

ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1st April 2021 till 31st March 2022

of **THE OXFORD BABY BANK**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO:1190257

COWLEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH , COWLEY ROAD
OXFORD OX4 1BN

Charity trustees who have managed the charity for this period:

Dr Emily MacKeith General Practitioner
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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 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, charities etc. In this way, we identify those in need of support. Following a referral, we invite the referrer to come to the baby bank to pick up what is required.



It is well recognised that the future mental health of an adult has its foundations in the very earliest experiences of life. In our small way, we hope to reduce stress levels in women coping with adverse circumstances, so that they have a better chance of creating a soothing and secure environment for their babies and

toddlers.

We are also motivated to help front-line staff in carrying out their work, which is inevitably stressful when working with families in need. We hope to provide quick responses to circumstances where there is a practical requirement and have been able to facilitate discharge from hospital the same day, as we have stored and free resources.

COLLECTIONS

This past year we have moved to a different model of collection for the donated goods that form the vast majority of items that we give away. Instead of collecting at schools, nurseries etc we now have 3 donation Saturday mornings during the year when people are invited to bring their donations to the baby bank. This means that anyone city-wide can give and it is more efficient from the point of view of the trustees. The donation mornings are publicised on social media, our website and through schools. We are grateful to the families of Oxford for



their generosity. We have also been inviting potential donors to drop off on a Wednesday morning when we are at the baby bank. This has been a useful source of equipment.

We continue to be supplied by the knitters of Shared Knitting who make us beautiful blankets and cardigans and Laura Mayo who also keeps us stocked.

STORAGE

We are generously supported by the committee who run the Cowley Road Methodist Church, especially Dorothy Stepney and Beverley Clack. We rent a large storage room in the church, which is well located in the centre of town for both pick-ups and deliveries. We are bursting at the seams, but we have taken the decision not to go out to find a bigger space, as it is easy to pay out more in rent and to be doing so in order to keep stagnant stock. This means that our stock control and replenishment need to be dynamic and nimble.



PUBLICITY

News of our activities seems to be going round professional groups by word of mouth. We have not really needed to carry out more information dissemination. Periodically we do send a wall poster to the midwifery hubs because their frequent rotations mean that people are newly picking up the community reins.



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.

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.

HOW THE GOODS ARE DELIVERED

Over the past couple of years, experience has taught us that although we have been happy to invite mothers to the baby bank to pick up their items, the majority do not turn up. Many are newly arrived in Oxford and disoriented, pregnant or unwell or have other small children. As a result, we have started asking professionals who refer to us to pick up as a matter of course. This is working very efficiently. Sometimes, they will bring the client (this is most likely in the case of professionals working with individuals with mental health issues or care leavers), but the vast majority of goods are picked up by the referrer. This is useful to the referrer in terms of relationship building and to ensure that advice can be followed (eg that babies should not be co-sharing a bed). The exception to this is that we do drop off for most of the midwifery referrals, owing to the very stretched nature of their service at present. We will also drop off for urgent health visitor referrals.

We try to respond flexibly in situations where clothing and equipment is required in an emergency.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We pride ourselves on offering only high quality items to our



recipients. We are also concerned about safety and hygiene, so at this stage of our development, we buy new mattresses, pillows, bedding, changing mats, stair gates and underwear. We have started buying coats also, as we feel we must always be able to provide a winter coat. Our grant givers have been generous and we have been able to use the resources they give us to respond in a well targeted fashion.

During the financial year 2021-2022, we have helped 179 families. We are aiming to be operating at around 200 families per year. Some families are receiving relatively modest packages of stuff valued at around £300 (if bought new), but for many this comes closer to £800.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

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

- The Battcock Family Trust
- The Ffeoffees of St Michael's and All Saints
- The Doris Field Charitable Trust
- Waitrose Green token scheme, both Headington and Botley Road
- The trustees of the Pye Charitable Settlement
- The City of Oxford Charity

Our financial status is healthy.

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 Cowley Road. We have also had to equip this space with storage systems. In order to maximise the value of items that we store, we have decided to cease giving away consumables. Nappies are very bulky and the space formerly taken up by them is now occupied by clothing, which we now supply up to the age of 5 years. This was a difficult decision, but one pack

of nappies does not solve anyone's problems, whereas completely clothing a child has a significant impact. As we are unable to store clothing for older children, we will, on occasion, use our funds to buy clothing for a particular older child in extenuating circumstances.

