



Azul Wasi Newsletter Spring 2021



Alleluia for Azul Wasi!
A virtual concert featuring musicians from St Andrew's Church.
 You can watch the concert video by clicking [here](#).

News from Azul Wasi

Since we wrote in November, the situation in Peru regarding Covid-19 has continued to be catastrophic and the progress of a vaccination programme has been very slow. Overcrowded living conditions, the poor state of the health service prior to the pandemic and the lack of financial support for individuals who have lost their work has added to the suffering of the people of Peru.

Keeping everyone safe at Azul Wasi has always been a priority and the staff have taken the health of everyone there very seriously. They and the children at Azul Wasi are currently all well and managing OK, despite the difficult circumstances with the prolonged lockdowns and curfews. Alcides is the father-figure at Azul Wasi and is assisted by the tutors, David, Carolina and Génesis. Anastasia, the cook for many years, has left and a new cook, Idersiz, is living at Azul Wasi with her 3 children. In April Azul Wasi welcomed 2 new boys, brothers aged 6 and 12.



LAFF

Macarena, the Programme Manager at LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) keeps us informed regularly about Azul Wasi. You can read more about LAFF's work on their website (www.laffcharity.org.uk).

Home-schooling, solar powered laptops and IT provision

Azul Wasi has continued to be in a strict lockdown and the schools have been closed for over a year. The added responsibility of becoming a school as well as a home, with such a wide range of ages and with limited supplies and facilities has been very challenging and exhausting for the staff. Those here who have been home-school their children this year, will no doubt sympathise with them as they have 23 children and young people and currently have students in all primary and secondary year levels!



One of the biggest problems regarding supporting the children's education has been the limited number and the age of their computers – many of the computers don't have webcams and are very old and slow. The school had asked that every child should have a way to join online classes and so Azul Wasi needed to provide at least one phone or tablet computer per year level.

We have in the past responded to occasional emergency situations such as dental care, extra blankets, and the flooding issues back in 2010, and after speaking with Alcides and Macarena in April, we decided to send an extra

one-off donation of £510 to LAFF to enable them to provide some of this much-needed IT equipment at Azul Wasi. This will be a positive help in this difficult time and also be useful in the future too, as even when the schools do re-open they may well continue with some online educational provision.

LAFF have themselves provided a tablet, and following their recommendations our donation has been used to buy 2 tablets and a Wawa laptop. The laptop is an interesting option as it made in Peru and is an eco-friendly and sustainable laptop designed specifically for students. It can be powered by solar energy as well as mains electricity and is designed to last up to 15 years.

(see <https://www.wawaperu.org/>)



Fundraising

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. Despite the Covid lockdown we managed to raise £1700 by holding a Virtual Wine and Pudding evening in December. Those of us who attended this Zoom event enjoyed chatting while consuming our own pudding and wine in our own homes, and a lot of others kindly made donations. We look forward to being able to have a live Pudding and Wine Evening when it is safe to do so!

Invitation to watch our virtual concert, *Allelulia for Azul Wasi!*



In this strange time we have had to think of new ways to raise money for the Azul Wasi fund. As a result we would like to invite you to a short virtual concert, given by musicians from St Andrew's Church – David Drury, Annemarie Federle, Florrie, Rachel and Will Harmer, Catherine Morley, Helen Orr and Chris Pountain – all recorded at home during the lockdown. Together they bring a variety of instruments and styles of music, some accompanied by photos. It starts with Helen singing Leonard Cohen's 'Allelulia' as we visit Azul Wasi itself and then it takes us on a journey through English gardens and woodland, finishing with an uplifting improvisation on 'Over the Rainbow' by Will. You can watch the concert video by clicking [here https://youtu.be/Wpd7dvNxZNg](https://youtu.be/Wpd7dvNxZNg)

We hope you will enjoy the music and photos in the video. If you feel able to do so, you can support the fund for the food costs at Azul Wasi via the St Andrew's Church website (<https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi>).

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. Knowing that the majority of our funding is covered by these donations is a great support. Details and forms are at <https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi>

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 greatly appreciated. We add our own thanks to everyone who supports Azul Wasi.

Mary + Chris .

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

Mary and Chris Pountain

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To sign up to our mailing list, see more photos and read about St Andrew's connection with Azul Wasi visit <https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi>