

Christian CARE Association



Annual Report 2021 - 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	5,000	10,650
Donations	20,152	19,211
Fund-Raising Appeals	6	-
Interest Received	1,720	881
Gift Aid	1,720	2,327
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Total Income	28,598	33,069
Expenditure	(23,895)	(21,820)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	4,703	11,249
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Donations	470	2,602
	-----	-----
	470	2,602
Expenditure	(220)	(2,602)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Restricted Funds	250	0
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(5,258)	(5,218)
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NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING FUNDS	(305)	6,031
Total Funds brought forward	164,560	158,529
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Total Funds carried forward	164,255	164,560
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Short Term Investments	75,725		126,715	
Cash at Bank	86,007		36,260	
Debtors and prepayments	2,629		2,325	
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	164,361		165,300	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors	(106)		(740)	
		164,255		164,560
		-----		-----
		164,255		164,560
		=====		=====
FUNDS				
General Fund		164,255		164,560
		-----		-----
		164,255		164,560
		=====		=====

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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 9 November 2022 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2022, the charity's total income was £29,068, a considerable decrease compared to £35,671 in 2021. Whilst the level of donations from individuals and churches held up, we only received one grant this year: a most generous donation of £5,000 from Keswick Enterprises Holdings Charitable Trust. However, we were delighted that the Mayor of Merton kindly nominated Christian CARE Association as one of his charities for his period of office and we have been told that we should receive approximately £20,000 in the current financial year.

The charity's expenditure in 2022 was £29,373 (2021: £29,640). Spending on Family Support was £13,150 (2021: £15,906) and that specifically geared towards children, such as birthdays, school uniform and outings in the holidays, was £2,184 (2021: £1,446). We were also delighted to be able to send a family on a week's holiday in July 2021. The costs of the Furniture Project of £6,501 (2021: £6,946) cover running a van, renting two garages for storage and buying items which cannot be provided by 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 2022, the funds of the charity were £164,255 (2021: £164,560) which the Board of Trustees considers to be sufficient to enable us to continue our current level of support. We are fully 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

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEFRIENDING



Befriending has always been at the heart of what we do in Christian CARE. I have been befriending since 2009 and became the Befrienders' Coordinator in April 2010. It has opened my eyes to the fact there is an awful lot of poverty here in the London Borough of Merton. It is also very rewarding knowing that you have helped people and given them support where it is needed. However it can be frustrating at times. I asked three of our current volunteers how and why they joined Christian CARE as befrienders and what highs and lows they had experienced.

One of our most recent recruits, with just 6 months' experience, said she was aware of the aims of Christian CARE from attending an AGM some 10 years ago, knew other people involved in the charity and saw it as a way of supporting families now she was retired. "I feel that the family I have been introduced to has bonded with me and because of that they have grown in confidence," she said. "I am now helping to take the children out and about and am able to reinforce information from other service providers. One problem I face is that the family mobile is not always working so contact before a visit can be difficult. This is overcome with patience and understanding."

Another befriender, with us for over 10 years, heard of Christian CARE through a group she used to volunteer with called Home-Start. She explained: "I enjoy interaction with people in need. It is very rewarding. I have learnt so much about families and their problems and how each family must be handled differently." One family had great difficulties when she was first introduced to them. "Both parents are disabled, and their living accommodation was not suitable for their needs. I have helped them through their applications to get better housing, which they now have and are extremely happy there. Both their sons are thriving, and the family is very happy and settled. The only family I have had difficulties with is a young lone mother. She was very demanding, wanting items that the charity was not able to supply. She did not like my disagreeing with her and refused to listen. This has eventually been overcome by patience and explaining the workings of our organisation to her, after discussing the issues raised with the Befrienders' Coordinator."

