



# Christian CARE Association



# Annual Report 2008 - 9



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2009	2008
	£	£
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
External Grants	2,000	5,600
Donations	5,796	4,880
Fund-Raising Appeals	1,549	1,241
Interest Received	319	305
Gift Aid/Tax Rebates on Covenants	536	-
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>12,026</b>
	=====	=====
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Fund Raising	(709)	-
Direct Charitable Expenditure	(5,054)	(6,554)
Management and Administration	(3,226)	(2,754)
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<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(8,989)</b>	<b>(9,308)</b>
	=====	=====
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
External Grants	5,095	3,945
Donations	3,651	4,000
<b>Expenditure</b>		
	(8,326)	(8,255)
	-----	-----
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	<b>(418)</b>	<b>(310)</b>
	=====	=====
<b>UNRESTRICTED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources	1,629	2,408
Total Funds brought forward	12,536	10,128
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<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>14,165</b>	<b>12,536</b>
	=====	=====

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2009

	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets		440		560
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Gift Aid	536			-
Cash at Bank and in hand	14,439		11,976	
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	14,975		11,976	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Sundry Creditors	(1,250)			-
		13,725		11,976
		-----		-----
		14,165		12,536
		=====		=====
<b>FUNDS</b>				
General Fund		14,165		12,536
		-----		-----
		14,165		12,536
		=====		=====

**Contact us at:**  
**Christian CARE Association**  
**Main Office**  
**St Barnabas Community Centre**  
**Thirsk Road**  
**Mitcham**  
**Surrey CR4 2BD**  
**020 3044 0093**  
**christiancaremerton@gmail.com**

This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 8 October 2009 or by application to the Honorary Chairman or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2009, the total income of the charity amounted to £18,946 compared with the previous year's income of £19,971. We are most grateful to those individuals and organisations which support our work year on year as well as those which have donated for the first time. This time last year the Executive Committee was concerned that the main funding for the Furniture Project had expired. Therefore we were very grateful when, at the end of last year "Grassroots" agreed to fund our furniture project for two years. The charity's annual expenditure of £17,317 was broadly in line with the previous year's expenditure of £17,563, and as a result the charity was able to maintain its capital position.

At 31 March 2009, the cash position of the charity was £14,439, an improvement on last year's figure of £11,976 although £1,250 of this increase was money received to fund the annual children's outing to Littlehampton in July 2009. We are fortunate that, in difficult economic times, we have managed to maintain a healthy bank balance. Such economic times do mean, however, that the charity has increased demands on its resources and to this end, the Executive Committee continues to seek new sources of funding.

**Ann Thimont**  
**Honorary Treasurer**

33 children went to Littlehampton

109 parents and children invited to the New Year Party

59 12-19 year olds involved in teenage outings

17 teenagers attended the monthly Wednesday Club

11 young people went to CPAS Falcon Camps

### LITTLEHAMPTON OUTING 2008

Christian Care has organised an outing to Littlehampton every year since 1968. So on 28 June, it was for the 41st time that the children assembled at Merton Park Baptist Church for a welcome and good-humoured warnings from Bert Hyde, before clambering into the coach, full of excitement at the prospect of a day at the sea.

The conditions for the outing were ideal – a gloriously sunny day with a cooling wind and the tide was out, leaving a broad stretch of sand for the children to enjoy. They had great fun on the beach, and in the sea, some of those paddling ‘accidentally’ falling into the waves! At the funfair the dodgems and the water chute were very popular as well as the quieter activity of panning for gold. Later they joined in games of football and rounders on the grass.

The 32 children aged 6-11 were divided into five groups. The student leaders, mostly from Wimbledon High School, showed real initiative in building relationships and creating a sense of belonging. They were sensitive to the ages and personalities of the girls and boys allocated to them, who felt safe and valued. There was a sense of freedom – the opportunity to be themselves. Some live in overcrowded conditions; one girl had been through an eviction and one family had been in a hostel for over a year. At least two of the children were able to leave behind for a day the adult responsibilities they have to carry within the home and another two came from a family where the serious disability of an older brother dominates life.

At 5.30pm it was with great difficulty that we got them all back on the coach; they just did not want their special day at the seaside to end.

The outing was again funded by a grant from Help a London Child, for which we are most grateful.

Gillian Thick, Vice Chair

### FAMILY SUPPORT

As well as outings and entertainment for children and teenagers, a large part of the work of Christian Care consists of the day to day support given to families in need, often in very great need.

