



It is only 2 short months ago that our District team of 6 made the exciting journey to India, to stay with generous hosts, and to visit numerous churches and projects across the Diocese of Cuttack. We quickly made many friends.

We have heard that a total lockdown is now in place as fears for the spread of coronavirus deepen across the subcontinent. However serious our problems here in the UK, in a country of 1.3 billion people, with its areas of cheek-by-jowl living, widespread and extreme poverty and lack of basic resources, the risks are terrifying to contemplate.

As I write these words, I have in my mind the faces of those gracious and gentle people we talked and prayed with in January, and we ask you to please join us in praying for the Indian people, among whom are our friends and partners, as they face this challenge.

God of grace and love, we turn to you at this time of need.

We pray for the people of India as they face the challenge and uncertainty of these days – each of them fully known and deeply loved by you.

We remember our partners in the Diocese of Cuttack, Bishop Nanda, the diocesan leaders, and the many pastors and evangelists. We pray for strength and courage for them as they support the churches and communities; give them the assurance of your presence as they share your gospel of hope.

We pray for the directors and staff of city hospitals and remote village clinics as they respond, all with limited resources, to the needs of the desperate, the sick and the suffering.

We pray for those who work with the very poorest of the poor in overcrowded slums, doing their best to provide education and feeding programmes for the children, and care for the elderly and vulnerable.

We pray that compassion will not be a casualty of these difficult times, and that the strong will support the weak.

And throughout these days and always, would you help us all to remember that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.

God of all mercy, hear our prayer, Amen.

