

ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1st April 2020 till 31st March 2021

of **THE OXFORD BABY BANK**

COWLEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH , COWLEY ROAD
OXFORD OX4 1BN

Charity trustees who have managed the charity for this period:

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MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the Oxford Baby Bank is to help to alleviate poverty amongst families who are struggling to cope with the cost of raising babies and toddlers. The service we provide is available to residents of Oxford and surrounding villages and small towns, including Witney, Abingdon and Wallingford. A secondary object is to promote waste reduction, as the vast majority of what we give away is recycled. We do provide new mattresses, nappies and some other consumables, which we purchase to give away, but the bulk of the clothing and equipment that we give to families who need it has been collected.

We aim to achieve our objective by collecting clothing and equipment from families who have finished with it and distributing it free of charge to women who are in substantial need of material help in caring for their babies and toddlers. These resources are stored at our base, so that we are in a position to supply responsively and in emergencies. Recipients are referred by community midwives, health visitors, social workers, GPs, women's refuges etc. In this way, we identify those in need of support. During the pandemic, we have moved to a model of distribution that depends primarily on the referring professionals picking up from us, or our dropping of to the recipients. This has in fact worked very well and we have realised that this is much more effective way of operating. Whilst in principle it would be desirable to invite our recipients in, in practice, it is clear that for the majority, making a trip across the city is prohibitive.

It remains at the heart of our enterprise that we want to facilitate the work of front-line staff in carrying out their work with families in need. We can provide quick responses to circumstances where there is a practical requirement and have been able to support discharge from hospital the same day, as we have stored and free resources. We also know from some of the professionals

that we work with that their being able to arrive with 'gifts' often helps build relationships and trust.

COLLECTIONS

This past year has been a difficult one for collections. In the past, we have relied on schools and other institutions to allow us to organise donation days on their premises, but with social distancing and the effective closure of schools to all but the most essential of visitors, this has not been possible. The Windmill School, Headington, has continued to find an informal way to help. Other networks have also proved invaluable. Our thanks to Anna Carhart-Harris and the Botley Mums network and Laura Middleton and the Phil and Jim's parent groups. As the situation relaxes, we hope to be able to resume bigger collection drives and indeed some are in the pipeline.

We are enduringly grateful to the skilled knitters of Shared Knitting in Headington who have been knitting us cardigans and blankets, as have the generous knitters of the Methodist Church network, in particular the prolific Laura Mayo.

STORAGE

We started out our formal journey in a tiny storage room at the Methodist Church in the Cowley Road, which we rented in October 2019. We soon outgrew this (baby equipment is very bulky) and just before lockdown in March last year moved to a significantly bigger room within the church, which we hope will suffice for the time being. Initially, it was uncertain how we were going to function during lockdown and at first we gave a significant portion of our newborn baby clothes to the delivery suite at the John Radcliffe Hospital. We also gave away what nappies we had (as there was an initial shortage due to stockpiling) to Homestart. But we quickly decided that with precautions and a new way of operating, we could function perfectly well during lockdown and that it was necessary that we should.

As rent is our most significant expense, we have decided to keep quite close control on inventory and to maintain only small stocks of buggies, cots etc. We have no need to build an equipment mountain, which costs us money to store, so we will not always accept equipment offered to us. From a safety point of view, we are also only going to invite donations of pieces of equipment that are 5 years old or less.

PUBLICITY

Our main aim has been to network with frontline staff to ensure that they know that they can call on us and that we will respond quickly and reliably in a way that supports them and their clients. Certainly awareness of our function and ability to react quickly is growing.

STRUCTURE

The Oxford Baby Bank is governed by a constitution. New trustees are appointed by the committee of trustees. The current committee of trustees will be in place for the next two years at least.

Last summer we applied for Charitable Status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is a designation reserved for small charities with an annual income of less than £12,000. Our charity number, of which we are very proud, is 1190257.

The trustees run the Baby Bank on a day to day basis as volunteers. Sometimes, they are joined on appointment days and collection days by other volunteers, who lend a practical hand. All trustees are DBS checked and other volunteers are always teamed up with them.

ACHIEVEMENTS

For the calendar year 2020, we helped 102 families with significant supplies of clothing and equipment. At the time of writing (4th May), we have already helped 53 families this year, so the rate of referrals is climbing steeply. It is difficult to estimate the average value of goods received by an individual family, but we keep records of what is given, so that at some point we can carry out an exercise to try to value the average basket of goods.

The response from families who have received donations has been very positive, as has that of the professionals who have referred or been part of our distribution network:

“ Thank you ever so much. I’m so grateful for your help. If ever in the future I have something for children I want to donate, I will definitely be willing to help and support the baby bank “ SH referred by community midwife

“Thank you for all the amazing clothes and the cot. You are marvellous” LF health visitor

“That’s so amazing. Thank you so so much. I bet she was so thankful.” HM community midwife

“That would be amazing. Yes please. We are a little short of clothes which aren’t blue, but any clothes will do! I am so grateful to you.” HO delivery suite co-ordinator and consultant midwife John Radcliffe Hospital.

