



The United Parishes Giving Group

Welcome to the first edition of the Giving Group booklet. Inside you will find details of the charities we will be supporting in our 2017-2019 "round" of giving.

Who are we? We are drawn (ideally) from all the churches in the United Parish. Current members are: Chris Foote (Chair), Correen Gorton, Rona Knight, Bridget le Huray, Gill Skinner, Bob Sluka and Ella Wright. New members welcome - please contact Chris for details.

Who do we support? 50% of our giving is sent to overseas causes - currently the Well-baby clinics project, via Embrace the Middle East and to our CMS partners, Ben and Katy Ray at their Neema workshop in Tanzania.

10% of our giving is made to each of PACT, A Rocha, and The Porch organisation. A further 2.5% is given to the Village Centre and the Youth Centre in Chinnor.

Contingency Fund: We retain the remaining amount which we allocate to the relief of urgent need and to other local activities. Recently we have supported refugees in Syria and the Middle East, Stop the Trafik, Oxfordshire Blind Association, the WOW bus outreach to the Kiln Lakes estate and the ReInspire work in schools in the parish.

Lent Appeal: we also organise the annual Lent Appeal - recent appeals have included Mission to Seamen, Toilet Twinning and Water Aid.

Raising the profile of mission outreach: we have done this in various ways - this booklet is our latest venture - feedback welcomed!

Gaza: NECC (Near East Council of Churches) well-baby clinics - Embrace the Middle East



Well-baby clinics are ensuring children recover from anaemia and malnutrition in a deteriorating humanitarian environment.

Unlike in most countries, the infant mortality rate in Gaza isn't reducing; in

fact UNRWA reported that it increased in 2015 for the first time in decades.

The Well-baby clinics saw a large increase in the number of babies treated in 2015 with an even greater incidence of anaemia. Over 12,000 babies were screened in three clinics (an increase of 2,000 on 2014), 11% of whom were then enrolled in follow-up malnutrition or anaemia treatment programmes.

Thousands of children are provided with medication or nutritional supplements. The project sees anaemic children, malnourished and/or stunted children fully recover and reach expected development milestones.

The well baby clinics improve children's' health and promote their recovery from nutritional disorders which affect long term motor and intellectual development. Interventions targeting child nutrition therefore affect not only the individual but wider societal development in terms of educational attainment & skills.



CMS -Our Mission Partners: Ben and Katy Ray in Tanzania who direct work at the Neema Crafts for the disabled.

This project provides training and work for over 100 deaf and physically disabled people. It has a café, guest house, therapy unit and seven craft workshops. Their products can be seen and bought on www.neemacrafts.com. In 2015, Neema used its own profits to build 10 specially-designed homes for its disabled staff.

"By the last couple of homes we could build one two-room house in 10 days and for a budget of 5MTsh (or £1800). In 2016 we achieved a further 5, funded by profits from the Neema Crafts Centre, and donating partners".

We have been able to open up a Neema Crafts online shop in the UK. This allows customers to choose from a range of gifts and accessories and have them delivered to their door within two-three days. When we launched the site we really weren't sure what the demand would be like and whether we could cope! Fortunately our order levels have been manageable and we are now looking to spread the word through as many avenues within the UK as we can".

If you haven't yet tried ordering a gift, why not try clicking on: www.shop.neemacrafts.com or via the CMS shop at <http://www.cms-shop.org.uk> and send your friends or family members a gift with a great purpose?"



A Rocha UK - Chinnor Churches go Wild

A Rocha is an international family of Christian conservation organisations across the globe. The Chinnor Churches go Wild Project is a Partner in Action local group of A Rocha UK. In the past we have led nature clubs, holiday club events, planted juniper trees in the local nature reserves, held Chinnor Goes Wild, and been active among the churches in helping Christians to understand the Biblical mandate for caring for the environment.

Chiltern Churches go Wild has as its current focus helping the churches in the Parish to work towards EcoChurch awards. This is a designation that indicates churches are making achievements to take care of the environment in five different categories: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global, and lifestyle. St Andrew's Chinnor has achieved the Bronze level and will be working towards achieving Silver in the coming years.

A Rocha has as a distinctive among Christian environmental organisations that we conduct scientific research and active conservation projects. In the coming year, we will focus on churchyards in the Parish and in particular, studying and conservation populations of the slow worm, a protected reptile (actually a legless lizard).

