

ICIN Newsletter

UK Charity No. 1119427¹

April 2017



Iraqi Christians in Need, founded in 2007, has raised **over £1.7 million** to date for the medical, financial and educational needs of Iraqi & other Christians displaced inside Iraq and the neighbouring countries.

A Note from the Chairman

Happy Anniversary to ICIN! It is a credit to our supporters and our dedicated Council members that, over the last ten years, the charity has developed into the organisation it is today and various events have been organised in celebration of this occasion. **ICIN is particularly pleased to announce that His Beatitude Louis Raphael Sako, Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon, has accepted to become Patron of our charity.**

While ICIN is proud of its aid programme detailed on the next page, it also recognises that the level of donation income has steadily declined over the last 3 years and this at a time when much change affects the lives of our fellow Iraqi Christians. With the battle for Mosul not over yet and some villages in the Nineveh Plains liberated, a number of displaced families went back to their homes only to find them razed to the ground or burnt out. So much is needed, not just materially but in terms of re-building trust and providing security and stability. ICIN is determined to continue to do what it can but needs your help to do so. For this reason, we will be holding a General Meeting in September of all our supporters to canvass their views on the future of the charity and the role that they would be prepared to play in maintaining and nurturing it.

Through the dedicated efforts of many, ICIN's name in the UK among supporters, churches and others is better known and respected than it has been at any time and, for example, its views and that of other NGOs sought in discussions with Dfid and FCO. HRH The Prince of Wales made another generous donation, the 3rd, in December 2016 and, for the first time, ICIN was invited to attend a beautiful and moving service of carols and readings in Xmas 2016 at St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey, the church of the House of Commons in London at which prayers were said "for those facing religious persecution especially in Iraq" and a retiring collection taken for the benefit of ICIN. The London churches of St Clement Notting Dale and St James Norlands "adopted" the Marka School in Jordan, one of ICIN's main projects, as their Lenten Almsgiving Project for the next 3-4 years.

To all, I say thank you and God bless.

¹ Trustees: Faiz Tappouni, Suha Rassam, Amal Allos, Issam Rassam, Joseph Bahoshy, Maysoon Juma & Claude Bahoshy. Executive Council members: Janan Allos, Zaid Bunni, Basil Marogy, Mayad Rassam, Ziyad Rassam & Amal Razouk.

Aid Programme

The difficulties faced by our Christian brothers and sisters in Northern Iraq and Jordan continue and during the year ended 31 March 2017, ICIN distributed just under £193,500 to the various projects listed below:

ICIN's donations over the year ended 31 March 2016 include:

- £25,700 for assistance with costs of students' education in Baghdad who otherwise would go without;
- £32,250 to Bait Anya Hostel looking after the destitute in Baghdad
- £25,050 towards rents of Al-Karma housing project for refugees in Erbil
- £38,400 to fund costs of Marka School for educating children of Iraqi refugees in Amman, Jordan;

