

Pazapa Church Stretton Chairman's Report 2022

The Church Stretton community has been supporting the Pazapa Church Stretton charity since 2010, the year of the devastating earthquake. We manage to send funds some 3 times a year to Pazapa school and clinic in the deeply troubled and impoverished Haiti.

We are a small local charity with long-serving, committed volunteers and a good body of loyal Friends who donate gift-aided funds regularly. In the 12 years we have contributed approximately £50,000 which provides some of the necessary finance to help towards enabling the following to happen.

- Pazapa's (Step by Step in Creole) outreach programme monthly dry food distribution for those families desperately in need of nutrition.
- One hundred children regularly benefit from Pazapa's anti-epileptic programme receiving the medication they need to be safe and go to school.
- Specialist casts and braces are provided for children with clubfoot, and adapted play equipment has been installed at the school so children can engage in physical activities alongside their peers.

Amidst the turmoil of earthquakes, tropical storms, gang and political violence, fuel shortages and spiralling inflation, the need for places at the school and for outreach services and support has increased. Step by step, Pazapa is providing a beacon of hope to children and their families in Haiti.

The greater proportion of our fund-raising is done through three popular events. Our Quiz in March which is regarded as one of the best quiz events of the year, given by our Quiz master Ben Warren and his wife Lynne who have given this quiz for 5 years; we thank them for the many months of research and preparation. The other two are the promotion of two arts events: a summer classical ensemble and an evening of live jazz, both of which are of a very high standard. Thus, we also give back to the community really high quality entertainment through the generosity and gifts of our performers, to whom we are profoundly grateful. They are Richard Silk and Friends and Band on the Edge, and always a great pleasure to have with us.

None of this would happen without the dedicated work of our committee with whom I as chair find it a real joy to work. And indeed, the committee itself is glad to have the backing of our regular donors who give us a regular income and we thank them full heartedly. Not least are those who come to the events and are generous in their donations.

Noel Beattie
August 2023

Pazapa Church Stretton Treasurer's report for AGM 31st August 2023

The charity's financial year is from January to December and this report covers the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

Once again, we, and the children, staff and management of the Pazapa project are very grateful to the Friends who make regular donations. We have 17 such Friends donating £165 per month in total. The gift aid associated with this giving adds a further 25% - increasing an already significant sum.

During 2022 our fund raising events were able to return to the pattern established prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and many people supported these events, enabling us to raise money and be part of enjoyable events.

Ben and Lynne Warren prepared and led the quiz in March to their normal excellent standard and between ticket sales and a raffle we raised £421. It was in some ways a poignant event as the previous quiz had been held in March 2020 – probably the last event in Church Stretton before the lockdown.

In June we held a morning concert in the URC where Richard Silk, Sarah Westwood and Chris Lacey treated the audience to a summer based programme. The three musicians do not charge for this and their generosity and that of the audience enabled a net sum of £326 to be raised on the morning.

We again held a Jazz concert in October – with 'Band on the Edge' providing an excellent evening of entertainment. Ticket sales, bar sales and a raffle gave an overall sum of nearly £900.

We have a number of supporters who make one of gifts during the year and we would like to acknowledge this and to thank them for their continued support.

Transfers of funds to Pazapa, via Siloe, were made on three occasions in 2022, totalling £7099. This sum is greater than a typical year because the year started with funds in the bank ready to transfer. Our total income was £4493.90 and expenditure was £7241.25. The closing bank balance was £550.08.

Banking: On line banking with two trustees to independently approve any payments or transfers has worked well. The main difficulty is with the closure of the Church Stretton (and then Shrewsbury) branches of T.S.B. Access to cash floats and the banking of cash receipts from events is becoming an increasing challenge for small charities like Pazapa Church Stretton.

Graham Jackson 31st August 2023.

Update

In 2023 we have held a quiz (raised £467) and a summer concert (£482) and made one transfer to Siloe of £1699.00. The bank balance on 31st August 2023 is £1652.58.

Pazapa Church Stretton

Year ended 31st December 2021

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