



DIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE

(SC017654)

# BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2024

## RAY OF HOPE



## A PROJECT OF THE CATHEDRAL RELIEF SERVICE

Ensuring Lasting Change for Women, young  
girls and children of ASHAKIRAN





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**Ensuring Lasting Change for women, young girls and children in  
ASHAKIRAN - RAY of HOPE  
A Project of the Cathedral Relief Service - Diocese of Calcutta**

**Bishop Ian writes:**

When in Kolkata, India, in December 2023 as a guest of the Diocese of Calcutta, I visited some of Cathedral Relief Service's projects in the poorest areas of the city. I met women whose lives had been transformed by learning skills in sewing and embroidery. Now they could use these skills to earn their living, instead of being forced into poverty, and many into prostitution.

I received a gift of bishop's vestments made by the women of Nari Dana, a precious reminder to me of this life-changing project. Please support my Bishop's Lent Appeal with your gift, and help 'Ray of Hope' to bring Nari Dana to Ashakiran.

**Rig David, Director of Cathedral Relief Service, Kolkata, writes:**

Kolkata has widely spread slums, including Ashakiran, where families have very little income and many mouths to feed. Lack of skills for men and women results in lack of jobs, and so poverty. Children do not get to complete school, especially girls, who must work to shoulder the burden of family life. Many women and young girls are sexually abused and forced into prostitution to earn a living.

Cathedral Relief Service, through its Nari Dana ("Women's Wings") project, works with women's groups to ensure that women and girls at risk are trained in tailoring and embroidery skills, in order to make a livelihood so that they can have a bright and confident future. 'Ray of Hope's' aim, fully endorsed by the Bishop of Calcutta, is to set up Nari Dana for women and girls in Ashakiran.

Thank you for your donations and support, which will enable the young women to grow in confidence and to build a future for themselves.

More information at <http://www.cathedralreliefservice.net/activities/women/>

**Please give your donation to your local Scottish Episcopal Church Treasurer  
or send by Bank transfer to:**

Diocese of St Andrews Dunkeld and Dunblane (SC017654 )

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