

Christian CARE Association



Annual Report 2019 - 2020

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	4,000	4,765
Donations	25,780	18,113
Fund-Raising Appeals	707	237
Interest Received	1,666	1,394
Gift Aid	3,897	1,676
	-----	-----
Total Income	36,050	26,185
Expenditure	(25,588)	(34,144)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	10,462	(7,959)
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Donations	2,600	1,980
	-----	-----
	2,600	1,980
Expenditure	(2,725)	(1,855)
	-----	-----
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Restricted Funds	(125)	125
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(6,478)	(5,485)
	-----	-----
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) FUNDS	3,859	(13,319)
Total Funds brought forward	154,670	167,989
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	158,529	154,670
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term Investments	126,715	135,734
Cash at Bank	27,305	17,239
Debtors and prepayments	4,580	1,819
	-----	-----
	158,600	154,792
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	(71)	(122)
	-----	-----
	158,529	154,670
	-----	-----
	158,529	154,670
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	158,529	154,670
	-----	-----
	158,529	154,670
	=====	=====

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 18 November 2020 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2020, the charity's total income was £38,650 an increase of over £10,000 compared to 2019 (£28,165 in 2019). During the course of the year, we were very pleased to receive a donation from the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal of £4,000 and to be nominated as the charity to benefit from the proceeds of the pantomime produced by the Merton Priory Players in February 2019. We also received several generous donations from our long standing supporters.

The charity's expenditure in 2020 was £34,791 (£41,484 in 2019). Spending on Family Support was £11,673 (£17,642 in 2019) and that specifically geared towards children, such as birthdays, school uniform and outings in the holidays, was £2,054 (£2,591 in 2019). The lower expenditure is largely due to the greatly increased donations in kind from schools and churches. The costs of the Furniture Project of £6,079 (£7,322 in 2019) 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 who regularly support our work, as well as of first time donors. At 31 March 2020, the funds of the charity were £158,529 (£154,670 in 2019) which the Board of Trustees considers to be sufficient to enable us to continue our current level of support. Since the end of the financial year we have had to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus crisis. We fully recognise that this will not only result in intense pressure on our resources going forward, but also likely reduce further potential sources of income.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

FAMILY SUPPORT REFLECTIONS

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16)



For the past five years it has been my privilege to serve alongside 60 volunteers, many from churches across the borough of Merton, supporting families whose lives are troubled and often in crisis due to unemployment, illness, immigration problems, eviction, debt, domestic violence and bereavement. Even through such difficult episodes, we have all had joyous occasions like visiting a new mum at the birth of a baby, grateful for our care and gifts of baby items or bringing a cake and gift for a child who would have had no birthday celebration. Through our Family Support scheme, our faithful volunteers currently deliver food and essentials to about 25 families every month, including shopping tokens to buy fresh food. It is very special to see children’s eyes light up when they see our smiling volunteers and the bags which they know have a few treats in store for them as well! I have been humbled and blessed by the example of three of our senior volunteers who have shopped and delivered food fortnightly to a local women’s refuge for the past four years.

As the Family Support Coordinator, I have been a member of the CARE Committee working with the other six coordinators. As a unified team, we have done our best to support and encourage our volunteers as they befriend families and supply emergency and longer-term requests for food, toiletries, nappies, baby milk, clothing, baby items and furniture as well as organising special events and activities for children and families. **Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Over the years we have built up a support network of eight schools and ten churches who generously donate food and make financial contributions to the charity. We are so grateful to those who give throughout the year, by quarterly collections or on special occasions. The Harvest Festival season in the autumn is a busy time visiting schools and churches to collect donations which have filled our cupboards to overflowing. However, by late winter, supplies are dwindling and I have to buy food to restock. Several Bible Study groups and a local Muslim women’s association have made regular commitments to supply food and toiletries to replenish our stocks. Every year the Christmas Season allows us to spread much joy as we supply about 35 colourful hampers full of special treats and shopping tokens to buy fresh food for the celebrations. Donations for these have kindly come from a local church, Scouts and Fitness Groups. Easter blessings arrive in timely supplies of food from a local high school and churches.

