

Christian CARE Association

Annual Report 2015 - 16



TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2016	2015
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies/In Memoria	-	-
External Grants	8,040	2,080
Donations	9,890	8,330
Fund-Raising Appeals	2,058	441
Interest Received	457	611
Gift Aid	1,515	1,460
	-----	-----
Total Income	21,960	12,922
Expenditure	(18,294)	(19,671)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	3,666	(6,749)
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	6,550	-
Donations	2,157	1,759
Appeals	4,215	4,579
	-----	-----
	12,922	6,338
Expenditure	(13,197)	(5,802)
	-----	-----
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Restricted Funds	(275)	536
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(4,426)	(3,685)
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NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) FUNDS	(1,035)	(9,898)
Total Funds brought forward	43,314	53,212
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Total Funds carried forward	42,279	43,314
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	-	1,427
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term Investments	30,000	30,000
Cash at Bank	8,728	8,326
Debtors and prepayments	4,107	3,561
	-----	-----
	42,835	41,887
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	(556)	-
	-----	-----
	42,279	41,887
	-----	-----
	42,279	43,314
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	42,279	43,314
	-----	-----
	42,279	43,314
	=====	=====

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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 3 November 2016 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2016, total income of the charity amounted to £34,882 (£19,260 in 2015). The increase is largely as a result of an unexpected, but much appreciated, donation of £5,000 from the Merton Deanery Synod and of a grant of £6,550 from the City Bridge Trust (the first of three annual payments) towards the costs of the Furniture Project.

The charity's expenditure in 2016 of £35,917 (£29,158 in 2015) has increased largely due to the increase in spending on Family Support. The cost of sending 26 youngsters to camps run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society was £4,390, which cost was mostly covered by specific donations. The costs of the Furniture Project of £7,969 include running a van, renting two garages for storage as well as purchasing small items of furniture which cannot be provided through donations.

At 31 March 2016, the funds of the charity were £42,279 (£43,314 in 2015). 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, not least because in April 2016 we received a significant legacy of £83,000, with a further, smaller, sum due. We are aware that the prospects for the neediest in society are unlikely to improve in the near future and therefore we are very grateful for the security this legacy provides. In addition, we would like to record our great appreciation of those people and organisations that regularly support our work, as well as of first time donors.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

NOWHERE TO GO

Sue Boyd, Children's Coordinator, and Anita Harlock, Family Support Coordinator, in conversation about befriending families facing eviction

SUE I have been befriending for 4 years now and I have noticed a steep increase in the number of families facing eviction. One of the challenges for Christian CARE is the unrealistic expectations of our families because they often do not believe that a family with children could be left homeless.

ANITA The very first family I was introduced to was homeless. So there I was as a new volunteer, experiencing the trauma of an eviction. The family had lived in a friend's house for 15 months whilst it was for sale just waiting.

SUE I have been supporting my current family for 2 years. When we first met, they knew they would be evicted as the private landlord had applied for repossession. The process took 12 months. I watched the mental health of the husband deteriorate over that time. He moved from depression to anger and frustration, his wife often wept, the children became withdrawn.

ANITA Yes, I could see the effects on my family's health: the pregnant mother feared she would give birth prematurely and every member of the family was affected in some way by the stress of it all.

SUE So what happened to the family on eviction day?

ANITA They were housed but the worst thing was they were split up. The mother and children were sent to a B&B hotel in Croydon. Thankfully they were reunited before the birth of the baby. Merton Children's Services have now given them temporary accommodation in West Norwood.

SUE My family didn't receive the same support from Merton Council. It was only after Christian CARE had engaged a Social Care solicitor that they were finally given a small serviced apartment in Croydon and were then offered a flat in Bromley.....but there was not much

furniture. My husband and I took chairs, bedding and kitchen equipment over in the Furniture Project van to make it more comfortable.

ANITA It was the same when my family moved to the flat. I drove over there with garden chairs, bedding and kitchen items. Then the Furniture Project van took a washing machine; laundrette costs are a huge problem when you have a baby and little or no money.

SUE Did the family have travel problems too?

