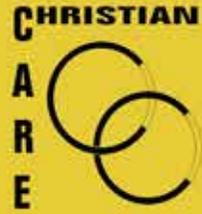


Christian CARE Association

Annual Report 2016 - 17

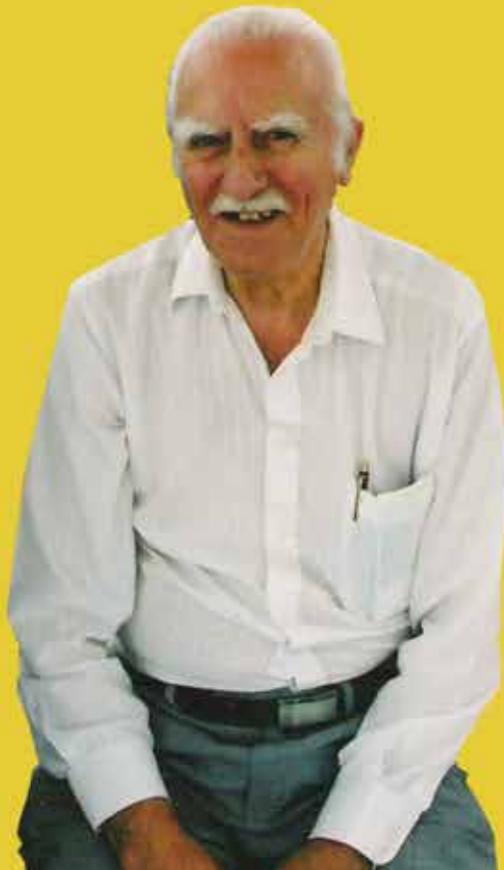


The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups



50 Years of service



and a Queen's Award

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2017	2016
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies/In Memoria	162,084	-
External Grants	3,000	8,040
Donations	11,916	9,890
Fund-Raising Appeals	1,361	2,058
Interest Received	611	457
Gift Aid	1,187	1,515
	-----	-----
Total Income	180,159	21,960
Expenditure	(38,010)	(18,294)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	142,149	3,666
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	5,450	6,550
Donations	1,000	2,157
Appeals	-	4,215
	-----	-----
	6,450	12,922
Expenditure	(6,859)	(13,197)
	-----	-----
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Restricted Funds	(409)	(275)
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(4,899)	(4,426)
	-----	-----
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) FUNDS	136,841	(1,035)
Total Funds brought forward	42,279	43,314
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	179,120	42,279
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Short Term Investments	60,000		30,000	
Cash at Bank	116,452		8,728	
Debtors and prepayments	3,568		4,107	
	-----		-----	
	180,020		42,835	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors	(900)		(556)	
		179,120		42,279
		-----		-----
		179,120		42,279
		=====		=====
FUNDS				
General Fund		179,120		42,279
		-----		-----
		179,120		42,279
		=====		=====

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www.christiancaremerton.org.uk

This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 14 November 2017 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2017, the charity's total income was £186,609 (£34,882 in 2016). The significant increase is the result of two generous bequests. The first (reported in 2016) was £142,450 (a £1,899 final payment was received in July 2017). The second was £19,634. We received a second payment of £5,450 from the City Bridge Trust towards the costs of the Furniture Project. We are most grateful to the trustees of the Charles Skey Trust for their continued support: this year we received £3,000 which was put towards the cost of £4,443 of sending youngsters to camps run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society and the Scripture Union.

The charity's expenditure in 2017 of £49,768 (£35,917 in 2016) has increased largely due to higher spending of £23,686 on family support (£13,761 in 2017). We spent a further £3,583 on support geared specifically towards children: for example school meals for those ineligible to receive these free and family outings in the summer holidays. The costs of the Furniture Project of £8,043 cover running a van, renting two garages for storage as well as purchasing items of furniture which cannot be provided through donations.

We would like to record our great appreciation of those people and organisations that regularly support our work, as well as first time donors. At 31 March 2017, the funds of the charity were £179,120 (£42,279 in 2016). The Executive Committee considers that the level of reserves is sufficient to enable us to continue our current level of support, at least in the near future.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

REFLECTIONS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY.....

FROM THE FOUNDER'S DAUGHTER, LIZ SMITH

Christian CARE was founded when I was just 9 years old. I recall my father regularly taking me to visit families, and playing and singing with the children. Over the years my parents' house and garage became home to huge amounts of donations - crockery, bedding, pushchairs, cots and all sorts of household items. My mother would often be asked by my father to go out, frequently late at night, to sort out items for families in need. Although not a committee member, she was as dedicated as my father in her quiet, unassuming way and was always good-humoured even though my father might be going out nearer midnight, when the families returned from shift work.

A standout memory of my father and Christian CARE is the time I found out he had been awarded the Sir Cyril Black Prize in 1977. I remember being told by a friend in the school playground that he had won the award. I was quite upset that he had not been the one to share the news of the commendation he had received. Looking back now, I can see why: the work he did was not about receiving awards and recognition; it arose from a pure desire to help those in need - something that has continued in Christian CARE to this day and will, I am sure, for many years to come.

I was thrilled to hear that Christian CARE had received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year and delighted to be asked to join some of the volunteers at the presentation on 5 July 2017 in London. The award is the highest accolade given to local voluntary groups across the UK. What an honour for everyone involved! It is fantastic to see all that hard work being recognised at the highest level.

With poverty all around us, I find it quite wonderful that something so small at the outset has flourished and continues to grow with many more volunteers offering to give up their time to help those in need.

