

Charities Support Group Report to the APCM 2024

a) 2023 Donations, appeals and talks (see also attached spreadsheet)

Details of our 2023 donations compared with 2022 are attached.

We held another successful Holly Fair and with new stallholders and helpers alongside the experienced regulars. Thanks to everyone who helped or attended this community event raising £3006.

The PCC contribution (£14,100) and fundraising enabled the CSG to give our planned donations of £8,586 to overseas charities and £8,375 in UK donations.

The additional appeal income and donations totalled £2542.

The congregation very generously supported red bucket appeals for emergency aid. Following the earthquake in Turkey/Syria the appeal raised £474. Later in the year a red bucket for the earthquake in Morocco and flood in Libya raised £567. We collected £238 for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal.

Our 2023 Lent Appeal was divided between Hope and Home for Children (who work in orphanages in Eastern Europe including Ukraine) and the Bishop's Stortford Youth Project including Thirst Café. £332 was given to each charity in addition to the annual regular planned donations. Our advent appeal (Dec 2022) helped us to donate £800 (£300 appeal and £500 planned for 2023) to the Holy Trinity Night Shelter and Menindanca.

Appeal information and letters of thanks can be found on the Church website or the CSG boards in the porch, church and WCC.

In 2023 we continued our programme of talks once a term. Bishop's Stortford Youth project (Thirst café), Street Pastors and Alzheimers Society all gave interesting and well-attended talks to the congregation over coffee.

b) 2024 news and thanks

The 2023 Advent appeal was for Care4Calais and the Holy Trinity Night shelter with over £300 for each charity raised through the appeal.

Our recent 2024 Lent appeal for Embrace (Middle East) and The Bishop's Stortford Child Contact centre was very successful. The donor card machine has facilitated donations in church alongside cash and cheque donations. We also receive BACCS donations to the CSG account. The sum of £1214 including gift aid is an excellent total. In February we welcomed Claire from the Contact centre to give us a very informative talk to us about their work.

Many thanks to Martyn Greenwood (CSG treasurer), and others in the finance team including Graziana. Also, thanks to Christine Rixson for minutes and the rest of the group- Peter Rixson, Angela Weeks, Carole Macdonald, Gavin Mintern, Claire Conquest, Mireille Baulcomb and Gary Jones who contact the charities and/or follow their website news and carefully consider the donations. We encourage praying for the charities in church intercessions where relevant.

We would welcome new members to the committee. We meet 4 times a year to discuss the charities. Most of the group are also involved with the Holly Fair.

Val Ashwood-Chair (April 2024)