



TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	5,000	25,500
Donations	33,552	21,242
Legacy	-	10,000
Fund-Raising Appeals	23	14
Interest Received	688	698
Gift Aid	4,078	4,031
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Total Income	43,341	61,485
Expenditure	(50,045)	(37,508)
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Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Unrestricted Funds	(6,704)	23,977
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RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Donations	4,343	3,186
Expenditure	(4,143)	(3,417)
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Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Restricted Funds	200	(231)
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(14,569)	(5,291)
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NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING FUNDS	(21,073)	18,455
Total Funds brought forward	182,710	164,255
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Total Funds carried forward	161,637	182,710
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	20,637	26,180
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term		
Investments	120,000	60,000
Cash at Bank	19,057	88,923
Debtors and		
prepayments	4,657	8,855
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	143,714	157,778
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	(2,714)	(1,248)
	141,000	156,530
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	161,637	182,710
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	161,637	182,710
	-----	-----
	161,637	182,710
	=====	=====

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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 29 October 2024 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2024, the charity's total income was £47,684 a considerable decrease from £64,671 in 2023. Whilst individual donations increased in 2024, in 2023 we received a generous legacy of £10,000 from our former vice chair and long-term supporter and volunteer, John Golden, and £19,000 as one of the Mayor of Merton's chosen charities.

The charity's expenditure in 2024 was £68,757 (2023: £46,216). Spending on Family Support was £25,321 (2023: £20,865) and that specifically for children, such as birthdays, school uniform and outings, was £3,549 (2023: £2,480). Our Furniture Project continued to provide household items to families moving to new accommodation or to those who had to replace damaged or broken items, particularly beds and white goods. These costs increased to £17,207 (2023: £9,157) due to purchasing more household items and a depreciation charge of £5,203 (the cost of the van of £26,013 is written off over five years). The charity's management costs have increased significantly as we now employ an Executive Manager.

I would like to record our great appreciation of those who regularly support our work, as well as of first-time donors. At 31 March 2024, the funds of the charity were £161,637 (2023: £182,710) which the Board of Trustees considers to be sufficient to enable us to continue our current level of support. We are committed to supporting as many needy and vulnerable families and individuals as possible as well as ensuring that our level of reserves remains robust.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

Change

This year has been one of change at Christian CARE whilst also providing continuity in our activities. Following Gillian Thick's retirement in March, she was publicly honoured by Merton Connected, receiving the Eric Leppard Lifetime Achievement award for her commitment to Christian CARE for 46 years! She leaves big shoes to fill, having built strong relationships with many families during this time. I am grateful for the welcome and support I have received, especially from all our wonderfully dedicated volunteers.

As we move forward we have other changes coming. Barbara Moreland who has so faithfully and efficiently run the Baby, Children's and Household Project, storing bedding, children's clothing and baby equipment is also retiring. We thank her for her commitment to providing the items families need with such love and care. As these items are now stored centrally at Martin Way Methodist Church, this also provides us with an opportunity to bring together a group of volunteers on Wednesday mornings to sort donations and prepare items for those in need. We are also strengthening our ties with Merton Growbaby as we collaborate more closely in providing items to families.

We have recently launched our Facebook page, please do follow us at: www.facebook.com/christiancaremerton

Alongside the changes our volunteers continue to provide dedicated, compassionate support to families in need in Merton.

- Befrienders continue to build strong relationships with the families they visit.
- Furniture Project volunteers and the DIY team continue to support families practically.
- Family Support volunteers continue to provide families with food and supermarket vouchers.
- Children's and Families' Activities team continue to provide the families with opportunities they might otherwise miss out on.
- Baby, Children's and Household Project continues to provide families with items they need.
- Office team members continue to ensure everything is compliant and runs smoothly.

As we change, we continue to keep firm in our faithful commitment to "love thy neighbour", supporting people across the borough regardless of race or religion. We continue to support around 100 families per year, the majority referred to us by Merton Council and other agencies. Some families referred to us come for one off support like children's clothing or furniture but many become long term clients, gaining a befriender or benefitting from the children's activities. This summer we have sent 20 children to camp, 1 family on holiday and a coach load of families to Littlehampton for a day trip. Littlehampton was a particular highlight for me, seeing so many children experience the joy of the seaside, some of whom had not visited before. Although only a day trip, it was something that I am sure will bring them lasting joy and something to tell their friends when they returned to school after the summer.

