

Christian CARE Association



Annual Report 2010 - 11



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TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2011	2010
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies	39,902	-
External Grants	3,000	6,350
Donations	11,450	5,719
Fund-Raising Appeals	457	778
Interest Received	12	11
Gift Aid/Tax Rebates on Covenants	-	1,659
	-----	-----
Total Income	54,821	14,517
	=====	=====
Expenditure		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	(13,754)	(6,066)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	41,067	8,451
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	3,720	3,700
Donations	2,567	585
	-----	-----
	6,287	4,285
Expenditure	(6,388)	(7,404)
	-----	-----
Net Outing Restricted Funds	(101)	(3,119)
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(4,445)	(3,724)
	-----	-----
NET INCOMING FUNDS	36,521	1,608
Total Funds brought forward	15,773	14,165
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	52,294	15,773
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

	2011	2010
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	10,187	320
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term		
Investments	25,000	-
Cash at Bank and		
in hand	17,107	15,453
	-----	-----
	42,107	15,453
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	- 42,107	15,453
	52,294	15,773
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	52,294	15,773
	-----	-----
	52,294	15,773
	=====	=====
Contact us at:		
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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 13 October 2011 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2011, the total income of the charity amounted to £61,108 compared with the previous year's income of £18,802. A substantial amount of this (£39,902) was the result of two very generous legacies. Net of legacies, the charity's income was £21,206 and 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 has enabled the charity to maintain its level of recurring income. We are most grateful for the continuing support of the Charles Skey Charitable Trust and for a grant from Help a Capital Child which paid for the day's outing to Littlehampton. The charity's annual expenditure of £24,587 was in excess of the previous year's expenditure of £17,194. This is indicative of the more difficult economic times in which we live; as an example the expenditure on direct family support ~~more than doubled~~ from £3,830 in 2010 to £7,815 in 2011.

At 31 March 2010, the cash position of the charity was £15,773, an improvement on last year's figure of £14,439. Being uncertain about the extent to which the continued economic downturn would lead to increased demands on our funds, we have been cautious in the amount we have allocated to pay for food parcels but keep this and all other items of expenditure under review at each meeting of the Executive Committee.

Ann Thimont, Honorary Treasurer

**GILLIAN THICK, OUR CHAIR, INTERVIEWS THE FURNITURE PROJECT TEAM:
*John Golden, Tony Somerton [1], Tony Sheahan [2], Robert Wright, George Otoo***

- GILLIAN** John, we are most grateful to you for all you have done in co-ordinating the Furniture Project for the past 10 years. What first inspired you to join Christian Care in 2001?
- JOHN** My late wife, Barbara, was my inspiration. She knew of the good work being done by Christian Care and that I needed an outlet for my abilities in my newly-acquired 'spare time' in retirement. I'm very glad that she prompted me as it has led to years of satisfying experiences.
- GILLIAN** What changes have you seen in the work over the decade?
- JOHN** In some ways not many: we still cater for the same basic needs, but the needy have changed from recently-arrived asylum seekers to those whose lives have been blighted by events such as ill-health, marital breakdown and other disasters. The old ex-BT yellow van was replaced in 2004 by a Ford Transit. When, like me, it needed to retire in 2011, the Lord favoured us with a legacy and we were able to buy a later model. A method of knowing what items were offered, in store and being sought was needed. It was my love of playing with computers which prompted Barbara to see that I would be good for this aspect of the task and I have maintained records over the years.
- GILLIAN** Tony you have been involved in the Project for 15 years, and were co-ordinator for 2 years, and Tony you joined the team 11 years ago. You must both think the work is important. Why?
- TONY [1]** I think that it is to do with practical Christianity.
- TONY [2]** It helps people who really need help and there is a satisfaction in doing that. It is giving back a little to the community.
- GILLIAN** Do you find the work rewarding?
- TONY [2]** Interesting rather than rewarding. The people you meet – you become aware of the difficulties they are having. We lead such straightforward lives and other people's lives are so disrupted. They come from difficult situations overseas – they have to leave their roots, their families and start from scratch.
- TONY [1]** The word I would use is satisfying. It is tangible. You have done a useful task that helps people and therefore it is satisfying. You can tell by the way they say 'Thank you' that it is genuine - you have really helped them, made the world a slightly better place for them.
- GILLIAN** Have you had any memorable experiences?
- TONY [1]** Last year I was sent to a family of 6 living in a garage – 2 teenagers, 2 kiddies and the parents. Even after 15 years in the work, that shocked me. The story did not have a happy ending either.
- TONY [2]** There was a rewarding moment last year. John and I took furniture to a man who had been seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident. He, his wife and young family had just one single mattress and we were able to furnish the flat within 24 hours. We thought nothing of it, but the housing association that had made the referral was so impressed that they made a grant to our work.
- GILLIAN** George, you started going out with the van last year. How did you feel on your first visit?
- GEORGE** I felt excited – that I was going out to help someone. I thought it was a very good thing to do. I liked the idea of being out and about driving – it was exciting to be part of something new.
- GILLIAN** Have you had any inspiring moments?
- GEORGE** Recently we went to Wimbledon to pick up furniture. One elderly lady had just died and her daughter gave us what was in her house; we took it to another elderly lady who had literally nothing. For me it seemed to sum up what the Furniture Project is about – receiving gifts and offering them back to others. It is a beautiful thing to do.
- GILLIAN** Robert, you have just taken over from John as coordinator. What drew you to get involved in the Furniture Project?
- ROBERT** This is a much-needed service. From a Christian point of view it is 'down-to-earth', it reflects the incarnation, it is the essence of what Christians should do. It is really distressing in 2011 in a relatively affluent borough to find people who have nothing, people who are living in conditions you could find in a Charles Dickens novel. It is inspiring to be able to help.
- GILLIAN** What are your hopes for the Furniture Project in the future?
- ROBERT** More white goods! They are always in great demand. Apart from that – and more seriously - I hope that we will grow in strength as a team and continue to serve Christ in the poor and needy in the Borough of Merton.
- JOHN** And more contacts in the Borough are leading to an increase in requests for our services, so we now enter a new era with new work, a new van and a new coordinator.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Christian Care had experienced 'a death and resurrection' in 2010: so said the Revd. Richard Sewell at our AGM last October. I was moved but also surprised at this analogy. In the busyness of the day-to-day activities of the charity – the children's party and outing, the teenagers' skating trip, the summer holiday and camps - I felt a strong sense of continuity with life under Bert Hyde's leadership. But, on reflection, it is true that this has indeed been a year of new beginnings.

