

Frin & Dave in India

UPDATE LETTER 11 (APRIL 2019)

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING BACK IN THE UK DURING JUNE AND JULY AND CATCHING UP FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE'VE BEEN IN INDIA FOR NEARLY 2.5 YEARS AND IT FEELS LIKE WE'VE ONLY JUST STARTED. WE'D LOVE TO CHECK IN WITH YOU TO SEE HOW YOU'D FEEL ABOUT CONTINUING ON THIS JOURNEY WITH US.



Since opening in August 2018, The Cup has seen a steady rise in the number

of women visiting and we have now more than doubled our footfall. We've introduced English language classes by popular request and are now set up to have movie afternoons when women can escape the increasing outside temperatures and watch a good Bollywood classic. The ladies also enjoyed celebrating Holi together – they see The Cup as home and the staff as family.

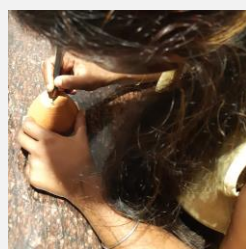


English Classes



Celebrating Holi

In partnership with a US business, All of Us Matter, we now have beautifully made ceramics for use in the Cup. Women are able to create their own designs on the plain glaze using special ceramic pens and get to sign their names on the base. Visitors are increasingly asking to buy these, and we are seeking advice over the legalities of selling merchandise with our current charitable registration.



Custom designed ceramics in The Cup



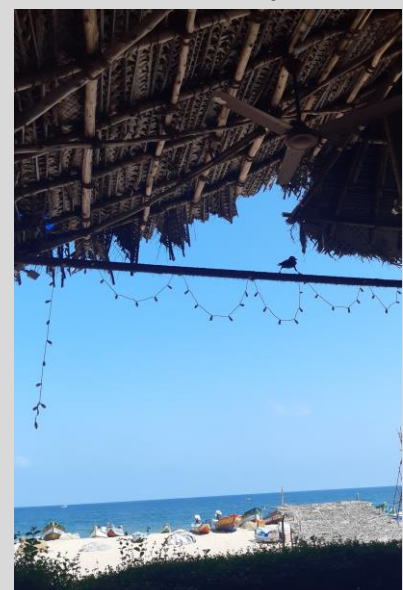
FRIN'S BIRTHDAY IN THE CUP



Esther's visit in December



Kisses on the job



Mini-break in Pondicherry

♥ Palak in school ♥

We mentioned during our last visit about Palak, a 12-year-old girl growing up in a brothel, being raised by her maternal grandparents while her mother works in the sex trade in Mumbai. She is exceptionally intelligent and dreams of being a doctor. She is also highly vulnerable to being exploited. We've been building a relationship with her grandparents for the past 18 months and have finally been given permission to help Palak access a high quality English medium school.



Palak in her home

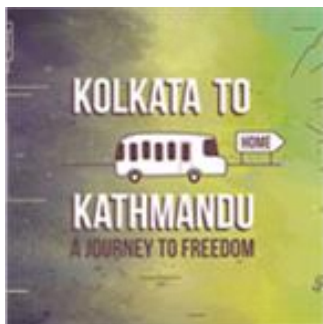


New shoes!!



First day at school

Things are still very complicated and liable to change from hour to hour, but we have made progress. We will be looking for potential sponsors for Palak and others like her. For about £60 per month we can cover her school admission, uniforms, books, transport, tuition and other associated costs. Let us know if you think you could help! When we work together, the burden is light 😊



Sangita Tamang

The Nepali repatriation programme continues. We were devastated in December when Sangita, a lady we'd been working with for several months to go home to Nepal, became acutely unwell a week prior to her departure date and died the day before her new life would have begun. Frin made another trip to Kathmandu in January and has managed to engage more businesses to employ returning women. From that trip, we arranged for 4 staff members from Kathmandu Freedom Business, Purnaa, and the New Life Transition House to visit Kolkata at the end of March. They led workshops for women from Sonagacchi and Kidderpore, introducing them to life, work and home in Kathmandu. More importantly, relationships were formed that will reassure women in Kolkata that it is safe to return and that they will have trustworthy and known people to support them.



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- There are a lot of organisational and leadership changes happening at the moment that are, at times, quite stressful. Energy and peace would be very welcome, plus being able to leave things well in June so that we can enjoy a proper break and time to reflect and refresh.
- That Palak remains safe and able to engage with her new schooling opportunity, and for increasing opportunities to secure a healthy living environment for her.
- For Laili as she plans to return to Bangladesh in the next 2-3 months.
- For the Nepali women to be released from the things that are oppressing them so that they can be free to go home.

Visiting the UK

Having only spent 3-4 weeks in the UK last year, we'll be taking a longer break to refresh and connect. We will be in the UK from 1 June until 22 July and will be talking about what we've been up to on the following dates:

Sunday 9 June

10:30am at Ebe Church, Bristol

Monday 10 June

7:30pm at Ebe Church, Bristol

Sunday 16 June

11:15am at Pendeen Church, Cornwall

Sunday 7 July

10:30am at Worcester Baptist Church, Worcester

Sunday 14 July

10:30am at Fishponds Baptist Church, Bristol



Getting around...

We have family and friends from Cornwall to Sheffield and all variety of places in between. If anyone has a spare car that they may be able to lend us for sections of our stay, we'd love to hear from you.

Easter

We'll be presenting an Easter programme in the community on 18 April.

We'll have a mixture of Bengali, Hindi and Nepali songs, a drama set to music from 'Passion of the Christ' and a message about how the events of Easter undermined the existing culture of oppression. We are also planning on having a post-event response time.



Journeying with us

We could not do this without your support and we hope these updates help you join us on this journey. You can also keep in touch in other ways:



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Dave Masters

Frin Fougere Masters

Financial support

If you would like to support us financially, please complete the following pledge form on our home church (Ebe) website or call the office on +44 (0)117 9791 399:

www.ebe.org.uk/frinanddave

You can also pay directly into our bank account:

Lloyds Bank

02177202 | 30-00-01

Or via PayPal

Click on the 'pay or send money' button and enter frinfm@outlook.com when prompted.