

ANNUAL REPORT

THE OXFORD BABY BANK

Registered Charity number 1190257

COWLEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

COWLEY ROAD OXFORD OX4 1BN

For the period 1st April 2024 till 31st March 2025

Charity trustees who have managed the charity for this period:

1. Dr Emily MacKeith General Practitioner

CHAIR

9 Southcroft, Old Marston Oxford OX3 0PF

emilystjohnwright@hotmail.com

2. Caroline Barry Consultant Clinical Psychologist

SECRETARY AND FUND RAISING

7 Northmoor Road Oxford OX2 6UW

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3. Courtney Nimura Oxford Academic

IT and WEBSITE

79 Lime Walk OX3 7AD

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4. Emma Poynton Retired Teacher

TREASURER

48 Quarry Road, Headington Oxford OX3 8NX

emmakingston@aol.com

1. 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. We also aim to reduce waste by handing on recycled resources.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

The service we provide is available to residents of Oxford and surrounding villages and small towns, including Witney, Abingdon, Banbury 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, stair-gates and buggies, largely owing to safety concerns in passing on certain items, but the bulk of the clothing and equipment that we give away to families has been collected from donors in the community.

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 from a midwife, our team will do a drop off to the woman concerned. This is often in something of an emergency, as pregnancies are concealed or the woman has only accessed health care late on. In our small way, we hope to reduce stress levels in women coping with adverse circumstances, but we are also mindful of the pressure that looking after women in difficult circumstances imposes on the professionals

involved. So supporting the midwives and other frontline healthcare staff is a significant driver for us, and very much core to our values. It is our understanding that we are unique in providing this level of support to midwives.

For other referrals, we ask the professional referrers to pick up from us. Initially we invited recipients in to the baby bank, but this proved inefficient, as people often did not understand the system, had no transport and did not attend. We have also learned from feedback from the professionals that the resources that they can collect from us can significantly help them in the forging relationships with 'hard to reach' clients and in a number of cases opens doors that would otherwise be closed. Occasionally recipients will pick up from us that that is a minority of referrals.

3. COLLECTION

After some experimentation over the past five years as to how to collect our stock most efficiently, we have settled on the method of posting our email address on our website and inviting parents with things to donate to contact us. In this way, we can ascertain whether we need what is on offer, can accept the things we need and graciously (hopefully!) decline things that we don't require and

can't store. We have to be mindful of using our limited storage space in the most effective way and this means only stocking the most useful and necessary items.

We thank all the parents who have answered the call and given so generously. We have had well over 200 donations of clothing and other goods over this financial year. The parents and grandparents of Oxford Have certainly stepped up to support us.

4. STORAGE

Since the end of 2019, we have been supported by the committee who run the Cowley Road Methodist Church, especially Dorothy Stepney and Beverley Clack. We started out in a tiny storage room, which we soon outgrew (baby equipment is very bulky) and in March 2020, we moved to a bigger room within the church which we make work, despite the fact that sometimes we are packed to the rafters. At the time of writing, however, the church is for sale and we are looking for new premises. This search governed as it is by what we can afford to pay in rent, (indeed what we think is realistic to pay, given that we are mindful of keeping overheads per referral low) has been difficult. Oxford is increasingly dominated by the university colleges who have deep pockets and can afford to buy up public buildings

that come up for sale, reducing the amount of space available to voluntary organisations.

5. PUBLICITY

The issue of publicity is a tricky one, as there is no real necessity to reach out to the general public. Sufficient donors come forth to keep our supplies topped up without our going out of our way to publicise our organization. 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 and word spreading by mouth.

6. 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 three years. We had one change of trustee in January 2025, as part of the process of ensuring that we have a combination of new blood and experienced trustees. We are mindful of the need, over the next couple of years to induct more new trustees.

The trustees run the Baby Bank on a day to day basis as volunteers. All trustees are DBS checked.

