



## Azul Wasi Newsletter Autumn 2020

*We hope that you will enjoy reading our Autumn Newsletter with news of Azul Wasi and the children who live there, and hope that this finds you safe and well in this challenging time of the Coronavirus.*

### News from Azul Wasi

Peru imposed a strict lockdown on 15<sup>th</sup> March, but despite this, the spread of the disease has been catastrophic. Although the population of Peru is less than half that of the UK, according to John Hopkins University (21 October) there have been 33,830 deaths which represents a death rate of 105.7 per 100,000 people (this compares to the UK, where the number of deaths is 43,967 - a rate of 65.5 per 100,000 people). One of the reasons given for this catastrophic rate is a seriously underfunded healthcare system which has struggled to cope. Other causes are the poverty and overcrowded living conditions in many places, and the need for people (many of whom don't have fridges or bank accounts) to go to daily markets and queue at banks to receive any benefits due.

The lockdown is continuing at least until the end of October with a curfew every night and all day Sunday. Schools are not likely to return until March at the earliest, and then it may be a mix of in-person and online teaching. Azul Wasi has continued to be in a strict lockdown, with the challenging responsibility of supporting the education and well-being of the children there with such a wide range of ages and with limited supplies and facilities.



### Fundraising and donating

We continue to send our monthly contribution of £775 towards the food costs (which amounts to £9,300 a year) and £38 (£456 a year) to LAFF in appreciation of their support to us. In the current situation we are not able to run our normal fundraising events, but we are working on something that we can do online in the New Year. If, in the meantime, you would like to support our fund for the food for Azul Wasi it is easy now to make a donation via the St Andrews Church website:

<http://www.standrews-chesterton.org/church-life/mission-and-giving/azul-wasi>



If you would like to become a regular donor, please see details on the next page. Knowing that the majority of our funding is covered by these donations is a great support.

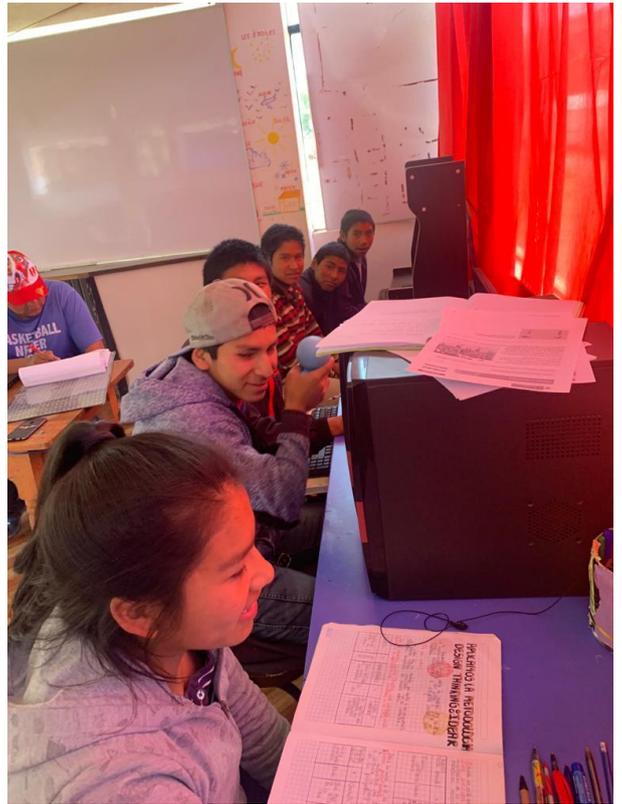
## LAFF

We are very grateful to the UK Charity LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) who support Azul Wasi. Their Programme Manager, Macarena, in Cusco has kept us informed throughout and the LAFF team has been working extremely hard and creatively to help Azul Wasi and the other projects that they support throughout this challenging time. Below is some news directly from LAFF and you can read more about LAFF's work on their website ([www.laffcharity.org.uk](http://www.laffcharity.org.uk)).

*Hello - I'm Clarice, the communications coordinator at LAFF, and I am grateful for this opportunity to share with you how life at Azul Wasi has been for the last months. At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, Azul Wasi was faced with the same uncertainty as the rest of us and had to quickly make changes to comply with the Peru quarantine restrictions. Educational material has been sent out via the radio and WhatsApp; communication methods which are problematic in communal homes and with an unreliable internet connection. It is with great pride, therefore, that I look at the developments of more recent months.*

*In July, LAFF received a grant from a UK Trust which enabled them to hire a full-time tutor, Genesis, to start working at Azul Wasi. We also campaigned to get donations of second-hand mobile phones that Azul Wasi can use as educational resources. Genesis has experience teaching in Venezuela and is able to give focussed one-on-one support to the children who might be struggling, as the lack of school lessons has meant that children are increasingly at risk of falling behind.*

*With all the problems that we have had to work around over the past eight months, knowing that we have the consistent support from the St. Andrew's community has helped enormously. From all of us at LAFF and Azul Wasi, a huge thank you.*



**Could you spare £5 or £10 a month? If you feel that you could support Azul Wasi by setting aside an amount each month, however small, please do get in touch. Details and forms are at <http://www.standrews-chesterton.org/church-life/mission-and-giving/azul-wasi/>**



## News from the children

We asked the children at Azul Wasi to tell us what they liked and disliked about not being able to go to school and having to learn at home during their lockdown.



## Thank you

Alcides thanks St Andrew's for continuing to raise funds to help pay for the food at Azul Wasi – knowing that a regular sum will be coming each month is really helpful to him. We add our own thanks to everyone who supports Azul Wasi, both financially and through prayer.

Mary + Chris .

***For more information or to make a donation please contact us.***

Mary and Chris Pountain

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***To make a donation, sign up to our mailing list, see more photos and read about St Andrew's connection with Azul Wasi visit <http://www.standrews-chesterton.org/church-life/mission-and-giving/azul-wasi/>***