya



T. Arul Johnson

T. Arul Johnson is just 7 years old. He is cared for by his father as his mother is dead. He is writing in his native language - Tamil - on a painted blackboard wall, a common practice in Indian schools. How neat his writing is! Arul Johnson is studying in 2nd Standard at the Salvation Army School in Vallioor. He is quite a shy little boy.

Most of our children are Hindu, a third Christian. You can see how basic the school facilities are. Lunch is, almost invariably, a hard-boiled egg and rice.



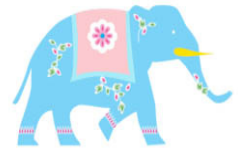
Mr M. Raja with two of his three children, including R. Muthukrishnan (r)

Some situations humble you. **Mr M. Raja** the father here fell in an industrial accident; his back injuries cannot heal and he spends up to 22 hours a day on the floor. For up to 20 minutes or so he can sit up like this for his photo before it becomes too painful. There is no cure nor can they afford physiotherapy. Our support provides for the family's basic needs and education for three children.



Mr M. Raja is cared for by his wife

Here are the six new children admitted in September when some schools started to reopen with, I to r, **Mr Natesan** our managing trustee, **Dr Abraham** and **Mr Gregory Retnaraj**, men rooted in their community and with whom we are privileged to work.



Thank you so much for reading this and for your continued interest and support. Our Indian partners join us in these thanks, and they also wish you all to be safe and well.

If you have any queries please contact the chairman, **Rev Neil Fairlamb**, All Saints Vicarage, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 2DA. Email: [fairlamb49@gmail.com](mailto:fairlamb49@gmail.com). Any donations can be made via our website, or sent direct to our treasurer **Michael Jordan** (address on page 1); cheques are payable to The Grail Trust.

Bank transfer details are to our HSBC account:  
sort code 40-44-27; account no: 61070479

Grail Trust is a registered UK charity, number 272411

**A date for your diary ! Our 2022 AGM will be held by Zoom on Friday 25th February 2022 at 3pm. A Zoom link will be sent out nearer the date.**

*With all good wishes,*

**Neil Fairlamb**

Look out for further news of The Grail Trust - visit our website:  
**[www.grailtrust.org](http://www.grailtrust.org)**