It is estimated that the volunteer hours clocked up during the financial year 2024/25 is around 500. We have no staffing costs, which is unusual now for baby banks. We are, however, planning to employ someone in the near future. The projected plan is that we employ someone one day a fortnight. Funds have already been raised to do this. We have joined the Baby Bank Alliance, an initiative of Save the Children Fund. Through contact with other baby banks, we have become aware that most baby banks have paid staff.

7. ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year calendar year 2024, we helped 270 families. We have grown year on year since our modest beginnings in 2019. (Calendar year 2020, we helped 102 families, calendar year 2021, we helped 165 families, calendar year 2022 we helped 249, calendar year 2024 290). It is a difficult philosophical question as to whether there is an imperative to keep growing. We keep the model, demands and feedback under review. As far as we know, no other baby bank provides the delivery service that we provide for the midwives. It is highly valued by them, as it completely takes the strain of

provisioning for women without resources off their shoulders.

“ Hello Caroline and the Baby Bank Team

I just wanted to drop you and email to express my gratitude for your ongoing generous support for so many of the women on my caseload. It makes such a difference to me when I am supporting women in poverty to know I can contact you and you are always so responsive and generous in the support you can provide. “ EB midwife

We don't have the high traffic of some urban baby banks who work on a self-referral basis (we have found this unworkable from a security point of view), but what we do is to provide a tailored and complete solution for midwives and their caseload of pregnant women many of whom are completely without resources.

As stated above, we have joined the newly established Baby Bank Alliance and it is clear from observing the work and modus operandi of other baby banks that there are as many working models as there are baby banks. Those operating out of rural village halls can operate differently from those in deprived city centres like ours, where there are more security concerns.

In addition to supporting the work of health and

social work professionals, we are now working regularly with organisations that support migrants (various migrant hotels, Migrant Help and Asylum Welcome) and housing associations providing specialist services to single mothers (eg A2 Dominion Housing).

The response from families who have received donations has been very positive:

“Thank you so much for coming to bring these baby items to me. I’m super grateful”.

JO April 202

-as has that of the professionals who have referred:

“Your are like a fairy godmother for my clients”

HK family nurse April 2025

“Thank you Caroline. That’s amazing service.

JB midwife June 2025

“One of my colleagues collected from you this morning for one of my ladies. I was so touched when I saw what you had put together for her. It will make a huge difference to the family”

EB midwife April 2025

8. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Over the past year we have been grateful to the

following for financial help:

The Doris Field Charitable Trust

The City of Oxford Charity

□□□ □□□□□□□□□ Trust

The Pye Charitable Settlement

The Hamilton Trust

Mactaggart Trust

Lebus Family Trust

Charity of Thomas Dawson/ the Parochial Charities
of St Clements

9. 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. There has also been significant outlay on new cot mattresses, buggies, microwave bottle sterilisers, bottles, stair-gates and coats. We regard these as essential stock items, not only owing to safety and hygiene issues, but because we always want to be able to give a child a coat. We source as economically as

we can.

Our fixed cost (rent) is now £4,500 per annum. Based on the number of people we helped this financial year, that is an overhead of only £15.50 per family. We consider this to be a modest outlay per family helped, especially as many receive hundreds of pounds worth of donated goods in one delivery. The overhead per family will increase next year, as we will be employing someone to help run the baby bank. However, it is also hoped that with paid help, we can increase the number of referrals.

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

Signatories:

Emily MacKeith

Caroline Barry

Emma Poynton

Courtney Nimura

Oxford Baby Bank: Accounting period 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025				
SUMMARY TOTALS				
INCOME IN PERIOD				17050
EXPENSES IN PERIOD				8796.49
BALANCE				8253.51
BALANCE as at 6 APR 2024				9502.47
BALANCE as at 5 APR 2025				17755.98
INCOME				
Date	Type	Person or Group	Amount paid in	
31-May-24	CR	Wrentham Trust		2500
07-Jun-24	CR	TRUSTEES OF THE JO j p lebus grant		5000
04-Jul-24	CR	SAVE THE CHILDREN		1200
16-Dec-24	CR	Cowley Road Methodist Church (refund of rent)		100
16-Dec-24	CR	THE CITY OF LTD XMAS GRANT 2024		3000
19-Mar-25	CR	WILLIAM ROWA H T DONATION HT		1000
20-Mar-25	CR	MACTAGGART THIRD F MTF-J MACTAGGART		250
28-Mar-25	CR	J A PYE SETTMT YY DONATION PYE		4000
TOTAL				17050
EXPENSES				
Date	Type	SUPPLIER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT PAID
10-Apr-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19MAR2024	Bank charges	5
11-Apr-24	VIS	SP YORKSHIRE TRADI DRIFFIELD	Bedding	28.74
11-Apr-24	VIS	SP CLAIR DE LUNE MANCHESTER	Moses basket liners	59.95
12-Apr-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
22-Apr-24	VIS	T K MAXX WATFORD	Moses baskets	124.95
24-Apr-24	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies, toiletries	21.97
25-Apr-24	VIS	SP CLAIR DE LUNE MANCHESTER	Moses basket mattresses	44.9
25-Apr-24	VIS	IKEA LTD SHOP ONLI LONDON	Highchairs	124
25-Apr-24	)))	ASDA STORES OXFORD	Children's clothing	49.5
03-May-24	VIS	REXLONDON 35314369001	Swaddling blankets	28.8
07-May-24	VIS	SP HEYNUTRITION.CO LONDON	Baby Bottles	27
07-May-24	VIS	SP HEYNUTRITION.CO LONDON	Baby Bottles	29.99
07-May-24	)))	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	23.6
07-May-24	)))	PRIMARK 440 OXFORD	Children's clothing	12.93
11-May-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19APR2024	Bank charges	5
13-May-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
31-May-24	)))	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	43.2
03-Jun-24	)))	HOME BARGAINS OXFORD	Children's clothing	18.01
03-Jun-24	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies, toiletries	21.62
04-Jun-24	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Pushchairs	153.95

06-Jun-24	VIS	eBay O*02-11665-52 LONDON	Thermomters	9.24
06-Jun-24	VIS	eBay O*23-11645-67 LONDON	Breast pumps	27
06-Jun-24	VIS	SP MYHAPPY BABY MILTON KEYNES	Bedding	23.34
06-Jun-24	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Baby monitors	103.95
07-Jun-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Bedding and swaddles	76.23
10-Jun-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19MAY2024	Bank charges	5
10-Jun-24	VIS	eBay O*26-11652-11 LONDON	Baby slings	66.4
10-Jun-24	VIS	ABSOLUTE 01204653023	Baby slings	91.87
10-Jun-24	VIS	ASDA GEORGE COM LE LEEDS	Towels	39.75
12-Jun-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
12-Jun-24	VIS	A PLAN OXFORD TA H OXFORD	Business insurance	140.8
13-Jun-24	VIS	SP ICKLE BUBBA LIM SWANSEA	Changing mats	32.8
13-Jun-24	VIS	INT'L 0058421616 JP*Joom Riga	Breast pumps	21.6
20-Jun-24	VIS	SP FOR YOUR LITTLE TIPTON	Moses basket mattresses	55.92
10-Jul-24	VIS	SMYTHS TOYS GALWAY	Cot mattresses	89.97
10-Jul-24	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Baby bouncers, playmats	117.95
11-Jul-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JUN2024	Bank charges	5.8
11-Jul-24	)))	POUNDLAND LTD - 15 COWLEY	Bedding, office supplies	16
11-Jul-24	)))	ASDA STORE 4442 OXFORD	Nappies, toiletries	22
12-Jul-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
15-Jul-24	VIS	T K MAXX WATFORD	Moses baskets	200
15-Jul-24	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Jungle gyms	78.95
15-Jul-24	BP	C M Barry MILEAGE	Travel expenses	67
18-Jul-24	VIS	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	71.8
19-Jul-24	)))	ZARA OXFORD 12318 OXFORD	Children's clothing	23.94
23-Jul-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Bedding, muslins	71.77
23-Jul-24	VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Pushchairs	300
25-Jul-24	)))	T K MAXX OXFORD	Toys	29.97
29-Jul-24	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Children's clothing	28
08-Aug-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Bedding, muslins	97.9
09-Aug-24	VIS	ABSOLUTE 01204653023	Towels	85.87
10-Aug-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JUL2024	Bank charges	5
12-Aug-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
12-Aug-24	)))	ALDI 77 775 OXFORD	Nappies, wipes	15.52
15-Aug-24	VIS	eBay O*02-11950-19 LONDON	Cot nuts and bolts	3.42
22-Aug-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Change mats, bedding, clothing	83.83
22-Aug-24	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Playmats	80.75
29-Aug-24	VIS	WWW.AMAZON.* MB5DW LONDON	Moses baskets	133.05
29-Aug-24	)))	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	95.7
10-Sep-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19AUG2024	Bank charges	5
12-Sep-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
19-Sep-24	VIS	SMYTHS TOYS GALWAY	Cot mattresses	74.97
23-Sep-24	)))	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	53.3
24-Sep-24	VIS	WF *UK4267949854 LONDON	Cot mattresses	79.96
26-Sep-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Muslins, Swaddles	89.31
10-Oct-24	VIS	THENURSERystore.CO TWEEDALE WAY,	Pushchairs	239.8
10-Oct-24	VIS	eBay O*02-12180-43 LONDON	Baby slings	53.12
11-Oct-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19SEP2024	Bank charges	5
14-Oct-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5

