

classrooms. The building was renovated in 2000 with donations from the Diocese of Carlisle and is in a good state of repair. It is a low whitewashed concrete structure and home to some 50 girls of varying ages. The accommodation includes a meeting hall and dormitory with washing room. There



are few other facilities. The girls sit on the floor to eat. Meals are prepared in the recently renovated kitchen.

The girls keep their belongings in a small suitcase and have a bedding roll comprising a brightly coloured rush mat. Each evening it is unrolled on the smooth tiled floor. This is similar to the way they eat and sleep at home. Hostel routine includes a period of daily prayer and thanksgiving.

The girls are aware that their accommodation fees are paid by donations collected in the Diocese of Carlisle. They are immensely grateful for these donations to help them complete their secondary education. They thank you for your commitment to support them for five years whilst they complete their studies.

They value very much indeed the opportunity to continue their education. It means that they will have the chance of better employment which in turn means they can earn a higher wage and help support their families. Many of them will take up white-collar jobs and receive technical training; others will go on to higher education and some to university. Without the hostel many would not be at school but at home doing household chores.

Our praise and thanks to God for moving and supporting everyone to make this committed giving. Please continue to remember in your prayers all those involved in education at Northwick Girls' School and those who care for the students in the hostel. They remember us in their own daily prayers.

# Carlisle Diocese

Partnership in World Mission  
with

# Diocese of Madras India



CSI  
Northwick  
Girls'  
Hostel  
Madras

Update  
May 2003

## CSI Northwick Hostel For Girls, Madras, India

**In January 2003 a delegation from Carlisle Diocese visited the Diocese of Madras for their biennial Diocesan conference.**

**The Reverends Katie and Jim Hyslop of St John's Church, Upperby, accompanied by The Revd Robert and Susan Bailie of Cartmel Priory visited CSI Northwick Girls' hostel and recorded their impressions.**

In bright Indian sunshine we toured the school grounds and observed lessons. Girls played in the sandy yard or sat cross-legged on the ground in small groups against the backdrop of the school buildings. The school uniform is similar in style to that of most girls' schools we saw in Madras. It is distinctive with a green *dupatta* (shawl) and yellow *kameez* (tunic) over draw-string pyjamas. Flowing freely it allows easy movement. Their long black hair is always neatly plaited.



*Left: The Revd Katie Hyslop with the headmistress Mrs Premavathy*

*Below left: Inside the school compound with senior school classrooms on the right*



*Right: The Revd Robert Bailie with a group of schoolgirls*



The atmosphere was relaxed and purposeful. Smiles from the students promoted a friendly welcome. At the school the girls work diligently for long hours. They take education seriously. It is very highly valued and appreciated as an opportunity to help their families who have nearly always made huge sacrifices to send their daughters to secondary school in the city. Many of the girls who have places at the hostel are from the rural or slum areas in and around Madras. Daily travel to and from school would be impossible. Girls are not allowed to travel unaccompanied. To spare another member of the family to see them safely to school each day would also mean forgoing another wage in the household economy.

The school, under its new headmistress, Mrs Premavathy, is well equipped by Indian standards and they are hoping soon to build new science laboratories. The school has 1300 pupils and there are more than 300 in the nursery school.

The hostel stands in a quiet corner of the school compound behind the