As stated above, we do now buy some important items new. We are looking for a children's goods wholesaler who would allow us to source all our equipment needs from them at better prices than we are achieving at present (although we are very careful where we shop). This may include budget buggies and Moses baskets, should we run the risk of running out. We remain principally a recycling organisation, but we consider that there are basics that we should always have in stock. However, it has to be said that at the time of writing (October 2022) the supply of good quality donated equipment is reducing and we think that this is because many people are selling on their items for much needed cash. We anticipate needing to buy a lot of buggies this coming winter.



FEEDBACK

Most referrers who come to pick up are impressed with what we can offer.

The following is a selection of comments received by us from our referrers:

‘Thanks for this morning. Mum was over the moon with everything’. LW Homestart

‘All the ISIS midwives are so grateful for what you do’ NH

‘Thank you for all your hard work and supporting us and all our families. It truly makes a difference’ Christmas card from the South Parade Health Visiting Team

‘I just wanted to let you know that I was doing a follow-up call with Mr M and he said how pleased and grateful they were for the baby clothing they received and noted that they were of really good quality. He said it had made a big difference to his family’ Local councillor.

‘I just wanted to say thank you for being so hospitable today. You have been incredibly generous, not only in practical items but also in time and of self. I understand why it is such a successful charity. Long may it continue! C was absolutely ecstatic when she got home to her mum’. RW mental health support worker



‘It was so lovely to meet you and I’m so grateful for the help you gave me’. CP

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 2021 - 5 April 2022				
INCOME				
Date	Type	Person or Group	Paid In	Balance
	02-Jul-21	CR J A PYE SETTMT YY DONATION PYE	1000	5142.3
	09-Aug-21	CR CHQ IN AT 403534 Waitrose Community Fund	333	4969.66
	13-Sep-21	CR THE CITY OF LTD OXF CITY CHARITY	1000	5201.2
	17-Sep-21	VIS WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049 REFUND	48	5185.7
	05-Nov-21	VIS ARGOS LTD INTERNET	69	4405.11
	11-Nov-21	CR CAF21110899258CF	6000	
	15-Nov-21	CR CHQ IN AT 403534 Waitrose Community Fund	333	10225.72
	23-Nov-21	CR CHQ IN AT 403534 Doris Field Charitable Trust	500	10725.72
	16-Mar-22	CR ST MICHAELS CHUR ST MICHAELS GRANT	1200	9662.78
	21-Mar-22	VIS eBay O*10-08405-50 LONDON	1.29	refund
	31-Mar-22	CR J A PYE SETTMT YY DONATION PYE	3000	12294.94
TOTAL			13484.29	

TOTALS	
INCOME in period	13484
EXPENDITURE in period	6593
BALANCE	6891.3
BALANCE AS AT 6 APR 2021	5403.7
BALANCE AS AT 5 APR 2022	12295

EXPENSES					
DATE	METHOD	SUPPLIER	PRODUCT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
06-Apr-21	VIS	SARTEXQUILT 01706357490	Bedding	83.85	
06-Apr-21	VIS	SP * NORTHLIGHT HO DIDCOT	Matresses	42.39	5277.43
12-Apr-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	
12-Apr-21	VIS	BIGDUG LIMITED GLOUCESTER	Shelving	244.8	4782.63
12-May-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	4532.63
25-May-21	VIS	IKEA LTD 185 MILTO BLETCHLEY	Bedding, high chairs	55	4477.63
01-Jun-21	VIS	ALDI STORES 775-14 OXFORD	Safety gates and toiletries	56.55	4421.08
14-Jun-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	
14-Jun-21	VIS	DNH*GODADDY.COM EU GODADDY.COM	Website admin	28.78	4142.3
12-Jul-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	4892.3
15-Jul-21	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies, breast pumps, toiletries	24.64	4867.66
22-Jul-21	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Bedding and towels	44	4823.66
26-Jul-21	VIS	INT'L 0014859487 eBay O*25-07381-47 Luxembourg	Cot mattresses	104.12	
26-Jul-21	VIS	INT'L 0014859488 eBay O*14-07383-33 Luxembourg	cot sheets	20.88	4698.66
28-Jul-21	VIS	IKEA LTD 185 MILTO BLETCHLEY	Bedding and coat hangers	62	4636.66
12-Aug-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	
12-Aug-21	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Children's toiletries and clothing	36.1	4683.56
24-Aug-21	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Children's toiletries and nappies	16.5	
24-Aug-21	)))	MARKS&SPENCER PLC OXFORD	Children's clothing	10.47	4656.59
26-Aug-21	VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Baby baths	75	
26-Aug-21	VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Moses baskets	115	4466.59
27-Aug-21	VIS	INT'L 0038194554 Klarna foryourlitt Tipton	Mattresses	15.39	4451.2
13-Sep-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	
15-Sep-21	VIS	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Baby toiletries and bedding	63.5	5137.7
22-Sep-21	)))	DUNELM LTD OXFORD	Cot bedding	39.8	5145.9
23-Sep-21	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	102.55	
23-Sep-21	VIS	ALDI STORES 775-14 OXFORD	Toiletries, clothing, nappies	53.13	4990.22
08-Oct-21	)))	HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	Changing mats and bedding	23.96	
08-Oct-21	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies, baby wipes	20.06	4946.2
12-Oct-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	
12-Oct-21	VIS	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Bedding, clothing, toiletries	38	4658.2
13-Oct-21	VIS	DNH*GO DADDY EUROP 020 7979 2661	Website admin	100.66	4557.54
22-Oct-21	VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Buggy	69	4488.54
04-Nov-21	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	109.1	
04-Nov-21	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Baby gates, nappy cream	43.33	4336.11
08-Nov-21	VIS	EBAY COMMERCE UK L LONDON	Buggy Harnesses	9.46	
08-Nov-21	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Nappies, baby wipes	40.44	4355.21
09-Nov-21	)))	ALDI 93 775 BUCKINGHAM	Children's toiletries and clothing	19.99	4335.22
10-Nov-21	)))	IKEA LTD 185 MILTO BLETCHLEY	Bedding, muslins, changing mats	93.5	4241.72
11-Nov-21	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's coats	99	10142.72
12-Nov-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	9892.72
25-Nov-21	VIS	ZTL*jacobs inn Oxford	AGM meeting with trustees	63	10662.72
03-Dec-21	VIS	EBAY COMMERCE UK L LONDON	MISTAKEN CARD USED (refunded by CB C	14.51	
03-Dec-21	VIS	EBAY COMMERCE UK L LONDON	MISTAKEN CARD USED (refunded by CB C	14.51	10633.7