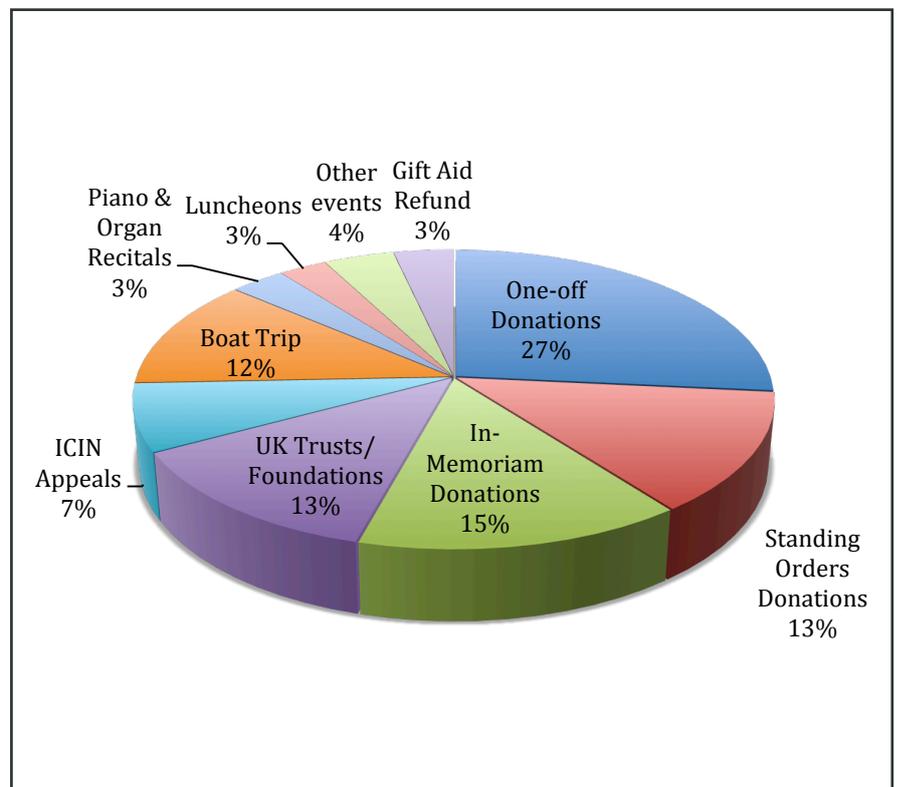


- £7,100 for the relief of hardship faced by Iraqi Christians in Jordan who fled persecution;
- £20,730 to St Joseph's Medical Clinic in Erbil to provide to all in need, irrespective of faith or creed, with medical and healthcare needs;
- £7,825 towards Emergency Surgical treatment for refugees in Erbil;
- £18,900 to meet travel, subsistence and accommodation needs of 20 refugee students at University of Kirkuk;
- £9,600 to Mahabba & Farah Group for the care and training of people with special needs at its care centre in Erbil;
- £7,860 to Myrrh Bearers Fraternity, lay-women who care for the poor in Erbil.

Income

ICIN's public support during the financial year to 31st March 2017 has continued though at a lower level than the previous two years.

2017	£178,997
2016	£216,310
2015	£344,894
2014	£77,173
2013	£96,186
2012	£98,628



Events

As mentioned earlier, there will be a General Meeting of ICIN supporters in September to discuss the future and direction of the charity and your participation will be most appreciated - more details in due course.

During this celebratory year, ICIN is holding

- Gala Anniversary Dinner & Dance on Saturday 3rd June at Oatlands Park Hotel, with classical piano & vocal entertainment, Arabic songs followed by dancing with a DJ till 1:30 am. Tickets are selling fast;
- Middle Eastern Jazz & Song evening on Saturday 22nd July for the younger crowd;
- A Christmas Celebration on Saturday 2nd December at St John's Notting Hill followed by Canapés & Cocktails.

Information will be made available as and when other events are organised and please continue to give the charity your support by your attendance for these events also serve to keep us in contact with each other.

Donations

Please remember that without your support and that of churches and other charitable organisations, ICIN would cease to be able to do its work.

Not only are we helping those in real need but we are keeping alive a small flame of Christianity in the region of its birth. Remember that the Christians of Iraq are a faith community that dates back to the 2nd century. Iraqi Christians are not guests in Iraq; they are indigenous to it. Please do not allow them to disappear forever.

Donations may be made

- online at www.icin.org.uk
- by mailing a cheque payable to ICIN to 43 Queen's Drive, Thames Ditton, KT7 0TJ
- by setting up a standing order through your bank/building society quoting ICIN's banking coordinates: Iraqi Christians in Need, Account No. 31373927 and sort code 40-47-19

Please remember that if you are a UK tax payer, then your donation may qualify for Gift-Aid. Gift Aid increases the value of donations to UK charities by allowing them to reclaim basic rate tax on your gift. If you pay higher rate tax you can claim extra relief on your donations. The Gift Aid scheme is for gifts of money by UK taxpayers. Charities take your donation - money you've already paid tax on - and reclaim basic rate tax from HMRC on its 'gross' equivalent, the amount before basic rate tax was deducted.

A Gift-Aid form, available online, may either be completed online or downloaded, completed and sent to the charity's address at 43 Queen's Drive, Thames Ditton, KT7 0TJ.

Website

The ICIN website www.icin.org.uk was revamped in 2015 and we would encourage you to visit the website for latest news and forthcoming events as well as pictures of past events. You will also find information about the charity's accounts, trustees and executive council members, history of Christianity and much else.

Please remember to register your email address to receive news and updates of our charity.