Our collaborations with other agencies in the borough enable us to work together to empower families to change their situations long term. We now have two people trained by Citizens Advice to be Advice First Aiders enabling us to provide better advice to families and to refer them directly to a specialist at Citizens Advice when needed.

We have also partnered with Acts435 (www.acts435.org.uk) who enable us to crowdfund requests for items for families, enabling donors to choose what family and what need they are supporting. This has enabled us to fund a wide variety of items from carpets to cookers, hoovers to mattresses. Moving forward, our aims are to support clients in making long term positive changes to their situations. We are exploring a partnership with the Family Hubs, run by Merton Council, to host groups for families to build strong support networks and build skills and awareness of resources available.



Jenny Clayton

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

As you will have seen from the front cover and from the Report by Jenny Clayton, this year has been a year of Change and Renewal for the Christian CARE Association.

It has been good to welcome Jenny in the newly created role of Executive Manager in Christian CARE. Having made the decision to engage a paid person to work with the charity in order that it can continue and flourish, we were delighted that amongst a good field of candidates, Jenny applied and was appointed to the post and started work in January 2024.

Jenny comes to Christian CARE with a wealth of relevant experience having fulfilled a similar role in a voluntary capacity. She had previously set up a project in Essex befriending families and providing practical support. This project grew to include a furniture bank, activity weekends, family fun days, hampers and presents at Christmas. She was therefore able to hit the ground running when she joined Christian CARE. Working with the CARE Committee she is in the process of adapting some of the practices to ensure that families are given every opportunity to receive the support that they need, whether this is through funds for a weekly shop, or some furniture to make a home, or having a friend to talk to. Through offering advice about applying for different benefits or completing a job application, families are being given every chance to move on and become independent.

We were very grateful to Gillian Thick for staying on in the role as CARE Coordinator to work alongside Jenny and ensure a successful transition. A 'Thank you' party was held in honour of Gillian and was generously funded by the Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society. Although we gave thanks for all that Gillian has given to the charity at our Annual General meeting last year, we were able to celebrate her commitment and work with Christian CARE with a

splendid tea at an occasion that was full of joy and thanks for all that Gillian has done for the charity. It was well attended by volunteers, supporters and friends and a good opportunity to say farewell to Gillian and also to welcome Jenny.

As a charity we have continued to be blessed by donations throughout this past year – both large and small. We are very grateful that Christian CARE is the local charity supported by the 2024-2025 Mayor of Merton, Councillor Slawek Szczepanski. Although we need to be aware of our out-goings each month it is good to know that we are able to continue to offer financial support to families as well as provide other opportunities such as an annual holiday for one family. We can only do this because of your generosity.

As I write this letter we are seeking additional volunteers to support the work of the charity. In addition to a space on the Board of Trustees, we continue to search for a Children's and Families' Coordinator to join the CARE Committee and lead a strong team of committed helpers. We also would welcome anyone willing to become a befriender. These are all vital to the charity's continuation. Please do spread the word with anyone who might be interested in finding out more about the charity.

I began this letter by recognising that this past year has been one of change and renewal for Christian CARE. Although it will not affect the day to day running of the charity, the Trustees are considering changing the charity status to becoming a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation'. Another change to be considered as we move forward.

There are many verses in the Bible which we can turn to and which support us through a period of change but one which is especially pertinent is *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* Isaiah 43:18-19. I know that whatever

changes Christian CARE face during the coming year – with your continued support – it will continue to go from strength to strength and will continue to do what it can to support our neighbours in Merton who are facing a time of challenge.

With good wishes,



Jane Savill
Chair of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2024

Jane Savill Chair
Pat Spencer Hon. Secretary
Ann Thimont Hon. Treasurer
Dr Jane Allen
The Revd Julian Burling
The Revd Tom Kavanagh, CBE
Dr. Ann Phillips

CARE COMMITTEE

Jenny Clayton Executive Manager
Coordinators:
Baby, Children's & Household Project
Barbara Moreland
Befrienders **Sylvia Baxter**
Children's & Families' Activities (vacant)
Family Support **Rehana Edun-Noys**
Furniture Project **Nick Wolff**
Office **Cresso Scarlett**