14-Oct-24	VIS	DNH*GODADDY#334645 207-979-2661	Website	132.2
15-Oct-24	VIS	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	95.2
24-Oct-24	VIS	eBay O*05-12234-74 LONDON	Bath thermometers	19.18
24-Oct-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Children's clothing, bedding	66.48
10-Nov-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19OCT2024	Bank charges	5
12-Nov-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
21-Nov-24	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Baby monitors	100
28-Nov-24	VIS	SMYTHS TOYS GALWAY	Cot mattresses	74.97
11-Dec-24	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19NOV2024	Bank charges	5
12-Dec-24	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
12-Dec-24	VIS	Temu.com LONDON	Bedding, cot mattresses	263.19
06-Jan-25	)))	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	83.3
08-Jan-25	VIS	BEIRUT OXFORD OXFORD	AGM meeting - restaurant	149.36
10-Jan-25	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19DEC2024	Bank charges	5.8
13-Jan-25	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
23-Jan-25	VIS	SP STARLIGHTBEDS.C OSSETT	Cot mattresses	124.95
28-Jan-25	)))	UNIQLO Oxford West Oxford	Children's clothing	77.3
31-Jan-25	VIS	SP CLAIR DE LUNE MANCHESTER	Bedding	24.91
04-Feb-25	)))	Dunelm F0595 Oxford	Bedding	85
10-Feb-25	DR	TOTAL CHARGES TO 19JAN2025	Bank charges	5
10-Feb-25	VIS	WWW.ARGOS.CO.UK MILTON KEYNES	Child safety gates	108
12-Feb-25	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
12-Mar-25	SO	COWLEY ROAD METHOD OXFORDBABYBANK	Storage room rent	262.5
13-Mar-25	VIS	SP THECOMFORTSHOP. NELSON	Cot mattresses	34.29
19-Mar-25	)))	Hobbycraft Oxford	Office/storage supplies	65.1
24-Mar-25	VIS	eBay O*27-12834-91 INTERNET	Bath thermometers	5.91
24-Mar-25	VIS	eBay O*01-12867-04 INTERNET	Moses basket	25.74
25-Mar-25	VIS	OCC CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OXFORD	Parking fine	35
25-Mar-25	)))	TESCO STORES 4480 BICESTER	Toiletries, womens hygiene sup	13.95
03-Apr-25	VIS	WWW.JOHNLEWIS.COM 03456 049 049	Pushchairs	200
		TOTAL		8796.49