FROM COMMITTEE MEMBER, JANE SAVILL

When I first 'signed up' with Christian CARE, I thought I would be attending meetings once a month and that would be all. From the outset it was apparent that being part of Christian CARE means so much more than just turning up to a meeting. The commitment of all involved – whatever their role - is phenomenal. To be part of Christian CARE is both a privilege and a humbling experience. To have the opportunity of working alongside people who face immense poverty, which should not be part of any society in the 21st century, is an honour. The human spirit is alive because God is clearly at work. It means that families who face the toughest of life experiences are able to survive and thrive. Christian CARE is an amazing organisation, as much needed now in 2017 as it was in 1967 when Bert Hyde implemented his vision of what it meant to be a Christian in the 20th century.

The Great Big 50th Birthday Party which took place in January 2017 was just one example where the Christian spirit could be seen at work. A festive hall, balloons, gifts, sandwiches, cakes - including one very big cake, big enough to hold 50 lit candles which were blown out by four children who had birthdays that week. Even though some of the families were going through tough times, they came and enjoyed themselves. There were games led by creative and energetic students from Wimbledon High School and of course a show – no Christian CARE Party can take place without a show! *Cinderella*, put on by the Colour House Theatre, was a triumph, enjoyed by children and adults with some inspired and comic acting, singing and lots of opportunities for audience participation.

The annual New Year Party is certainly a highlight of the Christian CARE year and especially so this year as we celebrate 50 years of the organisation in action. Proverbs 18:14 says 'The human spirit will endure sickness; but a broken spirit, who can bear?' The Christian spirit is sustained through our

support for each other and our relationship with God (and a 'Great Big 50th Birthday Party' helps as well!)

FROM OFFICE VOLUNTEER, CAROL PRINGLE

The Service to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Christian CARE Association could not have been more aptly named – *The Way of Love*. For me the overwhelming thought I took away with me was Our Lord's words 'May they be one as we are one', and that indeed is how we are, united in our love, simply following Our Lord's example of loving, in giving in so many different ways, according to our individual talents, but always united by love for each other and those we strive to help.

My memories of the day then moved on to the very beginning when slightly more than two or three people gathered together during Lent to study Our Lord's teaching and pray for ways to follow in His footsteps. From the amazingly thought-provoking television drama *Cathy Come Home*, they saw a path that led them to so many desperate people, people almost on their doorstep, people who had nothing and no one to support them. So Christian CARE's first tentative steps were taken guided by Bert Hyde and Peggie Hunt, the two I knew best. I am sure every one of those founder members each had a vital role to play in those early days, each a strong branch on this sapling tree.

So 50 years later, by the power of the Holy Spirit, this tree has grown and matured. It has continued to stretch out its branches to embrace and help the helpless who come to us. Even if there is nothing we can practically or physically do, we always lend a caring and sympathetic ear – in a word show *love*.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Celebration

This has indeed been a joyful year as we have looked back over the unbelievable journey that Christian CARE has taken from such small beginnings as a sub-committee of Merton WelCare in 1967, to becoming an independent charity in 1995, followed by the opening of an office in 2006, and culminating in our milestone of the 50th Anniversary in 2017. The celebrations, as you can see from the *Reflections* on the previous page, have been shared by the families at the New Year Party in January and by volunteers, Friends and supporters at the Celebration Service in May. The final event will be the Reception and AGM in November where we reach out to the wider community and when we are very pleased that the Mayor of Merton will be our guest.

Inevitably our thoughts have turned in gratitude to our Founder Bert Hyde and to those who shared his vision of Christians from different churches coming together to love and serve those most in need in the community. We were delighted that Bert's family was able to join us for the Celebration in May and that his wife, Gwen, cut the anniversary cake. His daughter, Liz, was there to witness the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Bert himself was honoured three times in Merton for his charitable work – by the Sir Cyril Black Prize in 1977, by the Queen's Golden Jubilee Merton Award in 2000 and by the Merton Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community Voluntary Sector in 2005. All of us in Christian CARE were delighted by the

announcement in June that we had received the Queen's Award. We express our gratitude to Sarah Hannigan, Head of Volunteering at MVSC, for making the nomination and to Siobhain McDonagh MP and the Revd Paul Timmis for being referees. When we are pushed to the limits in our work and our spirits are flagging as there seems so little that we can do to make a difference, it means a great deal to know that there are those who are encouraging us in our efforts and care as we support the families who come to us for help.

Service

Alongside the joys of the year, there is also sadness that the levels of poverty in Merton continue to be great and most distressing. We have worked in a variety of ways with 153 families, again an increase on last year. New referrals have again accounted for 60% of our clients and again 50% are from the public sector. The very basic nature of the need is shown by the highest demand being for food and items such as clothes and nappies for babies and children.

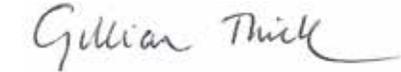
To meet the growing demand, we have welcomed more volunteers to join us. To visit the families, Evelyn Douglas and Moira Bailey are new befrienders and Mary Anderson is a new shopper helping with the refuge and other clients. Our children's team is glad to have recruited a new transport coordinator, Lizzie Chilcott, and birthday cake bakers Ann Featherston and Emma Davies. In the Furniture Project we are sorry that Anthony Bell is not able to continue with us due to other charitable endeavours and thank him for his contribution with all the changes this year; the team has however been strengthened by the

addition of driver Declan Pritchard, helpers Nick Wolff and Thomas Moreland and the willingness of Mary-Jane Jeanes to be keeper of the kitchenalia.

We mark the retirement of Tony Somerton after 22 years with the Furniture Project. All that while Tony has been a regular driver, giving up many hours at weekends to go out on the van. He has recruited as his helpers many of the young people he supported as teenagers. For several years he managed the Project. We express our deep gratitude to Tony for his commitment and long service.

Now we move forward to continue the work to which we feel called by God. We are facing times of change and reorganisation within the charity but our aim is to better serve those who so badly need our support.

Yours sincerely



Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2017

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