

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” (Deuteronomy 31:8)

★ Christmas in Pakistan

We have received greetings from many of our project partners in Pakistan. Many schools held end-of-term “Awards” ceremonies, attended by proud parents and excited students. Some also celebrated



Christmas with cake-cutting and Bethlehem tableaux. Danishmand and Jasmine were busy attending Christmas functions in many schools and homes. **Thank God for these peaceful celebrations.**



★ Special Gifts for Those in Need

In flooded Sindh Province: Perhaps the most moving were the photos received from Faisal in Karachi. He wrote this appeal for funds to help celebrate Christmas with flood victims. His own church, together with Starfish, provided funds for the celebration.

“I have been serving flood-affected Christian families of Sanghar District and other areas of interior Sindh. I am wishing to visit them and celebrate Christmas by cutting cake and having Christmas lunch and gifts distribution to children. Many eyes are waiting for us...”



In cold, winter Lahore: Last year, Jasmine gave away warm sweaters to all the children from poor homes in a village school on the outskirts of Lahore. Some sweaters remained – and Jasmine was able to give them to the students at the Amazing Grace School. It is cold in Lahore and they were more than welcome.

Pray for the families still suffering from the floods and pray for more opportunities to serve those who are in need over the coming months.

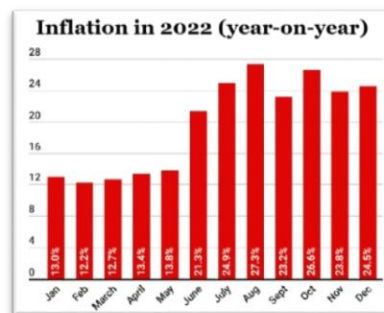
Remember Liz's run on 29th January!

As reported last month, Liz was not able to run her half-marathon due to illness. She is now up – and running on 29th January in the Half-marathon in Crystal Palace. You can still support her: <https://starfishasia.enthuse.com/pf/liz-ellis>



★ Pakistan's Cost of Living Crisis

This chart was taken from a Pakistani newspaper (The DAWN) on 2nd January 2023. For the poor this is a catastrophe, as the rate of inflation has risen to over 20% month by month since June, and stands at 24.5% in December. **Pray for stability in the economy, and especially for the millions of poor people (many of them Christian) who struggle to feed their families as they face the New Year.**



★ School Exams: December 2022

Last month we reported that Jasmine had prepared a special exam for the primary classes in all the 47 schools supported by Starfish Asia. She gave instruction that “no child should fail”, as that would be tragically de-motivating for them. By Christmas, 25 of the 47 schools had submitted their results – and she was delighted to see improvement across the spectrum of schools. She emphasized creativity alongside a short written exam. Here are some of the results:



Thank God for Jasmine and the huge effort she is making to ensure that students are meeting their potential. Pray that this engagement would continue in the coming year.

★ Report on Scholarship Students

Jasmine met with the students, all from Starfish-supported schools, that are studying further at the Mazenod College for Intermediate exams (A-level equivalent). They are all on scholarships from Starfish Pakistan. The photo shows 16 students now in their second year at the college. **Pray for all the 210 young Christians who are studying further thanks to the Starfish Scholarship scheme.**



Finally, pray for us all: for Rob, Mike & Kerstin, Liz, our Board members and faithful supporters – and of course Danishmand, Jasmine and all the staff and Trustees of Starfish Pakistan. Pray too for project leaders, teachers, staff and all the children and communities among whom they live and serve.

May we all remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ and His call on our lives, throughout 2023.

Mike, Kerstin, Rob and Liz

**Starfish Asia Prayer Meeting via ZOOM
Thursday 12th January 2023**

10:00 AM London <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86005320769>

7:00 PM London <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88569711608>