

## **Charities Support Group Report to the APCM 2026**

### **a) 2025 Donations, income, appeals, talks and Holly Fair 2025**

We had a successful Holly Fair (raising over £4000). The Holly Fair banner was replaced thanks to some generous donations. Making of Holly Rings went smoothly and raised a record £959.29. (The charge for card payments generates the 29p). There was lovely atmosphere and an attractive selection of Christmas related gifts, decorations and stocking fillers on the craft stall. The Bellringers donated the proceeds of Tower visits raising £204 and we shared publicity ideas. We continue to look for ways to encourage families to include a visit to our Holly Fair/Tower on their trip to the event in town. Many thanks to all who helped, donated and attended the fair.

**Donations to our charities (approx. 30)**-The PCC contribution (£13,550) was £150 less than in 2024 but fundraising was up so CSG income was similar. We gave £9,006 to overseas charities and £9050 in UK donations. Following issues with Delhi Brotherhood, the USPG project has also changed. USPG had advised that they were unable to support the programme in South India (Justice for Girls) due to fund transfer problems. We are now supporting an anti-human trafficking programme in the Diocese of Durgapur in North India. We have continued to donate to the locally run charity, Supporting Dalit Children charity working in India.

**Appeal** income totalled £1066.75. We collected £280 for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. Martyn banks the cash donations, mainly in Harlow. Donating via Donr or direct to the CSG Missions account is an option when we have appeals. CSG encourage donations directly to emergency funds than collect cash in church for larger disasters. Our 2025 Lent Appeal was divided between Holy Trinity Night Shelter and the Supporting Dalit Children charity. (£393 each) Meninadanca was the beneficiary of the Patronal Festival lunch collection (£136.30).

Letters of thanks can be found on the Church website or CSG boards.

**Talks**- arranged were Supporting Dalit Children, Holy Trinity Night Shelter (Dave Perry) and Stort Valley Schools Trust (through Bill MacDonald). All gave interesting talks over coffee. The Embrace talk in October was cancelled at short notice but we hope to rearrange at some point.

**Further Fundraising**-Rosemary kindly organised a quiz for the Leprosy Mission raising £783.50. Matt had spoken in 2024 about their work.

**b) 2026 news and thanks**-In March, John Emmett spoke about the work of Riding Lights linking with the Lent appeal. Thank you John. Quiz for Red Kite and Thirst on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Thanks to Martyn (CSG treasurer) for organising donations. Special thanks to Gavin Mintern and Gary Jones who resigned in 2025. Thanks to Mireille Baulcomb who has also stood down due to other commitments.

We have three new members, John, Bill and Alistair. CSG committee is currently Val Ashwood, Martyn Greenwood, Angela Weeks, Carole Macdonald, Bill MacDonald, Claire Conquest, Tracy Mannings, Shell Langston, Alistair Rust and John Emmett. Mark Johnson is very kindly doing minutes.

As well as fundraising and talks, we contact the charities and follow their websites, carefully considering our donations and encouraging prayers. We are looking at other ways to keep the congregation informed of the charities and donations.

*Val Ashwood-Chair (April 2026)*