

Christian CARE Association



Annual Report 2013 - 14

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2014	2013
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies/In Memoriam	11,287	20
External Grants	3,161	2,040
Donations	7,347	8,982
Fund-Raising Appeals	841	736
Interest Received	597	655
Gift Aid	685	1,673
	-----	-----
Total Income	23,918	14,106
Expenditure	(14,933)	(11,715)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	8,985	2,391
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	6,175	9,225
Donations	410	2,121
Appeals	772	2,692
	-----	-----
	7,357	14,038
Expenditure	(7,403)	(13,747)
	-----	-----
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Restricted Funds	(46)	291
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(3,708)	(3,784)
	-----	-----
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) FUNDS		
Total Funds brought forward	5,231	(1,102)
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	53,212	47,981
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

	2014	2013
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	3,567	5,707
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term Investments	35,629	25,485
Cash at Bank and in hand	12,044	15,322
Debtors and Prepayments	2,368	3,102
	-----	-----
	50,041	43,909
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	(396)	(1,635)
	-----	-----
	49,645	42,274
	-----	-----
	53,212	47,981
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	53,212	47,981
	-----	-----
	53,212	47,981
	=====	=====

Contact us at:
Christian CARE Association
Main Office
020 3302 0181
Mobile 07932 628840
christiancaremerton@gmail.com
www.christiancaremerton.org.uk

This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2014 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2014, the total income of the charity amounted to £31,275 (£28,144 in 2012-2013). We are very appreciative of those people and organisations that regularly support our work, as well as to those donating for the first time. This year we were very grateful to receive £4,875 from the Marian Esling Legacy Fund towards the cost of the furniture project and £1,300 from the Co-operative Community Fund to cover the costs of our annual outing to Littlehampton. Although the charity's annual expenditure of £26,044 has decreased in 2014 (£29,246 in 2013), in fact unrestricted charitable expenditure has increased to £14,933 (£11,715 in 2013) and is indicative of the more difficult economic times in which we live and the growing number and needs of the vulnerable families we support.

At 31 March 2014, the funds of the charity were £53,212, an increase on last year's figure of £47,981. The funds are represented by cash deposits and the van for the Furniture Project. It is important to note that this increase of just over £5,000 was as a result of the generous legacy of £10,000 and donations in memory of former friends of the charity. Without these the charity's reserves would have depleted by more than £6,000. Despite this, the Executive Committee considers that the level of reserves is 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 and to ensure maximum benefit for the money the charity expends.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

MY TIME WITH CHRISTIAN CARE

My first experience after joining Christian Care in November 2011 was attending the New Year children's party where I saw for myself the diversity of the families attending. They were from different ethnic backgrounds, single parents and families with all sorts of problems. The common factor was that all the children were enjoying the games, the food, the entertainment and were so happy to receive the gifts that were given to them as they left to go home.

In February 2012 I started visiting my first family, a mother with a young daughter, going through a divorce and struggling with financial problems. She was African and had difficulty adjusting to living on her own and understanding the language and ways of this country. It was a challenge trying to sort out her finances as she was easy prey to cold sellers and had signed up to all manner of things. Christian Care and Christians against Poverty were a tremendous support to both my lady and me.

After time out for an operation, I was introduced to an Asian family who had come to the UK as asylum seekers. Both parents are physically disabled and they have 3 young boys. They came with a completely different set of problems – medical and housing. They are still in temporary accommodation and both parents recently had operations on their legs. Their issues are still ongoing.

I also see a young African girl with a one year old son who has been abandoned by the father of the child. She lives in one room and works to take care of herself and her son, as she is not entitled to any benefits. She was so apprehensive about becoming a mother, and it is good to see how she has grown in confidence. My newest family is Asian and again a young woman whose husband has returned to his country and left her with 2 children and another baby is due soon. Immediately I could see how very lonely, anxious and nervous she was.

My life since my retirement has been enriched by all these families with whom I have come into contact and I have learned so much from them; in trying to help them my knowledge of a vast variety of subjects has grown. What gives me the most satisfaction in volunteering with Christian Care is that there is no discrimination: wherever the families come from and whatever their beliefs are, they are still given the same support and care.

Lesley Morrison

THE BABY, CHILDREN'S AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECT

In 2012, Gillian Thick came to St Mary's Church, Merton, to give a talk on the valuable work of the Christian Care Association with local families in difficulty. She spoke about the need for regular and reliable food supplies, but also described how families in financial difficulties often lacked sufficient warm clothes for the children as the weather changed, and how families forced to move into emergency accommodation needed basic items of bedding such as duvets, sheets and pillows.

