

# ANNUAL REPORT

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 till 31<sup>st</sup> 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 off 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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 2022 to 5 April 2023**

**SUMMARY**

**TOTALS**

INCOME IN PERIOD	5320.19
EXPENSES IN PERIOD	7662.1
BALANCE	-2341.91
BALANCE as at 6 APR 2022	12289.94
BALANCE as at 5 APR 2023	9953.03

**INCOME**

Date	Type	Person or Group	Amount paid in
19-Apr-22	VIS	eBay O*17-08378-71 LONDON	REFUND 12.99
19-Sep-22	CR	WILLIAM ROWA H T DONATION HT	Hamilton Trust 500
07-Oct-22	CR	BARRY IC & CM PP FROM CARRIE	REFUNDED FOR MISTAKEN PURCHASES 38.2
15-Nov-22	CR	CAF2211102500CF	19
05-Dec-22	CR	CHQ IN AT 403534	DORIS FIELD TRUST 750
22-Dec-22	CR	J A PYE SETTMT YY DONATION PYE	PYE FOUNDATION 2000
20-Jan-23	CR	CHQ IN AT 403534	The Parochial Charities of St Clement 2000

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5320.19</b>
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**EXPENSES**

Date	Payment Type	SUPPLIER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT PAID
10-Apr-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19MAR2022	Bank charge	5
12-Apr-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
28-Apr-22	VIS	KELKOPLANT NEWRY	Bedding	32.01
03-May-22	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Bedding and towels	47.5
11-May-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19APR2022	Bank charge	5
12-May-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
13-May-22	VIS	eBay O*15-08618-86 LONDON	Harnesses	7.9
17-May-22	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Clothing	33
07-Jun-22	VIS	eBay O*27-08711-97 LONDON	Mattress cover	6.8

08-Jun-22 VIS	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Children's clothing, nappies	67.04
10-Jun-22 DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19MAY2022	Bank charge	5
13-Jun-22 SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
13-Jun-22 VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Pushchairs	180
15-Jun-22 )))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Bedding, children's clothing	50.5
11-Jul-22 DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JUN2022	Bank charge	5
11-Jul-22 VIS	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Shoes, nappies, bedding	44.97
12-Jul-22 SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
14-Jul-22 )))	DUNELM LTD OXFORD	Bedding	52.8
21-Jul-22 VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Cot mattresses	125
21-Jul-22 VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Bedding	60
22-Jul-22 )))	RYMAN 1172 OXFORD	Stationery	14.37
25-Jul-22 )))	FTC OXFORD, GB147 OXFORD	Children's toys	18
26-Jul-22 VIS	WWW.BABYANDCHILDST INTERNET	Pushchairs	109.78
28-Jul-22 VIS	eBay O*08-08913-42 LONDON	Stairgates	124.95
03-Aug-22 VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Pushchairs and safety gates	307.95
03-Aug-22 VIS	ARGOS LTD INTERNET	Cot mattresses	185
04-Aug-22 )))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	22.5
09-Aug-22 )))	HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	Baby baths and bedding	30.24
09-Aug-22 )))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies, toys	26.47
10-Aug-22 DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JUL2022	Bank charge	5
12-Aug-22 SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
05-Sep-22 )))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Changing mats, towels, clothing	61
10-Sep-22 DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19AUG2022	Bank charge	5
12-Sep-22 SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
15-Sep-22 VIS	WWW.ONLINE4BABY.CO TWEEDALE WAY,	Moses baskets	115.8
15-Sep-22 VIS	MAMAS & PAPAS (DIG UK E-COMMERCE	Pushchairs	209.97
29-Sep-22 VIS	SP CLAIR DE LUNE MANCHESTER	Bedding	49.92
11-Oct-22 DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19SEP2022	Bank charge	5
12-Oct-22 SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
12-Oct-22 VIS	DNH*GODADDY.COM EU GODADDY.COM	Website	115.06
13-Oct-22 VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	100.5
25-Oct-22 )))	IKEA LTD 185 MILTO BLETCHLEY	Changing mats, towels	39.5
27-Oct-22 VIS	BMA VARSITY LTD OXFORD	Keys for storage room	106.08

04-Nov-22	VIS	www.kiddies-kingdo Kirklees	Pushchairs	259.8
07-Nov-22	VIS	BOOTS UK ECOMM BEESTON	Pushchairs	105
09-Nov-22	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Coats and clothing	223.8
10-Nov-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19OCT2022	Bank charge	5
14-Nov-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	250
17-Nov-22	VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Pushchairs	180
25-Nov-22	VIS	ASDA GEORGE COM LE LEEDS	Children's clothing	47.35
25-Nov-22	VIS	THE BLACK BOY OXFO OXFORD	AGM with trustees	148
11-Dec-22	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19NOV2022	Bank charge	5
12-Dec-22	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	262.5
22-Dec-22	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Baby clothing, sleepsuits	109
03-Jan-23	VIS	WWW.BABYANDCHILDST INTERNET	Pushchairs	178.96
03-Jan-23	)))	Hobbycraft Oxford	Wool	19
03-Jan-23	)))	DUNELM LTD OXFORD	Bedding	73.8
10-Jan-23	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19DEC2022	Bank charge	5.8
12-Jan-23	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	262.5
10-Feb-23	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JAN2023	Bank charge	5
13-Feb-23	SO	COWLEY METHODIST OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	262.5
16-Feb-23	VIS	SMYTHS TOYS GALWAY	Cot bed	89.97
16-Feb-23	VIS	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	109
20-Feb-23	VIS	eBay O*15-09719-49 LONDON	Office admin: ink cartridges	37.92
02-Mar-23	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Children's clothing	85.5
10-Mar-23	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Pushchairs	328.95
13-Mar-23	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19FEB2023	Bank charge	5.8
17-Mar-23	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORD BABY BANK	Rent	262.5
29-Mar-23	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Clothing and bedding	92
30-Mar-23	VIS	eBay O*12-09878-91 LONDON	Carrie mistaken purchase (refunded Nov	18.34
30-Mar-23	VIS	eBay O*12-09878-93 LONDON	Carrie mistaken purchase (refunded Nov	53
31-Mar-23	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Clothing and bedding	46.5
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>7662.1</b>