

WELCOME

It is spring in London and the KCF are making lots of plans for the year ahead. Here is a round-up of how we are starting 2025:

- 12 active students on our books
- 6 new students approved starting their degree
- 3 charity runs scheduled to raise awareness and funds

We are planning some events around the runs scheduled as well as working out the feasibility of running our usual fundraising event. If you have been to our annual event before and would like us to prioritise this year, please write in and let us know. You can send your comments to the secretary@keralachristianfellowship.org.uk

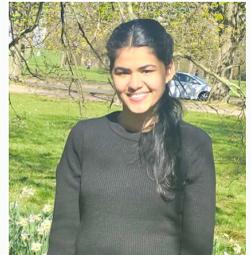
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Athulya

Athulya was supported by KCF for 3 years and successfully completed her nursing degree in 2024. She has passed with distinction and found employment in Bangalore. Athulya describes how KCF helped to meet her educational needs at a very critical time in her life. As an only child, she had lost her mother, and her father was doing everything he could to support with his simple auto driver wages. Today, she is not only thankful but has a heart full of hope for how she can put her learnings into practice.

We have been going through our archives and managed to connect with Anju who, supported by the KCF, studied nursing between 2016 and 2020. Anju completed her studies and worked in India for a few years to gain experience and is now working in the NHS. Anju was able to support her younger sister who is also now a trained nurse and working in Mumbai. This is a great story which attests to what KCF set out to achieve – to give those in need a chance to stand on their own two feet and support their families in turn.



Anju

It is because of your support over the years that these kinds of stories have been possible. We continue to work towards supporting more students, whose lives are positively impacted, despite the relatively small contributions that we make. We hope these stories encourage you to become a regular supporter of our efforts. You can help us continue to make a difference by signing up for regular direct debits, or make a one time contribution. Your support us what helps us reach more students and leave a lasting impact on the lives of the less fortunate. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to the efforts of the Kerala Christian Fellowship.

Visit our website for more details on how you can be a part of the work we do.

RUNNING TO RAISE FUNDS

We have a couple of superstars who have taken on the challenge to run to raise funds for KCF this quarter. Here are two stories to inspire you to contribute generously given what these young men are putting themselves through for the cause of KCF.

Stephen Sharrock



Stephen is thrilled to be fundraising for the Kerala Christian Fellowship (KCF)! His journey with KCF began in early 2024 when his wife, Susan, who is actively involved with the organization, shared its inspiring vision and mission with him. He learned about the ongoing efforts of this charity to support nursing students in Kerala and was deeply moved by how a small community in London could make such a significant impact on lives halfway across the world.

Supporting KCF resonated with Stephen on multiple levels. Growing up in the small Cornish town, he was raised by a Methodist minister and a nurse. His parents instilled in him a strong sense of service, and witnessing his mother's dedication to nursing gave him immense respect for the profession. His wife, a Malayali, introduced him to the rich culture, history, and beauty of Kerala. As he learned more about this incredible region, his connection to it deepened.

Running has also been an important part of Stephen's life. Though he participated in the London Marathon previously, he had not been very active in recent years. The opportunity to run for KCF reignited his passion for running, and he has found the discipline it requires to be beneficial for his daily life.

This year, Stephen has set a goal to participate in three races: a 5K in Chepstow (completed in January with a time of 31 minutes and 40 seconds), a 10K in Battersea Park (sadly missed due to a hamstring injury), and a 10K in Cheltenham (scheduled for June). He is excited to share his journey and invites others to support this cause. Donations will directly impact the lives of nursing students in Kerala, empowering them to pursue their dreams and serve their communities.

Stephen is deeply grateful to everyone who has already contributed towards this cause. Your generosity is making a real difference as you have read in the beneficiary stories. Please check out his Go-Fund-Me page for more details: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kerala-christian-fellowship>

Sushil Thomas

Sushil is (allegedly) excited to be running the Hackney Half in May 2025. Having supported KCF in an unofficial capacity over the years (mainly as stand-in MC at fundraising galas) - now as a member of the committee, he is keen to do his bit to help raise funds for a cause close to his heart. Having never run more than 10K, completing a half marathon is sure to be quite the challenge!

More details on Sushil's story to follow in our next update. Please check out his JustGiving page for more details: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kerala-christian-fellowship>



Sushil running the British 10K in 2018.
"Photograph not representative of his current condition"