

How you're supporting

Premananda Hospital in 2018

Kolkata, India



West Bengal has one of the highest endemic leprosy rates in India, and also one of the highest poverty rates with around 37% of the population living below the poverty line.

People living in poverty, particularly those with an illness or disability, have no way to afford private medical care. They are left to struggle alone, perhaps using traditional herbal medicines that are ineffective at best, and harmful at worst.



Premananda Hospital is a refuge and support for people with leprosy. They are given multidrug therapy at no cost, which will cure their leprosy and mean that they are no longer at risk of passing the bacteria on. They benefit from surgery and physiotherapy, counselling and care – whatever they need to help them on their road to recovery.

Over the coming months the Indian Government is looking to introduced new rules that will increase the quality of care in operating theatres right across India. This is good news but, we are having to assess the cost implications for our hospitals to facilitate these wonderful improvements.

Your support in 2018 of £17,405 will cover the annual salary of one doctor at a cost £10,905, and two nurses at £3,250 each. This will ensure that Premananda Hospital can retain its excellent staff and continue to be a place of healing and hope for the poorest of the poor in one of India's biggest and most impoverished cities.



This is possible because of the support and generosity from churches like St Swithuns. Without you, Premananda Hospital couldn't be there to provide the holistic care that people affected by leprosy so desperately need.

Meet Samin

Samin, 42, lives with his mother, brothers and sisters, supporting them through his job as a teacher in a church school. He travelled over 100km to get to Premananda Hospital, one of only two specialist leprosy hospital in West Bengal.



Samin first realised he had leprosy when he began to experience nerve pain in his elbow, and soon after developed numbness in two fingers.

Samin was prescribed a course of multidrug therapy, the cure for leprosy, and referred to Premananda Hospital for reconstructive surgery. Samin says, “I felt depressed and sad when I first found I had leprosy, I thought it was unfair of God to give me this disease. But God gives everything and when I realised that he had also given me healing, I felt much better. I praise God for His healing”.

The reconstructive surgery was a success, restoring full movement to Samin’s leprosy-damaged hands. He is now back at Premananda Hospital for treatment on a severe ulcer on his left foot. The ulcer is so advanced that Samin struggles to walk, and he is thankful for the treatment he is receiving at the hospital. Despite all his hardship, Samin is very cheerful and positive about his situation thanks to the timely treatment and loving support he has received at Premananda.

Your support will enable people like Samin to regain their mobility, feel healthy and look forward to the future with hope.

Thank you so much!