

Christian CARE Association

Annual Report 2014 - 15



*Free Cakes
for Kids*



*The Littlehampton
Outing*



*The Fairytale
Party*



A Butlin's Holiday



*At a Falcon
Camp*

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2015	2014
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies/In Memoriam	-	11,287
External Grants	2,080	3,161
Donations	8,330	7,347
Fund-Raising Appeals	441	841
Interest Received	611	597
Gift Aid	1,460	685
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Total Income	12,922	23,918
	-----	-----
Expenditure	(19,671)	(14,933)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	(6,749)	8,985
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	-	6,175
Donations	1,759	410
Appeals	4,579	772
	-----	-----
	6,338	7,357
Expenditure	(5,802)	(7,403)
	-----	-----
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Restricted Funds	536	(46)
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(3,685)	(3,708)
	-----	-----
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) FUNDS		
Total Funds brought forward	(9,898)	5,231
	53,212	47,981
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	43,314	53,212
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	1,427	3,567
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term		
Investments	30,000	35,629
Cash at Bank	8,326	12,044
Debtors and prepayments	3,561	2,368
	-----	-----
	41,887	50,041
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-	(396)
	41,887	49,645
	-----	-----
	43,314	53,212
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	43,314	53,212
	-----	-----
	43,314	53,212
	=====	=====

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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 11 November 2015 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2015, the total income of the charity amounted to £19,260 (£31,275 in 2014). The significant decrease is as a result of a legacy received in 2014 without a correspondingly significant donation in 2015. The charity's annual expenditure of £29,158 has increased in 2015 (from £26,044 in 2014) due to the fact that we had no external support for the Furniture Project in the year and to the increase in our spending on Family Support. Generous responses to appeals towards the expenses of sending youngsters to the summer Falcon Camps and of the annual New Year Party meant that we were largely able to cover the costs of these. Looking forward, we are very fortunate to have been given a grant from The City Bridge Trust of a total of £16,200 payable over three years towards the running costs of the Furniture Project (commencing in the current year). However, we do not anticipate a fall in the level of Family Support required as we still see an increase in the number and needs of the vulnerable families we support. We are very appreciative of those people and organisations that regularly support us, as well as of those donating for the first time.

At 31 March 2015, the funds of the charity were £43,314 (£53,212 in 2014). Despite the decrease in funds, the Executive Committee considers that the level of reserves is still sufficient to enable us to support families and individuals without first having to ensure matched funding. We are conscious that the prospects for the neediest in society are unlikely to improve in the near future and therefore the Executive Committee continues to search for new sources of funding as well as to ensure maximum benefit for the money the charity expends.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

MY BIRTHDAY PARTY

I was so excited that my birthday was coming up because I'd be 8 years old. Auntie Gillian from Christian CARE told my mum and me that she'd be bringing me a cake and she asked me the design I wanted for my cake and I chose a balloon design in different colours. I was so happy when I saw the cake and took some pictures at home.

We took the cake to church for my party. I took some pictures of the cake and also me with my mum, and with the kids and adults from the church. I liked the cake very much – everyone in the church enjoyed the cake and my party.

Thank you to Christian CARE and also to the person who made the cake for me. Thank you so much to God. God bless you all.

Rachel aged 8

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE

My name is Elisha and my brother is named Ezekiel. We live with our mum who works very hard to take care of us.

Three years ago Auntie Sue started to take me to Littlehampton by the seaside. This year my little brother could come and I was very happy. Ezekiel and I had an amazing day. He said that he loved the motorbike ride. My favourite was the log coaster. We had a wonderful day and my mum could have a rest.

Thank you very much Christian CARE for letting my brother Ezekiel come to Littlehampton with me.

Two happy brothers aged 9 and 6

THE WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!

When we drove into Butlin's that Friday the mood lightened immensely. The breeze hit us and we thought about the lovely holiday which was just beginning.

Because we arrived early, we went around the site and looked at the things we would be doing over the week. The card that opened our door activated at 4pm - our apartment was amazing! We went to dinner at 6pm and watched Aladdin Rocks at centre stage. We all knew that we had really good days to follow...

The rest of the week was AMAZEBALLS!!! We watched super shows, tried amazing activities and ate remarkable food. The Red Coats were really helpful and we all met new friends. My favourite parts of the holiday were when we all went swimming and going to the circus! The acts were so good that the audience just kept applauding! I also enjoyed the funfair - the rides were so exciting, bringing lots of joy to everyone. The weather wasn't all that bad, the sun did shine *occasionally!* I loved it when we visited the beach. Simon really enjoyed meeting Billy and Bonnie Bear, and he also loved Sprout from the Skyline Gang. Rita enjoyed everything but especially the swimming.