Increasingly we are being asked to help families who are almost destitute. One mother and her child have spent the last six months living on £20 a week. Suddenly the new school term was upon them and there was no money for uniform. It has always been Christian Care's policy never to give money directly to those in need so with the donations we receive we will buy food or baby supplies. Therefore we are very grateful for the harvest donations we get from churches and from Wimbledon High School which enable us to give much needed food parcels.

Whilst many of the families we help struggle financially, for some the need is more emotional. These families might have to cope with bereavement, a chronic illness or disability, the looming threat of eviction or living in totally inadequate housing. For these families the visit of a befriender can be a ray of light in an otherwise dark week: providing care as well as practical advice, for example helping a mother arrange the funeral of a stillborn baby and accompanying her to the service, or being there for a trafficked woman through the long months of waiting as her appeal to remain in the UK is prepared.

Finally I should mention our Furniture Project. We are very grateful to those who take the trouble to donate items of furniture they no longer require. This enables us to help those who manage to find more permanent housing. We are also very grateful to those who collect and deliver furniture in our very own ‘white van’. In addition, as well as furniture, we are increasingly being asked for children's clothes, toys and equipment and we are grateful to receive and pass on these items also.

Ann Thimont, Honorary Treasurer

In 2008–2009 Christian CARE helped 114 families

39 families befriended long or short term by volunteers

37 families received food and grants

36 households helped by the Furniture Project

1 family had a holiday at Butlins in Bognor Regis

## THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

In preparing this letter I am conscious of the need to write something new. As it turns out this is not difficult for there has been much to encourage us since our last AGM.

For example our Vice Chair, Gillian Thick, has been pro-active in putting together the various policies that are necessary in running even a small charity such as ours.

Fortunately we have backing from the Merton Voluntary Service Council of which we are members, and their partner organisation Volunteer Centre Merton. They have been a great source of training and of potential volunteers to fill our many needs – for befrienders, youth leaders, office assistants.

When working with families we are especially aware of the needs of children and are most grateful to the Sir Cliff Richard Charitable Trust for its help in financing our New Year Party. We would also like to say a big thank you to many individuals whose donations made it possible to send youngsters to Falcon Camps run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society, which include a devotional time at the end of each action-packed day.

The mainstay of the office is Michael Lawlor – he is there each day we are open, rain or shine, and carries out his work with good humour and a determination that is admired by all who come into contact with him.

I must not forget our work with teenagers – a club run once a month at All Saints Church Hall, South Wimbledon, and two groups, one for 12-15 year olds and another for 16-19 year olds going on occasional outings to the theatre, cinema or some

activity such as bowling, each ending with a meal and all funded by the Charles Skey Trust.

Asylum seekers feature high on the agenda, and when success comes as a result of our efforts it is something to write home about! More than one person has been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain by the Home Office and has later applied for British Citizenship and it has been a pleasure to be invited to attend the Ceremony that ensues.

Regrettably we are losing three key workers. Cathie Honour, who has befriended so many and has more recently been our Befrienders' Coordinator, is retiring. Julia Evans, who has helped with varied activities over many years, and in particular has been the Camps Coordinator, has resigned because of a clash between her professional and voluntary work. More recently Delene Edwards has taken on the role of Teenage Leader, but due to other commitments she has relinquished this position. To all of them we express our sincere appreciation for everything they have done.

Sadly I must record the passing of two much respected ladies – Patricia Hutchinson, a volunteer for many years and at one time Honorary Secretary, and Norma Crockford, widow of a past Treasurer and a great supporter of our work with donations in his memory towards holidays for families.

I commend our work to your prayers.

Yours sincerely,



**Bert Hyde**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2009

### EXECUTIVE

Bert Hyde	Chairman
Gillian Thick	Vice Chair/Party/ Children's Outing/Office
Pat Spencer	Hon Secretary
Ann Thimont	Hon Treasurer
Geoff Coyne	
Julia Evans	Child Protection/ Falcon Camps
Lucy Garrett	Health & Safety
Cathie Honour	Child Protection/ Befrienders' Co-ordinator
Dr Ann Phillips	
Gwen Wildman	

### SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE HOMELESS

Bert Hyde	Chairman
John Hutchinson	Hon Secretary
John Golden	Furniture Project Coordinator
Gillian Thick	

**Registered Charity No. 1044099**

**Helping Families in Need  
in the London Borough of Merton**