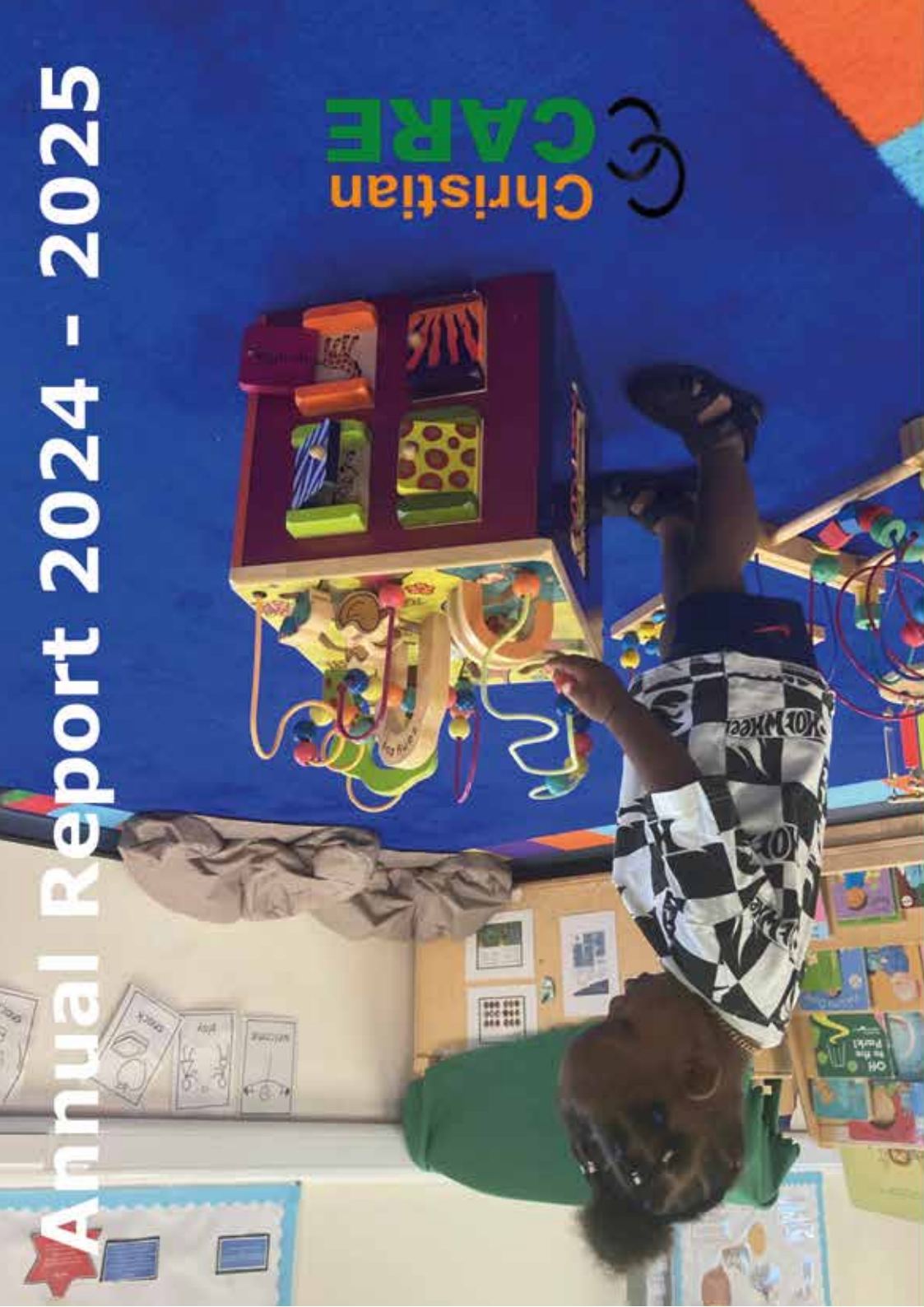




LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a busy one for Christian CARE. The challenges faced by many families mean that the charity's work is needed more than ever. Under Jenny Clayton's leadership, we have introduced several new initiatives that are already making a positive difference. These include, as outlined in Jenny's report, *Kids Matter*—a programme designed to build confidence, competence, and community which has been a successful way to support families in strengthening relationships and reducing the impact of poverty on children. Looking ahead, we are excited that Jenny will be launching a new course designed by Christians Against Poverty, *Life Skills*, which will offer people the opportunity to come together to discuss how to live well and budget wisely.