We watched performances by cover groups of One Direction and Little Mix. On the last day, we went to the Stephen Mulhern show, and we even got signed certificates from him! We also went to the gift shop and bought souvenirs.

Butlin's Bognor Regis was one of the best holidays I'd ever had and I hope I get a chance to go there again soon!

Precious aged 10

PRINCESS FOR A DAY!

I want to say a very big thank you to Christian CARE for inviting me and my mum to the New Year Fairytale Party. I played the princess role in the play and enjoyed it very much. I helped one of the boys to find the dragon. I felt really special that day with the other kids addressing me as 'Princess Ella'. Thanks a lot for making one of my dreams come true. I love you all. God bless.

Ella aged 4 [with a little help from her mum]

THE BEST CAMP YET!

I went to camp this year for the third time. Although I have been before, this year's in my opinion was better for me as I'm older and understand more about my life and how God has a big part to do with it. When I first went to this year's camp I had an average amount of knowledge about God and his Son but throughout the week I realised that there's more to it. Some of the leaders at the camp taught me what my name meant and that really had a significant amount of purpose for me.

Camp's not just a place to learn about God but also to meet and socialise with new people. We did so many activities and then on the last day going to Brighton really topped it off - having a chance to get on most of the rides and seeing a different side of England.

Overall it was a great way to spend a week of the summer. Thanks to the great people who organise this kind of event for people like us.

Rafael aged 16

[whose name means 'God has healed']

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

It has recently been reported that 100,000 children in England are 'homeless', living in temporary accommodation, with a greater proportion of them being in the London area. Many of the children we help are in this category. Some are living in bed and breakfast accommodation or in one room in a multi-occupancy house. Some have known the horrors of an eviction and others are facing imminent eviction. *Housing for Women* is now managing the Refuge in Merton and is looking to Christian CARE for short-term support as new families arrive without benefits and have to settle into an unfamiliar area.

Our last Annual Report showed how we try to ensure that children have adequate food and clothing and that their 'homes' have basic furnishings. However we are aware that they miss out on much that their peers take for granted. Through the year we are working to make their experiences as 'normal' as possible. Befrienders may take toys for the children, or arrange an outing. This summer we have funded some day trips so that families could have respite from very confined situations.

Since 1968 we have hosted a New Year Party and taken children on a seaside outing in the summer. These activities bring so much joy and the children look forward to them each year, asking months ahead when they will take place and if they will be invited. Although it shows

how special the outing is, it was sad that a girl, who lives with her mother and brother in one room, tried to run away when it was time to leave the sea because she did not want to go 'home'. It has also been a tradition to arrange a holiday for one or two families each year. This means so much to the families who are able to forget all the stresses and strains of everyday life for a week and experience a different world.

For many years we have been in partnership with the *Church Pastoral Aid Society* to send children to their Falcon Camps. This year 26 youngsters, the largest number ever, went to three of these activity camps and had a wonderful time. Parents have reported that when they made the evening phone call to their offspring, it was very brief because they did not want to miss out on any of the activities! One child was exuberant in the car coming back, until they were approaching her bed and breakfast hotel when she became glum and silent. Her mother reported that there were tears during the next week because she wanted to be back at camp.

We know that for some children their birthdays go unmarked – no cards, no presents. An exciting new venture, facilitated by *The Wimbledon Guild*, is the provision of birthday cakes for children who would not otherwise have one to share with family and friends. The national charity *Free Cakes for Kids* now has a group of volunteer bakers in the borough and Sue Boyd has added to her responsibilities of organising the party and the birthday gifts the coordination of this scheme for

some of our families. There is no doubt that these individually-designed cakes are making birthdays very special.

As we are shocked by the recent news of the huge refugee crisis in Europe, there seems little doubt that Christian CARE will be called upon, as it was in the 1990's under Bert Hyde's leadership, to reach out to a new group of 'homeless' families with children. Listen to the voices of the children who have shared with you in this Annual Report what Christian CARE means to them and their families. May many more people, by the gift of their time, make it possible for Christian CARE to reach out to more children in our community who are so much in need and to be ready also to welcome those who may in the coming year be arriving to live among us in Merton.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Thick

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2015

Gillian Thick	Chair
John Golden	Vice-Chair
Pat Spencer	Hon. Secretary
Ann Thimont	Hon. Treasurer
Sylvia Baxter	
Sue Boyd	
Dr Ann Phillips	
Jane Savill	
The Revd Robert Wright	