ANITA Yes. They found a local nursery place for the little boy, but father has to bring the daughter to school in Merton and she has found it hard to adjust to the daily routine. We provide a monthly travel pass, as well as topping up mobile phones for essential phone calls.

SUE My family needed Oyster top-ups. They had even further to travel than yours and with much younger children. The father would pack breakfast to eat on the bus. The mother was trying to hold down a low-paid job but eventually had to give it up because she could not get to Merton early enough in the morning by public transport.

ANITA I am shocked that families like this are unable to work while their immigration status is under review despite having professional qualifications and having worked for many years legally in the UK. I feel sorry that they have to rely on charities for essential support. I must say that when I see my family I feel blessed to know them since they are very appreciative of the help Christian CARE gives them. The mother said so movingly: "I have told my daughter that whenever the story of our family is told, we will never forget what Christian CARE has done for us at this time."

SUE That's really touching. I agree that their genuine gratitude and overwhelming thanks for everything we have done makes me feel so glad that we have the resources to help in these times of crisis.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first showing of the TV drama *Cathy Come Home*. Its director Ken Loach, in an 80th birthday tribute, voiced his regret that it had had 'little practical effect in reducing homelessness'. But it did lead in 1967 to the founding of *Crisis*, and in Merton it was a key factor in the beginnings of Christian CARE. Yet, as we took the ironic theme of *Home Sweet Home* for our in-house presentation by volunteers and clients at the 2015 AGM, and as we have journeyed alongside a number of families who have faced eviction in 2016, the drama is an apt reminder of the hopelessness that does indeed still engulf so many local families today.

In the past year the charity has worked with 142 families, making an impact on the lives of some 450 individuals. Almost 60% of those families were new referrals, and 50% of these were from Merton Children's Services and the NHS. The most dramatic increase was in our Family Support work, where 75 families needed regular or emergency supplies of food. The Baby, Children's and Household Project, supplying children's clothing and baby items, has continued to grow. Our Furniture Project is now the only remaining source of free second-hand furniture in the borough and our delivery teams work at full stretch. Our befrienders ensure that it is not only the material needs that are attended to but also the emotional well-being of parents and children.

There are now 32 core volunteers coming from 15 different churches. In the course of a year a further 75 helpers assist as young leaders for our

children's party and outing or by driving children and families to these and other events.

We express our appreciation to those who have stepped down in the course of the year: Gloria Ball who has been our drivers' organiser for the past 10 years, Lynn Kyte who joined us in the office in 2006 and went on to become a befriender/shopper, David Simpson who has been our lead van driver for 2 years and Amy Deakin who has worked as a befriender, again for 2 years. We have also marked the 10th anniversary of Michael Lawlor who continues to do sterling work as Office Administrator

2016 has seen a number of new volunteers join us. Anita Harlock has taken on the key role of Family Support Coordinator. Clare Gray is not only a befriender/shopper but also the new Littlehampton Outing organiser. Doris Dean and Sheila Tucker are the shoppers for *Housing for Women*, the Merton refuge. Chris Larkman has taken over as lead van driver. Tony Bell and Annabelle Ade-Jones are our newest recruits for the roles of Furniture Project Coordinator and befriender/shopper respectively. Current volunteers who have taken on new responsibilities are Julia Evans, now a member of the Executive Committee, and Sue Boyd, in the new role of Children's Coordinator.

We acknowledge with gratitude two legacies. Through our Friend Betty Cutchey's great generosity we are able to extend our work with children in a variety of ways, by funding school dinners, paying for after-school music, dance and sports clubs and by arranging family outings in the school holidays, for example to Deen City

Farm locally and further afield to the London Eye - 'It was an adventure!' was the response of one child. A second legacy has come from our supporter Christine White of Bromley and will be used to buy new and second-hand white goods and essential items of furniture where we do not have them in stock - 'a 50th Anniversary Blessing'.

If you have read the start of my letter carefully, you will have realised that 2017 is indeed our 50th Anniversary year. We invite you to join us for our Celebration on the afternoon of Saturday 20 May at Martin Way Methodist Church.

Yours sincerely



Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2016

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	