A befriender who joined us 3 years ago said: "The love of God propelled me to join Christian CARE. We show our love to God by serving others. Jesus' example of servanthood taught us that the kingdom of God consists not in position or authority but in serving one another in love. I find it very rewarding as I have encountered situations and opportunities I would not otherwise have known in my everyday life. Befriending has opened my eyes to see things from other people's points of view. My empathy level to situations and needs has intensified and so has my prayer of intercession for their needs. The initial difficulty I had with my family was getting them to trust me enough to open up on sometimes very sensitive issues. However, as the months went on and through perseverance and my readiness to avail myself to them at all times, trust was finally built so that I have been invited to the children's school meetings and also am a shoulder to cry on in times of difficulties."

So befriending can be transformative for the families and very rewarding, if not without its challenges, for the volunteer, but no matter what area of the work of the charity we are involved in as part of Christian CARE, we all support one another.

Sylvia Baxter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Following two years when the Covid pandemic dominated our lives, the past twelve months have seen life return to something of normality. There is no doubt that the pandemic continues to affect the physical health of some people and the mental health of others. However the vaccination programme which continues to roll out has been integral to supporting us regain old lifestyles.

It has been good to meet with friends face to face at Christian CARE in order that we can best serve the families whom we support. Befrienders have once again been able to make home visits and meet with families. In addition to face to face befriending, other activities have once again begun to take place.

Pictures on the front of this Annual Report highlight the good time which families who visited Hounslow Urban Farm had in the summer. This was a great opportunity for adults and children to enjoy finding out about different animals and learn together. We were also delighted that once again, a number of children and young people were able to attend Falcon Camps in August. The camps offer a holiday to youngsters who may not otherwise have this chance. An opportunity to make friends, experience new things and have fun. The exciting and varied activities can be challenging but the feedback from the youngsters who attended is very positive.

Christian CARE was also able to send two families to Butlin's for a week's holiday. Through the generosity of donations we endeavour to send one family each year for a well-earned break and some fun together. This opportunity could not take place during 2020 because of lockdown restrictions and so it was good to enable two families to experience Butlins this year.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Sue Boyd earlier this year as she stepped down from her role as Children's Activities Coordinator. We thank Sue for all the work she has done in this role and we look forward to working with her in a different capacity in the future. Sue's departure and the ever evolving nature of Christian CARE has meant that we have been advertising for new people to support Christian CARE. In addition to recruiting a new Children's Activities Coordinator we are looking to appoint a Deputy CARE Coordinator to support Gillian Thick in her role as CARE Coordinator. Although we do not have anyone in place for these roles yet, we are delighted that a number of new volunteers have taken on different roles offering administrative support and befriending families. Sylvia's reflection on the importance and diversity of the befriending role is shared in this Report. It is good to welcome new people to this role.

As Ann Thimont, our treasurer, has mentioned we will receive money from the Mayor of Merton's 2021-2022 appeal at some point. A picture on the front of the report shows some of our Trustees and members of the CARE Committee, plus two representatives from Marie Curie receiving the good news from the Mayor in his parlour in the summer. We are grateful and honoured to have been one of the Mayor's charities.

Many thanks for your continued support, be it financial, physical or in prayer. At Christian CARE we are aware that many people face challenging circumstances on a daily basis. Through the delivery of a grocery bag, the listening ear of a befriender, or a donation of a piece of furniture, we can help a family face the future. We will endeavour to continue to follow Jesus' instruction "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another". (John 13:34)

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September this year was a shock to many of us. There is no doubt that she lived a Christian life serving the public and that as a monarch and a person she was loved and respected by the nation. As a charity we cherish the fact that the Christian CARE Association was given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June 2016. We pray that God will be with King Charles III as he takes on the responsibility of the monarchy.

With good wishes,



Jane Savill
Chair of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2022

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

CARE COMMITTEE

Gillian Thick - CARE Coordinator

Coordinators:

Baby, Children's & Household – **Barbara Moreland**
Befrienders - **Sylvia Baxter**
Children's Activities - **Vacant**
Family Support - **Rehana Edun-Noys**
Furniture Project - **Nick Wolff**
Office - **Cresso Scarlett**