



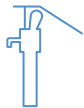
Barnabas Fund's "Rebuilding for Santal Christians" project will bring restoration and give new hope to the persecuted Santal Christian families who have lost everything

*"My heartfelt thanks for supporting them with low cost housing, schooling and clean drinking water," said Peter Mazumder from Bangladesh to Barnabas Fund, speaking on behalf of the Santal Christian community, "You understand the need of the hour."*

**Costs** Costs vary with slightly with exchange rate and other factors on the ground.



**One brick home is approximately £920**



**One tube well with hand pump is approximately £130**



**Cost of one toilet (which can also be used as a shower) is approximately £170**

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*Rebuilding the  
Santal community in  
Bangladesh: 04-1360*

# Lent Project 2018

## ST GILES CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON

### Homes for Homeless Santal Christians in Bangladesh



After being violently evicted from their homes, the Santal Christians constructed makeshift shelters to live in





On the night of 6 November 2016, Bangladeshi police in riot gear marched into the desperately poor community of Christian Santal people in Gaibandah District. Firing rubber bullets as they went, the police evicted the Christians, and then, helped by local Muslims, set fire to the Christians' homes. Three Christians died in the attack and between 5,500 and 6,000 were made homeless.

The community in Gaibandah were driven from their homes so that their land could be seized to cultivate sugar cane – there is a government-owned sugar factory nearby.



The Santal Christian community fled as their houses burned on into the night

*Between 5,500 and 6,000 Christians were made homeless*

### A history of exploitation and injustice

The Santal people are an ancient ethnic minority indigenous to north-west Bangladesh. The first Santal church was built in 1867, when what is now Bangladesh was part of British India. They are used to persecution, having experienced years of exploitation and injustice from the Muslim-majority Bengalis.

Through Barnabas Fund's project "Rebuilding for Santal Christians," you can bring hope and a future to the Santal Christians of Gaibandah, who have been living in makeshift tents since the fire in November 2016.

Barnabas Fund is building 48 permanent new homes in Phase 1 of the project. There will be twelve shared toilets and six shared hand-pump tube-wells with shower areas. A school on the same plot of church-owned land will also be repaired and refurbished.



This phase is now well underway, praise God. The building work on the 48 one-room homes is about 25% completed. The two-storey design means that more can be fitted on to the site, which is a secure plot of church-owned land. Four of the tube wells and eight of the toilets are finished, which is two-thirds of the sanitary work. Only the painting remains to be done on the renovated school building.

A site for Phase 2 has already been identified, where approximately 50 more homes will be built, Lord willing, along with toilets and tube wells.

Building is underway for the first phase of Barnabas Fund's project, which will provide 48 new homes built of brick, on safe, church-owned land, with shared toilets and tube-wells