I am deeply grateful to Jenny and all the volunteers who have supported her throughout the year. Their dedication has enabled families facing hardship to find a way forward and look to the future with hope.

As I mentioned in last year's letter, we are always looking for new volunteers. We are delighted to have welcomed several new people this year who are helping out with food deliveries and the furniture project. Please continue to spread the word about Christian CARE to anyone who might be able to offer a few hours each month to support our work.

Of course, none of this would be possible without financial support. I am very thankful for the generous donations we have received over the past year. We were honoured to be one of the charities supported by the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Slawek Szczepanski, during his 2024–2025 mayoral year. We have been informed that we will receive £14,000 from the funds raised, which is a tremendous help.

Registered Charity No.1044099

Large donations are wonderful, but so too are the small, regular contributions—whether it is a monthly standing order, a gift to support the summer camps where young people can relax, have fun, and make new friends, or a £10 donation passed on in support. As the saying goes, “*Every little helps*,” and I thank everyone who has given and continues to give to ensure our work can continue.

Looking to the future, we are planning to change Christian CARE's legal status from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The new charity has been registered and preparations are being made to transfer our assets to it in 2026. More information will be shared in the coming months.

Another significant change is my decision to step down as a Trustee. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as Chair of Trustees for this remarkable local charity, which has supported so many lives over the years and continues to reach out to our neighbours in need. I want to thank everyone who has supported Christian CARE in any way, including members of the CARE Committee, office staff, and my fellow Trustees. Christian CARE is known for its commitment to relieving poverty in Merton, and that is thanks to all of you. I am delighted that the remaining Trustees are re-standing for election this year and I am very grateful that Oonagh Moulton is willing to put her name forward to be elected as Chair. I know that the charity will continue to thrive and succeed.

Proverbs 17:17 says, “*A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity*.” This truth is lived out daily by Christian CARE. We are here to be friends to all and to support those in need. The proverb reminds us of the value of steadfast companionship, expressed through practical and selfless actions.

Thank you for your continuing support – in thought and word and deed for Christian CARE.

With good wishes,

Jane Savill

Jane Savill
Chair of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2025

Jane Savill Chair
Pat Spencer Hon. Secretary
Ann Thimont Hon. Treasurer
Dr Jane Allen
The Revd Julian Burling
Oonagh Moulton
Dr. Ann Phillips

CARE COMMITTEE

Jenny Clayton Executive Manager

Coordinators:
Befrienders **Sylvia Baxter**
Children's & Families' Activities (vacant)
Family Support **Rehana Edun-Noys**
Furniture Project **Nick Wolff**
Household Project (vacant)
Office **Cresso Scarlett**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES						
	2025	2024		2025	2024	
	£	£		£	£	
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			FIXED ASSETS			
Income			Tangible Assets	15,434	20,637	
External Grants	15,500	5,000	CURRENT ASSETS			
Donations	17,139	33,552	Short Term			
Fund-Raising Appeals	-	23	Investments	130,589	120,000	
Interest Received	3,646	688	Cash at Bank	11,039	19,057	
Gift Aid	3,072	4,078	Debtors and			
Total Income	39,357	43,341	prepayments	3,254	4,657	
Expenditure	(42,183)	(50,045)		144,882	143,714	
Net Outgoing			CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Unrestricted Funds	(2,826)	(6,704)	Sundry Creditors	(464)	(2,714)	
	=====	=====		144,418	141,000	
RESTRICTED FUNDS				159,852	161,637	
Income				=====	=====	
Donations	9,434	4,343	FUNDS			
Expenditure	(9,677)	(4,143)	General Fund	122,352	161,637	
Net Outgoing			Office Expenses Fund	37,500	-	
Restricted Funds	(243)	200		159,852	161,637	
	=====	=====		=====	=====	
Management and Administration	(36,216)	(14,569)				
NET (OUTGOING)/						
INCOMING FUNDS	(39,285)	(21,073)				
Total Funds brought forward	161,637	182,710				
Total Funds carried forward	122,352	161,637				
	=====	=====				

