



Thank you so much!

THESE are the scenes that your money made possible.

Construction engineer Eric Doherty helped Indonesians whose homes were flattened by the Boxing Day tsunami to start to rebuild temporary houses. He trained locals in construction and provided them with tools so they could start work.

He was one of nine UK professionals whose short-term visits to Indonesia and Sri Lanka you helped fund. The money raised by our Bishop's Lent Appeal has now been counted and handed over. You raised £8,789 to help the Church Mission Society (CMS) send two teams out for three months, and a similar amount for the local Rainbow Centre in Fareham.

Eric, from West Sussex, was involved for three months in Meuraxa - an area of 16 villages in the Banda Aceh region where the tsunami first struck. The area had been devastated, with every building flattened and the remains of victims still being discovered.

As traumatised residents returned to the area, each village elected a local head man and built a 'posko' - a large open-sided wooden building that could be used as a central meeting point and temporary mosque.

As there was no electricity, these were initially built by hand. But some of the cash raised by our diocese paid for a generator, which meant power tools could be used.

Eric taught villagers simple building skills and encouraged them to work together. He also heard many traumatic stories.

"The work I was involved in



(top): Eric Doherty helps rebuild a home in Banda Aceh; (above): using a power tool - after your money helped buy a generator

proved to be very demanding emotionally, rather than physically," he said. "People related distressing stories to me several times a day, and it eventually proved too much, and I was advised to keep away for a while. At 61, I didn't need any life-changing experiences, but I got them and I thank the Lord I did."

Two of the other CMS volunteers working in Indonesia, Jane Goldberg, from Elstead, Surrey, and Carol Vaughan Smith, from York, taught hospital staff how to offer counselling to the trauma-

tised, offered individual counselling themselves and set up a Christian listening training course.

One of their successes was a women's group in the village of Deah Baro where only 204 men, 16 women and 19 children under 10 had survived from a population of 2,300. The group's activities included face care, cooking, walking, exercise and a picnic - it continued to meet after the pair left.

And in Sri Lanka, CMS volunteer Mike Boardman prepared projects to help health, sanitation, the

building of 2,500 new homes and community development in areas affected by the tsunami. His wife, Carole, trained and taught government staff and English language teachers in teaching techniques, as English language skills are thought to be vital to future development.

Paul Read, CMS tsunami officer, said: "Not only has this money helped us to send out these much-needed teams of professionals, but it has also sown seeds for the future. Some of those who went out for short-term visits are thinking of working there for longer stints. And, of course, the valuable information they came home with about the situation on the ground will help us to plan other short and longer-term involvement in the area.

"We can't thank the people of Portsmouth diocese enough for their support at what was a critical time for those living these areas. The effects of the tsunami may not be making as many headlines at the moment, but those living there are still only just starting to pick up the pieces of devastated lives."

Centre to use your cash to help children

HALF the £17,600 you raised for the Bishop's Lent Appeal will be spent locally - at the Rainbow Centre in Fareham.

This charity helps children with cerebral palsy achieve a better quality of life, using a system of learning called Conductive Education. More than 400 children have been through its doors over the past 15 years.

The £8,806 you raised for the centre equates to eight chil-

dren benefiting from its help for a whole year.

The centre started in a private house, moved to a school gym and then a council building in Fareham. Now it is housed in school Portakabins while a new permanent centre is being built in the town.

Bishop Kenneth, who is a patron of the centre, was there for the ground-breaking ceremony in July and blessed the ground in Cams Alder before

construction started.

The new centre will include a hydrotherapy suite, two consulting rooms, offices, work-rooms, staff facilities and overnight accommodation for families and professionals.

Phase 1 will be completed in spring 2006. It will allow the centre to increase the number of children it helps to 60 and will also provide help for adults with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and stroke victims.

Parishes may face green audits

OUR diocese and its parishes will be encouraged to test their green credentials with a series of environmental audits.

Diocesan synod members will be asked on November 5 to approve plans for audits to discover the impact of Church life locally on the environment.

Claire Foster, policy adviser to the Archbishops' Council, and David Shreeve, the co-founder of the Conservation Foundation, will tell members about the report *Sharing God's Planet*, which was approved by the Church of England's general synod in February. Synod also challenged Anglican worshippers about their care for creation and urged the Church to lead by example and promote sustainable lifestyles.

Our bishop's adviser for ecology, Canon Stephen Palmer, said: "General synod agreed that diocesan synods should encourage people to engage in environmental audits, and then report back to Claire Foster who will then report back to general synod in 2008 about progress."

Diocesan synod will also be encouraged to set aside a modest budget to implement these plans.

Lobby your MP about trade rules

CAMPAIGNERS from our diocese will be lobbying MPs for trade justice this month.

Churchgoers will head for Parliament on November 2 for a mass lobby of MPs ahead of a vital round of world trade talks.

It's the latest in a series of Make Poverty History events this year designed to emphasise the need for fairer trade rules, more aid and the cancellation of unpayable debts.

Thousands of campaigners will queue outside Parliament between 12noon and 6pm to talk to their own MPs about trade justice before the World Trade Organisation meets in Hong Kong next month. Similar events will happen throughout Europe.

Those coming from the mainland can join a coach from Portsmouth. Contact Dawn on 07734-051793. Those coming from the Isle of Wight can join coaches from Southampton. Contact Sarah Ware on 023-8022 0819 to book the coach, and Jim Curtis on 01983-526574.