Though we had to close the Office on 19 March due to COVID- 19, we have been very grateful to Martin Way Methodist Church for allowing us to continue storing food and the collection of supplies for delivery by our volunteers, following distancing guidelines. We have needed to spend more money to buy food over the COVID-19 period, but we have been thankful for some generous financial donations which have helped to cover these expenses. Our Christian CARE Association is unique and effective because of our committed wider team of trustees, volunteers and donors all working together to help our neighbours in need.

God is teaching us all many important lessons in these unprecedented days: we need to keep trusting Him, He is faithful, He has been with us all along the way, He will continue to guide us, protect us and bless us “for such a time as this” as we seek to serve Him together.

Anita Harlock

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Following our AGM in November 2019, the work of Christian CARE and our response to support people in need continued as 'normal'. Volunteer Befrienders visited families, donations of food and other items were made when a family needed such support. Items of furniture were collected and stored or taken to a home where it could be put to good use. However, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 meant that the work of Christian CARE had to adapt.

The decision to 'close' the Christian CARE office in March, did not stop the work of the charity. Volunteers searched shops to find the necessary provisions to be delivered to families who were finding shopping more challenging than usual. When it was not possible for a delivery to be made because a deliverer was self-isolating a 'relief' person was found. Befrienders maintained contact via phone and/or text, offering support and reassurance when needed.

The Trustees are extremely grateful for the outstanding commitment of all members of the CARE Committee who under the leadership of Gillian Thick in her role as CARE Coordinator have ensured that the day to day demands on the charity has been met, in particular during the recent six months. Members of the Committee have worked together to ensure that vulnerable families referred to Christian CARE are supported efficiently and appropriate help offered in seeing a change for the better in their lives.

We were pleased that in February we were able to celebrate the new year with a Party which was enjoyed by all who came. However, as a result of COVID-19 other activities this year have not been able
Registered Charity No.1044099

to take place. These included the Falcon Camps which children and young people have enjoyed in the past. The pictures on the cover of this Report are evidence of the fun which was had in 2019. Camp leaders provided 'Falcon-in-a-Box' for younger children and an invitation to join a virtual 4-day camp 'Kingdom Culture' for older participants. Both these activities proved to be very engaging and lots of positive feedback was received. We are grateful to the creative response of the camp leaders to ensure that the young people were given such opportunities in a frustrating summer. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to give one family the opportunity to go to Butlins this year. Likewise the annual day trip to Littlehampton did not take place. We hope that both these activities will resume in 2021.

The Board of Trustees were pleased to welcome Julian Burling to the group at last year's AGM. We have met five times throughout this past year either face to face or 'virtually' via Zoom. We are grateful for the written and verbal reports from Gillian which ensure that as Trustees we are kept informed of the day to day work of Christian CARE. We have reviewed a number of the policies during the year so that we can be sure that they are relevant for the work of the charity.

I would like to pay tribute to John Golden who has served Christian CARE over many years. He worked on the Furniture Project, served as a Trustee on the Executive Committee and then the Board. John's commitment has been exceptional and we are grateful for his wisdom and support and wish him well for the future. We are keen to welcome new faces to join the Trustees so please do spread the word.

The continued support, financial, physical and in prayer has ensured that the Charity is able to support those in need. My thanks to you all - volunteers, supporters, partner churches, CARE Committee members and fellow Trustees for your commitment.

Isaiah 41:10 tells us "*do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand*".

I hope that you continue to be aware of God's presence in these challenging times.

With good wishes,



Jane Savill
Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2020

Jane Savill Chair

Pat Spencer Hon. Secretary

Ann Thimont Hon. Treasurer

The Revd Julian Burling

John Golden

The Revd Tom Kavanagh, CBE

Dr. Ann Phillips

CARE COMMITTEE

Gillian Thick CARE Coordinator

Coordinators:

Baby & Household Project **Barbara Moreland**

Befrienders **Sylvia Baxter**

Children's Activities **Sue Boyd**

Family Support **Anita Harlock**

Furniture Project **Nick Wolff**

Office **Cresso Scarlett**

Registered address 7 Melbury Gardens, Wimbledon SW20 0DH