

BEFRIENDING



A summer family picnic!

FAMILY SUPPORT



Off on a delivery!



BABY, CHILDREN'S AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECT



Ready to go!

FURNITURE PROJECT



My very own bedroom!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



Tell me a story!

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2018	2017
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies/In Memoria	1,899	162,084
External Grants	12,000	3,000
Donations	15,604	11,916
Fund-Raising Appeals	498	1,361
Interest Received	1,105	611
Gift Aid	924	1,187
	-----	-----
Total Income	32,030	180,159
Expenditure	(37,416)	(38,010)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	(5,386)	142,149
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	4,200	5,450
Donations	836	1,000
	-----	-----
	5,036	6,450
Expenditure	(5,133)	(6,859)
	-----	-----
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Restricted Funds	(97)	(409)
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(5,648)	(4,899)
	=====	=====
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) FUNDS		
Total Funds brought forward	(11,131)	136,841
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	167,989	179,120
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Short Term				
Investments	135,000		60,000	
Cash at Bank	30,178		116,452	
Debtors and prepayments	2,841		3,568	
	-----		-----	
	168,019		180,020	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors	(30)		(900)	
	-----		-----	
	167,989		179,120	
	-----		-----	
	167,989		179,120	
	=====		=====	
FUNDS				
General Fund		167,989		179,120
		-----		-----
		167,989		179,120
		=====		=====

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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 8 November 2018 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2018, the charity's total income was £37,066 (£186,609 in 2017). The high level of income in 2017 was the result of two generous bequests; the final amount of £1,899 being received in the current year. The level of income in 2018 is more in line with our income in recent years (£34,882 in 2016, £19,260 in 2015 and £31,275 in 2014). However, in 2018, we received our final payment of £4,200 from the City Bridge Trust towards the costs of the Furniture Project and our final donation from the trustees of the Charles Skey Trust who have been generous supporters of us over many years.

The charity's expenditure in 2018 was £48,197 (£49,768 in 2017). Spending on Family Support was £18,257 (£23,686 in 2017) and that specifically geared towards children, such as school meals, school uniform and outings in the summer holidays, was £4,800 (£3,583 in 2017). The costs of the Furniture Project of £10,829 (£8,043 in 2017) cover running a van, renting two garages for storage as well as buying items which cannot be provided through donations.

I would like to record our great appreciation of those people and organisations that regularly support our work, as well as of first time donors. At 31 March 2018, the funds of the charity were £167,989 (£179,120 in 2017). The Executive Committee considers that the level of reserves is sufficient to enable us to continue our current level of support. However, in order not to dip into our reserves too significantly, it is imperative that we find new sources of income to take the place of those which have benefitted us in the past.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

WHY CHRISTIAN CARE MATTERS

In the attic of a 3-bedroomed terraced house in March 2016 I met Grace, Amy (2) and newborn Beth (*names changed*) referred to Christian CARE as an 'uncomplicated' family. Already the Baby Project had provided everything for Beth's birth. Eleven other people lived in the house sharing a tiny kitchen and bathroom. Grace was sad, depressed, hungry and lonely. For 5 months I visited her fortnightly taking food, nappies, and an Oyster.

In May they were evicted and sent, with no assistance at all, to a small room in Lewisham which contained only a bed. Arriving at 8pm with only £5, Grace bought a sheet and a teaspoon. We had paid for her taxi from Merton and the next day we took food, kitchen basics and bedding. This proved an unsafe environment with violent neighbours, so Grace was sent to a small mice-infested room in Brixton. I continued visiting as she still had no social worker or benefits. We found a solicitor to prevent her removal to 'far, cold' Durham and another to help with immigration issues. After a year Grace, granted status and benefits, was re-housed by Lambeth; she was overjoyed. We saw Grace and the girls at our New Year Party and they had a great day on our family outing to Littlehampton in July. In August 2018 helped by friends, Grace moved to a 2-bedroomed flat in Birmingham. With promised help for childcare, things are really looking up for her.

Grace has blossomed into a positive, determined and fun-loving mother who cares for her children beautifully. In response to our £50 voucher towards equipping her flat, she texted:

'Thank you soo much for everything, we do really appreciate you. We are very happy here so don't worry too much about us. We will go to church this Sunday and meet other people from Ghana. A big thank you to all the wonderful people at Christian Care.'

Clare Gray

OUR BEAUTIFUL FLAT

Two years ago, I joined the Christian CARE Furniture Project as a Driver/Helper. It would be fair to say it's been an emotional roller coaster. We provide hard and soft furniture along with utensils and white goods to those most in need. The condition of many of the properties in which these people are housed beggars belief; they should have been demolished years ago. Many try to improve their homes but are hampered by a lack of skills rather than energy. It brings to mind the saying:

'Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day;
Teach a person to fish and you feed him for life'

Over this period, I have often reflected on why in a modern society we have such poverty and what has caused it to worsen during my time in London.

On a more joyful note, we recently delivered furniture to a mother and her three children in their new home. They had previously been evicted and had spent the following 6 months being shunted around the Home Counties by various authorities never spending more than a couple of months in the same place.

