



■ Rev David and Gwen Montgomery will be working with Asha.

David and Gwen off to Delhi with charity

This October, Presbyterian minister David Montgomery and his wife Gwen will be leading an all-Ireland team to the slums of Delhi to support the work of the charity Asha (Hindi for 'hope') and renovate some buildings in the slum. The all-Ireland team of 11 includes five members of their own congregation, and some from a partner church in east Belfast, as well as members from Bray and Dún Laoghaire.

'I have been an Irish ambassador for Asha for a while now,' said Gwen Montgomery. 'I have supported the work for over 10 years. In 2009 we finally got the chance to go and see first-hand the amazing work that Asha does, and they have invited us to come back with a team this time.'

Asha began 22 years ago and has been working in health care, financial advocacy, and women's and children's issues in more than 40 slums. Most recently they have seen students from the slums finish their schooling (thanks to Asha) and gain places in some of Delhi's top universities.

The strategy is that by securing well-paid jobs these students can put valuable resources back in to the slums. 'India is a land where great wealth and great poverty co-exist,' said Rev Montgomery. 'Asha is doing phenomenal work in helping to reduce that disparity.'

Although he will be visiting and teaching at some of the small Christian churches in the slum, Asha's work is with people of all religions. 'Two years ago I was privileged to be invited into Muslim, Hindu and Christian homes. By "home" I could mean a small room with a tin roof and a mat on the floor - poverty is no respecter of religion. But I am delighted to be involved with Asha as they seek to work towards the eradication of poverty.'

To raise money for the team's work, the Montgomeries have organised an auction of talents, services and goods in Greystones Presbyterian Church Hall on Friday, September 9, at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come, bid and buy and help this most worthy cause.

Donations for the auction may be offered to gwenandmonty@btinternet.com.

able from four depots around the town and free for all to use.

Recycling centre

2 p.m. on Saturday.

The first one in gets the best one out.