Nowhere has this more evident than in the Furniture Project which is the focus of this Annual Report. With the van just limping along, the end of our Grassroots funding and the impending retirement of Coordinator John Golden, it seemed we might, after 2 decades, be facing its demise. Then last summer saw a remarkable series of events. Robert Wright agreed to take on the leadership of the Project, we received a legacy of £17,000 from Joyce Ridding a long-time supporter of Christian Care, another legacy of £23,000 from the widow of our second Treasurer Norma Crockford, Morden Rotary gave us £400 towards the van and, in appreciation of our services, a grant of £2000 from Thames Valley Housing Association! So we could replace the van and continue this much-needed service in the Borough. With George Otoo and Bill Fogg joining the team, it will now be possible to take the van out 3 times each week instead of twice.

Sylvia Baxter has taken on the important role of Befrienders' Co-ordinator and we have new befrienders Sue Boyd and Lemma Jembere joining us – though we still urgently need more. A third of the families we have been working with this year are new referrals and there is an increase in the number of organisations approaching us, including Merton Social Services. While most of these

Registered Charity No. 1044099

families have immigration problems, we are seeing a significant number of women who have been victims of domestic violence. We liaise closely with Commonsense Trust at Pollards Hill, Grenfell Housing and the Specialist Community Nurses as well as continuing Bert's links with Merton Asylum Welcome. Requests for subsistence have been overwhelming and we been wonderfully helped by the initiative of churches in Merton Park, St Barnabas, Mountain of Fire Mitcham and Morden Baptist Tuesday Leisure Day who have organised additional food collections to supplement the harvest donations from churches and Wimbledon High School. We have been encouraged too by the decision of St Olave's Church to make us one of their charities of the year and the commitment of the Parish of St Helier to support us for 3 years.

This year we have both welcomed and sadly said farewell to befriender Bunmi Balogun and trustee Helen Parmiter. We are delighted to have a website – www.christiancaremerton.org.uk – and express our appreciation to Mike Mortley who designed and will maintain it. We made a presentation to John Golden in appreciation of his decade of service to the Furniture Project; we are so pleased that we will still have the benefit of his wise guidance as a trustee. To all our volunteers I want to express my heartfelt thanks both for the way you so generously give of your time to meet the needs of families in Merton and for 'going the extra mile' to support me as I have faced the daunting challenge of a new role.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Thick

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2011

Gillian Thick	Chair
The Revd Geoff Coyne	Vice-Chair
Pat Spencer	Hon Secretary
Ann Thimont	Hon Treasurer
Sylvia Baxter	
John Golden	
Helen Parmiter	
Dr Ann Phillips	
Gwen Wildman	
Robert Wright	

IN 2010-2011 WE SUPPORTED 91 FAMILIES

- 42** families were befriended long and short term by volunteers
- 32** households were aided by the Furniture Project
- 36** families received long-term subsistence or emergency food parcels
- 103** parents and children were invited to the New Year party
- 31** children went on the outing to Littlehampton
- 21** 12-16 year olds went on an outing
- 20** young people went to Falcon Camps
- 1** family went for a holiday at Butlins in Bognor Regi

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