Contact us at:
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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 4 November 2025 or from the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2025, the charity's income was £48,791, similar to 2024. Whilst individual donations decreased, we were very blessed to receive a legacy from Canon Acton, formerly at St John Fisher Church. We were also very grateful to receive a grant of £45,000 from the Wyn and Ken Lo Trust towards the charity's administration costs. As the grant covers three years, only part was recognised in the 2025 accounts. We were also very grateful to be chosen by Councillor Slawek Szczepanski as one of his charities as Mayor of Merton and anticipate receiving £14,000.

The charity's expenditure in 2025 was £88,076 (2024: £68,757). Unrestricted spending on Family Support was £22,199 (2024: £24,728) and unrestricted spending on summer camps and outings was £5,398 (2024: £8,110). Our Furniture Project provides household items to families moving to new accommodation or having to replace items, particularly beds and white goods. Its costs were £14,586 (2024: £17,027), the reduction due to donations raised from the charity Acts435. The charity's management costs have increased significantly as the Executive Manager has been employed for the full year. However, Jenny has proved to be invaluable in maintaining our service as well as taking on new initiatives.

I would like to record our great appreciation to all those who support us. At 31 March 2025, the funds of the charity were £159,852 (2024: £161,637) which the Board of Trustees considers to be sufficient to enable us to continue supporting vulnerable families and individuals for at least the next two years. To maintain longer term support, we will need to find additional sources of funding.

Ann Thimont

Honorary Treasurer

Continued Changes

We've had another fabulous year getting to know families, supporting them through the hard times and celebrating their amazing achievements. Among families we know there are two young men heading off to Cambridge and Loughborough universities to study.

Earlier this year we partnered with Kids Matter to make Parenting courses available for the families we support. Rehana Edun-Noys and myself trained to lead sessions with a small group of parents to give them an opportunity to reflect on and build competence and confidence around parenting.

Enjoying lunch with the group first allowed us to get to know each other and build community. We were fortunate to have the use of Church Road Children's Centre in Mitcham to run our sessions and the children in the creche certainly enjoyed the sand and water play! The sessions are aimed at parents of children aged 1-10 years old. Through the sessions we learn to hold firm boundaries but be warm and loving towards our children. During the 8 sessions we covered play, discipline, routine, encouragement, listening, rules, consequences, routines and rewards.

We saw an increase in families' wellbeing and a better understanding of how to love our children well. We loved hearing families come back to the sessions and telling us how they'd implemented their learning and the changes they'd seen as a result! We hope to run the course again in 2026 and we are currently arranging for one of the Mums who attended to be trained up to help facilitate it.

Following on from the success of the Kids Matter parenting course we are starting a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills course on Friday 7th November. This six session course is aimed at supporting families on a low income to flourish. We had a great taster session recently to give volunteers an idea of what is involved. The course was fun and interactive and we even made an origami cup and drank from it! The interactive course involves sessions on: Lifting the Pressure, Taking Control, Making your Money go further, Cooking on a Budget, Healthy You, Healthy Relationships and Energy advice. I'm particularly looking forward to the taste testing of name brand foods against supermarket value versions!

Our aim with these courses, as with everything we do, is to not just give families a handout in a time of crisis but support them to thrive long term. These courses are just part of what we do regularly in addition to:

Befriending – building long term trusted relationships to be a listening ear and support through life's ups and downs

Food support – providing support in times of crisis for many families who would go hungry or are uncertain where they will find the money to feed themselves and their children

Furniture - providing practical support delivering and assembling furniture often to families moving into unfurnished properties with very little

Household - providing bedding and other essentials which compliments the work of the Furniture project

Children's activities –providing children with opportunities they might otherwise miss out on, such as holidays, summer camps, trips to the seaside, picnics, visits to the farm and the Polka theatre

Office – provides support for what we all do, ensuring we are compliant too.

We couldn't continue to support families to thrive without the support of many partner organisations, our wonderful volunteers and donors – both individuals and organisations.

Jenny Clayton