On arrival back at base we discovered that a box of utensils had not been delivered to her. That afternoon we returned with the box and were invited in. The flat had been transformed. Mother proudly showed us around and in one of the bedrooms the three little girls were sitting smiling on their newly made-up beds. 'Thank you for our beautiful flat,' they said. I can tell you it was enough to bring a tear to this old builder's eye.

So I would like to say: 'Thank you Christian CARE for providing me with this experience.' But most importantly thank you for being there with furniture donations to provide help to those most in need.

Declan Pritchard

A FAIRYTALE MORNING

Christian CARE accepted an offer from the Polka Theatre to provide a workshop for children with their parents on 8 August 2018. This was a totally new and exciting venture.

Twenty-one very excited children and their parents were either brought by drivers or made their own way to Martin Way Methodist Church hall. Olivia and Katrina arrived from the Polka Theatre with paper, pens and interesting craft bits and pieces. Initially the children were asked to draw lots of branches and leaves on a very, very long piece of paper. It was lovely to see all the children, helped by their parents, using their imagination to draw and colour an amazing beanstalk.

Next the children were given pictures of leaves to colour and decorate with feathers and sequins before cutting them out. The very long piece of paper was hung vertically from the ceiling and the children brought their leaves and stuck them on the beanstalk. The result was an amazing collage and was the backdrop to the story. Olivia told the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, using an array of sound effects. All the children were riveted on the storyteller and it was a treat to watch their wide-eyed expressions as Jack climbed up the beanstalk and saw the giant and his family.

After the story had finished, the children had an opportunity to colour pictures relating to the story or just play around for a while. Lunch was served on two long tables - a great variety of sandwiches and accompaniments, followed by yummy cakes. This provided a great opportunity for parents and children to catch up on previous acquaintances or to get to know others for the first time, and to make arrangements to meet up in the coming days. All in all, the morning was a huge success and thanks are due to Sue, Sylvia and Lizzie for helping to run it.

Julia Evans

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

How different is this letter from the one I wrote last year in the closing months of our wonderful 50th Anniversary year! Then I was reflecting on and celebrating **the past**. Now, following slowly unfolding developments which have accelerated this summer, I am sharing with you news of the changes we are planning for the safety and effectiveness of the charity for **the future**. This year has seen faster growth in requests for our services than in previous years with 173 families – almost 500 individuals – coming to us for help. In order to provide appropriate services for clients whose poverty manifests itself in increasingly complex needs and to properly support our committed band of volunteers so that they are not overwhelmed by the situations they face, we must have different structures in place.

We are therefore moving to separate the combined functions of **governance** and **management** at present held by our Executive Committee. We are setting up a **Board of Trustees**, with 5 of our current Trustees, including the Secretary and Treasurer, standing for election. We welcome Deacon Tom Kavanagh with his long association with Bert Hyde and Churches Together in Merton Park to join them. I am delighted that Jane Savill, who has been a valued member of the Executive Committee for 5 years, has agreed to stand as **Chair**. Her willingness to undertake this role has been crucial in furtherance of our plans. I will be continuing in the other area of my current work as **CARE Coordinator** leading the team of 5 Coordinators who will form the **CARE Committee**, responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity. This group has already been meeting

Registered Charity No.1044099

regularly since March 2017 and we have come to value the opportunity this provides to share concerns and gain an overview of the work.

A review of the 5 areas of the charity's service in the community this year is a source of real encouragement. Sylvia Baxter, **Befrienders' Coordinator** with 9 years' experience, has seen more redeployment of volunteers to support new clients as some families have moved on; she has welcomed Pascale Lo to the team. Anita Harlock, in her third year as **Family Support Coordinator**, working closely with Sylvia as most befrienders are also shoppers, faces the dilemma of responding with appropriate concern to an ever-increasing level of need while containing expenditure within reasonable limits. Under Sue Boyd as **Children's Activities Coordinator** for the past 2 years, there has been significant innovation most recently in an exciting collaboration with the Polka Theatre. She supported the idea of Clare Gray to open this summer's seaside outing to whole families, which was an outstanding success. Julia Evans is joining the team as Birthdays Organiser; we now only require a Camps' Organiser for the team to be complete. Barbara Moreland, in her sixth year as **Baby, Children's and Household Project Coordinator**, continues to see rapid growth in the need for her services and is seriously considering sustainability for the future. But the most significant expansion for 2017-18 has come in the **Furniture Project**, where Nick Wolff took on the role of Coordinator a year ago and is developing his ideas for the improvement of this much-needed service, ably assisted by our Office Administrator, Michael Lawlor. The loss to the team of Robert Wright with his move to be Team Vicar in North Cheltenham is huge. We thank him for his committed 7 years' service to the project, and the warmth of his

personality in all his dealings with his fellow-volunteers, donors and especially the clients. There is clearly an urgent need to recruit more drivers and helpers to share in this work.

We are moving into a time of change but what is not changing is the original vision of Christian CARE – a group of volunteers from different churches united in their desire to fulfil Jesus' command to 'Love your neighbour'. In all the planned changes we have been conscious of God's leading. So, as I conclude my last letter as Chair, it is with the quiet confidence expressed in the 18th century hymn of Katharina von Schlegel:

*Be still, my soul: ...
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change he faithful will remain. ...
Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.*



Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2018

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

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