I knew I did not have the time to spare for a big involvement in the food distribution programme, but I volunteered to take over the co-ordination of the Baby, Children's and Household Project as this was something I felt I could do from home after I had retired, and no longer owned a car.

The project has expanded considerably since 2012. Publicity in our parish and local area about the project has meant that generous-minded people contact me when they are clearing out cupboards and wardrobes, and pass on useful items such as outgrown baby and children's clothes, and bed linen still in good condition. The items are sorted by me, washed or mended if necessary and stored ready to answer urgent requests from the Christian Care Office.

In the past year, requests have come at the average rate of one family in need per week. Sometimes they are for new-born baby items, when a young mother on her own has to put together everything needed for a new arrival – Moses basket, baby bedding, baby clothes, buggy or pram, cot, baby bath, and feeding equipment. Sometimes it will be for warm clothes for a large family of five children ranging in age from 1year upwards. A very frequent request is for bed linen for a family of one adult and several children, when a family has to move into new accommodation in a hurry. Clothing items that are always in demand are winter weight anoraks for school age children, and long trousers for school age boys, perhaps because these items are so quickly outgrown or worn out by active children. Donations of these useful items are always very welcome!

The project has been very successful in terms of the number of families who have been helped in the year, and has been an eye-opening experience for me in terms of the challenges that some families have to face.

Barbara Moreland

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

*'Love in the.....warm hand stretched out.
The empathy and sweet sorrow of shared pain
as one stands by another.'*

The words of Eddie Askew in *Many Voices One Voice* represent well the vision of Christian Care for its work in Merton. For many of the 130 families we have supported this year, nearly half of them new referrals, life is distressing and crisis-ridden. To have someone to come alongside you in a traumatic situation can make all the difference. Through the charity 30 pairs of hands reach out to care.

When I reflect on the 70 families who have been befriended, I am amazed at the variety of situations our volunteers face. I think of the hands that reach for the phone to contact the social worker, the housing officer, the welfare benefits service; hands that drive a client to an ante-natal appointment, to the solicitor, to court; hands that take a carefully-chosen birthday gift – the only one the child will receive; hands that, down on the floor, play with a child with learning difficulties or whose mother is disabled; hands that help to clear an overgrown garden; the hand gently touching an arm to say, 'I care'. Amy Deakin and Margaret Nwobu are new befrienders this year.

In our Family Support scheme where 43 households have received food parcels long-term or in an emergency, busy hands collect culturally-appropriate food from the store, shop for fresh food and always remember a child's favourite fruit or cereal; patient hands may regularly drive a round trip of 15 miles to deliver heavy shopping

to a mother who could not carry the bags. This year we have welcomed Evelyn Chiejina as a new shopper.

As with our other services, the Furniture Project has managed a comparable level of demand to last year with 61 families asking for goods. David Simpson has joined the team as lead driver. Here I see steady hands needed to steer the van around busy streets; strong hands straining to hump heavy items up flights of stairs; nifty fingers reassembling flat-pack wardrobes, fixing curtain rails; hands ready to drop everything and respond in an emergency when a family is moved to a totally empty flat.

The borough's children's centres make frequent use of the Baby, Children's and Household Project. Here Barbara's practical hands wash and store the constant stream of donations; thoughtful hands pack appropriate bags of clothing for children of all ages; tasteful hands match up the duvet covers and sheets for bedding packs; experienced hands know just what to include for the expectant mother.

In the office Michael, our Administrator for 8 years, has ever-busy hands receiving and recording all the requests for help, and keeping all the records. He can turn his hand to sorting food and toys if required. Carol Pringle has returned as a volunteer, to 'lend a hand' when needed in the office.

With the teenage outings restarting last March led by another new volunteer, Emily Shepherd, in addition to the annual activities we have for children – the New Year Party, the Littlehampton Outing, the Falcon Camps and the Butlins holiday

- all of which require transport and helpers, you can imagine another 70 pairs of hands and what they might be doing!

All of this work would not be possible without the 'giving hands' which have been so generous that we have not had to cut back on any of our services. We are so grateful to churches that support us, and a special mention must be made of Holy Trinity and the grant from the Marian Esling Legacy Fund to our Furniture Project for a second year. Wimbledon Bridge Club raised enough money for us at Christmas to cover the cost of the 2014 children's outing. We have so many committed individual donors too, many of whom have 'praying hands', upholding both the families who are in pain and the volunteers as they face testing times standing by their families.

God bless you all for love made tangible in so many different ways.



Gillian Thick

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2014

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	