06-Dec-21	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Safety gates and coats	95.37	
06-Dec-21	VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Mattresses	96.95	10441.38
13-Dec-21	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	10191.38
21-Dec-21	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Cot bedding, towels.	38.75	10152.63
10-Jan-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19DEC2021	Bank charges	5.8	10146.83
11-Jan-22	)))	M&CO BUCKINGHAM	Winter jackets	13.98	10132.85
12-Jan-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	9882.85
13-Jan-22	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	42	9840.85
19-Jan-22	)))	ALDI STORES 775-14 OXFORD	Reusable nappies, toiletries, clothing	39.18	9801.67
01-Feb-22	VIS	IKEA LTD 185 MILTO BLETCHLEY	Storage boxes, towels, bedding	78	9723.67
10-Feb-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JAN2022	Bank charges	5	9718.67
14-Feb-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250	9468.67
16-Feb-22	)))	JOHN LEWIS OXFORD	Bedding	13.5	
16-Feb-22	)))	JOHN LEWIS OXFORD	Baby clothing	14	9441.17
21-Feb-22	VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Stair gates x6	152.95	9288.22
22-Feb-22	)))	HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	Changing mats and children's underwear	50.95	
22-Feb-22	)))	HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	Safety gates	39.98	
22-Feb-22	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Children's clothing	25.94	9171.35
24-Feb-22	VIS	SAINSBURY'S S/MKT HEYFORD HILL	Children's clothing and toiletries	105.15	9066.2
01-Mar-22	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's coats and clothing	96	8970.2
03-Mar-22	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Coats	5	
03-Mar-22	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Coats and clothing	82.5	8882.7
08-Mar-22	BP	Mrs C M Barry Babybankmattresses	Refund to CM Barry - paid on own card	71.25	8811.45
10-Mar-22	VIS	PAYPAL *FORYOURLIT 35314369001	matress protectors	19.98	8791.47
13-Mar-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19FEB2022	Bank charges	5	8786.47
14-Mar-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	RENT	250	
14-Mar-22	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Bottles, wipes, clothing	60.7	8475.77
15-Mar-22	VIS	eBay O*17-08378-71 LONDON	MISTAKEN CARD USED (refunded by CB C	12.99	8462.78
18-Mar-22	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Changing mats and bottles	67	9595.78
21-Mar-22	VIS	eBay O*05-08404-78 LONDON	MISTAKEN CARD USED (refunded by CB C	2.15	
21-Mar-22	VIS	eBay O*10-08405-50 LONDON	MISTAKEN CARD USED (refunded by CB C	4.04	9590.88
23-Mar-22	VIS	OXFORDSHIRE CC MOT OXFORD	Parking permit	150	
23-Mar-22	VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Mattresses	142.95	9297.93
28-Mar-22	VIS	eBay O*23-08423-31 LONDON	MISTAKEN CARD USED (refunded by CB C	2.99	9294.94
TOTAL				6593	