In addition to helping specific referred families, we have distributed goods through Homestart and the Blackbird Leas Community Centre.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Over the past year we have been grateful to the following for financial help:

- The Ffeoffees of St Michael’s and All Saints
- The Doris Field Charitable Trust

- The ASDA Foundation (their community Champion Linda Blackmore is a loyal supporter both with money and goods)
- Waitrose Green token scheme, both Headington and Botley Road
- The Oxford Community Foundation Covid grants

We have prepared annual accounts for the financial year April 2020 to April 2021 and our financial status is healthy. We were very concerned not to move into larger premises without ensuring that we had sufficient reserves, as this is by far the biggest financial commitment for us. Currently we have sufficient reserves to meet our outgoings for 18 months. We intend to apply to all the above for on-going assistance. We are also looking to apply for a grant specifically to buy items which have safety/health implications eg. stair-gates, mattresses, sterilisers etc. The Covid grant from the OCF has been spent on consumables, mainly nappies to ease the financial burden of families hit financially by the pandemic.

HOW EXPENDITURE HAS SUPPORTED THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY

Our main expenditure is on rent for our base at the Methodist Church in the Botley Road. We have also had to equip this space with heavy- duty warehouse storage systems.

DECLARATION:

The trustees of the Oxford Baby Bank declare this to be a full, transparent and accurate account of our first year's activities.

Signatories:

Emily MacKeith

Caroline Barry

Emma Poynton

Suzanne Lingard

Oxford Baby Bank: Accounting period 6 April 2020 - 5 April 2021

INCOME			
Person or Group	ITEMS	AMOUNT	DATE
OXON COMM FOUND NET OCF	Grant	500	28-May
OXON COMM FOUND OCF DCMS NET	Grant	250	08-Oct
CHQ IN AT 403534: Doris Field Charitable Trust	Donation	500	04-Dec
ST MICHAELS CHUR ST MICHAELS GRANT	Grant	1200	10-Dec
CAF20120881670CF	Donation	50	11-Dec
CHQ IN AT 402401: Waitrose Headington	Donation	333	19-Feb
	TOTAL	2833	

TOTALS	
INCOME in period	2833
EXPENDITURE in period	4892.4
BALANCE	-2059.4
BALANCE AS AT 6 APR 2020	7463.07
BALANCE AS AT 5 APR 2021	5403.67

EXPENSES			
SUPPLIER	PRODUCT	AMOUNT	DATE
Cowley Methodist Church	room rent	100	14-Apr
Aldi	nappies	12.71	14-Apr
Cowley Methodist Church	room rent (increase)	150	17-Apr
Shopfitting Warehouse	hanging rail	61.62	20-Apr
Aldi	nappies and wipes	21.58	27-Apr
Ikea.com	shelving	217.5	28-Apr
Cowley Methodist Church	room rent	250	12-May
WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	mattresses/moses mattresses	52	14-May-20
LINENS LTD OLDHAM	moses basket liners	50.75	14-May-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies/chocolate/baby bath/wipes	41.5	29-May-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/wipes/baby bath/milk	39.36	03-Jun-20
SAINSBURY'S S/MKT KIDLINGTON	Formula milk/nappies/wipes/shampoo/b	39.4	05-Jun-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	room rent	250	12-Jun-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies/wipes	26.48	18-Jun-20
DUNELM LTD OXFORD	Various cot sheets	27.88	18-Jun-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/baby bath	49.12	08-Jul-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	baby food/milk/nappies	34.91	13-Jul-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	13-Jul-20
RYMAN 1172 OXFORD	White tack/Pens	8.99	22-Jul-20
WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	matresses	160	31-Jul-20
BIGDUG LIMITED GLOUCESTER	Shelving units	154.8	03-Aug-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/sheets/cups/wipes/moses sheet	42.37	07-Aug-20
DUNELM LTD OXFORD	moses sheets	36	07-Aug-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	12-Aug-20
IKEA LTD 185 MILTOBLETCHLEY	high chair covers	9	14-Aug-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/wipes/soothers/baby bath	45.86	18-Aug-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/sheets/nappy sacks	18.36	27-Aug-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	14-Sep-20
POST OFFICE COUNT EOXFORD	stamps	16.92	02-Oct-20
GODADDY.COM EUROPE020 7979 2661	website provider	100.66	12-Oct-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	12-Oct-20
SAINSBURYS S/MKTS HEYFORD HILL	toys/clothes	45	20-Oct-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/coats/baby bath/wipes	41.56	20-Oct-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/wipes	41.79	26-Oct-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	12-Nov-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/wipes	45.97	17-Nov-20
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/wipes/milk/pyjamas	44.88	14-Dec-20
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	14-Dec-20
JOHN LEWIS OXFORD	Printer cartridges	33.99	21-Dec-20

COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rent	250	12-Jan-21
HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	changing mats	11.98	20-Jan-21
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/steriliser/sleeping bag/nappy sa	86.68	20-Jan-21
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	nappies/wipes/steriliser/bottles	66.3	27-Jan-21
ALDI STORES 775-14OXFORD	Nappies/books/wipes	39.71	02-Feb-21
HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	toys/muslins	14.97	10-Feb-21
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies/shampoo/books/wipes	50.07	10-Feb-21
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	12-Feb-21
COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Room rental	250	12-Mar-21
ASDA PETROL/UPT THAME	fuel: drop offs (CB)	27.83	18-Mar-21
ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	towels/muslins/bodysuits	29.95	22-Mar-21
HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	changing mats	17.97	22-Mar-21
HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	safety gate/changing mat	25.98	26-Mar-21
TOTAL		4892.4	