

## **Concert for Sylvia Raises £3,000**

A fine cast of musicians, singers and dancers entertained an appreciative audience of over 300 people at Notre Dame Sixth Form College in Leeds on Sunday 9 May. The concert in aid of the Sylvia Wright Trust raised over £3,000 to support Sylvia Wright and her work among the poor, sick and disabled in Tamil Nadu, one of the poorest states in India.

Staff and students from the four Leeds Catholic High Schools combined enthusiastically at Notre Dame Sixth Form College to stage the concert. Outstanding performances by the Cardinal Heenan Madrigal Group, Corpus Christi Eyelash Dance Company, Mount St Mary's Gospel Singers, Notre Dame Indian Dancers, soloist Tessa Koenig and St Mary's Menston Gentle Breeze Band were supported by the harmonies of Leeds Medics Choir and The Lawnswood Singers.

The performers showed great determination and dedication in overcoming many obstacles in the lead up to the concert. These included meeting important course work deadlines, preparing for summer examinations, undergoing Ofsted inspections and finding ways round the Leeds Half Marathon road closures which disrupted the morning dress rehearsal. Leeds Medical student, Adam Grice, actually ran in the race in a time of 1 hour and 17 minutes but still had enough breath to join in the singing of 'Hallelujah!' appropriately enough. The Mount St Mary's Gospel Singers walked from the Central Bus Station to get to Notre Dame just in time for the concert.

Their conductor, Mrs Cathy Hindle, said: "It was a lovely concert and a great experience for our pupils."

The whole cast combined in the Grand Finale with a rousing rendition of 'You Raise Me Up' accompanied by former Diocesan Director of Music Stuart Thompson and conducted by Sally Barnes. This raised the spirits of the audience as well as much needed funds for the Sylvia Wright Trust.

Sylvia Wright was a member of the audience and, during post-concert refreshments, took part in a Question & Answer session with her usual honest and illuminating replies. After drawing the raffle for a Helicopter Flight, won by Mr Harry Lee from Stockport, Sylvia was presented with a cheque for £150 by Indian Dancer, Reshma Anie Jose, on behalf of the Notre Dame Student Senate.

"It was a great way for so many people to support Sylvia's wonderful work in Tamil Nadu," said Tony Allinson, Chairman of the Leeds-based Sylvia Wright Trust.

"We were delighted by the brilliant support of the schools and the high quality of the entertainment provided. We are most grateful to all the performers who gave their time and talents so generously, to Notre Dame Sixth Form College for allowing us to use their excellent facilities and to all those who came along."