For more information: <http://arocha.org.uk/>



The Porch, is so called because the nuns of All Saints Convent used to give cups of tea to the homeless men sheltering in their porch. It was founded in 1986 and celebrated its 30th anniversary last year,

It is a Christian charity that supports homeless or vulnerably housed single adults in a totally non-discriminatory way, giving help in finding accommodation, dealing with landlords and money management. Based in a house opposite the Convent, there is a café serving subsidised meals six days a week throughout the year, there are laundry facilities, showers and a clothing store.

Activities are organised including counselling, art therapy, social events, sports sessions and outings; literacy and numeracy help, creative writing sessions, access to a computer suite and help with CV writing, interview practice and help with job hunting are all on offer. Members can also obtain work experience in the Centre's kitchen and allotments and in Social Enterprise projects.

The Centre helps to achieve the difference between improved life chances or a spiral of repeat homelessness for vulnerable people in Oxford. The public benefit is that Oxford's homeless are helped to find and retain accommodation, to improve their physical and mental health, to reduce their intake of alcohol and drugs, to find a sense of purpose, to reconnect socially, to improve their self-esteem and to gain new life skills and thereby find employment.



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

PACT, now over 100 years old, started life as the Oxford Diocese's social work outreach organisation to the communities of the Diocese. Today, PACT still has very strong links with the Oxford Diocese and continues its work supporting vulnerable members of society, including their much acclaimed Women's Justice project which runs from Alana House in central Reading.

PACT is also a leading Voluntary Adoption Agency, which regularly places children, who come from all over the UK, with families based mainly in the Thames Valley, London and South East. An exciting and unique project run by PACT, is the award winning FACTS (Family and Children Therapeutic Support) service which provides specialist support to children and their families.

The children whom PACT families adopt have experienced a serious level of neglect and abuse in their early lives whilst living in their birth families. This can leave lasting issues similar to those of post-traumatic stress disorder, which require ongoing support and therapeutic input. Children can find it difficult to trust the adults around them and therefore need help to form good relationships and attachments to their new carers.

FACTS therapists work alongside parents and children together to work on these vital relationships. Sometimes, additional funding is needed to support longer term work over and above what PACT can access from local authorities or the Adoption Support Fund. The FACTS Bursary, which was established in 2011, and which this parish supports through its giving, provides vital funding to ensure that no child or parent is unable to receive the essential therapy they require.



Chinnor Village Centre

We are a not for profit Charity in Chinnor known as Chinnor Village Centre. Located in the heart of Chinnor, we are a meeting place for the whole village, a friendly place to eat and drink, and a source of entertainment and information for local people. As a charity, we focus on supporting the community through a variety of specialist services as well as creating a place for everyone to meet and join together in a way that nurtures community spirit. We have eight paid staff and over a hundred volunteers, without which we could not function.

We offer a range of vital services offered to the community ranging from: **Daycare:** Our Day Care service, known as The Friendship Club, is for people who can benefit from the support offered in a group setting - one of our primary aims is to have great fun so that everyone goes home with a smile on their face.

Stroke Club: Our Stroke Club is a special community group for stroke survivors. We aim to provide a regular meeting place for people to come together and share their experiences, as well as the opportunity to take part in a programme of activities. It also gives our partners and carers a break.

Forget Me Knot: The group is for people who are experiencing or caring for someone with memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer's. The Forget Me Knot Café is somewhere where people with memory problems or dementia, and their carers can gather to support each other and share information. Groups usually offer reminiscence based activities and advice in an informal setting.

Chinnor Youth Club

Artwork produced by club members



We are open every Thursday from 7- 9 pm, for all young people living in Chinnor who are 11-17 years old. We are desperate to open again on a Tuesday evening as well however are struggling to recruit volunteers. If you can spare a few hours on a Tuesday evening, even if one Tuesday a month please contact Sarah Le Good.

We have different sessions ranging from toasty making to art and crafts. We have a table tennis table, music equipment and pool table within Whites Hall that the young people enjoy using. The Youth Club has a tuck shop open every session as well where the members can buy sweets and drinks.

Our membership fee is just £5 per year, which gets the young person into every session! We have recently had sessions delivered on Lyric Writing and Hip Hop and Philosophy.

If you can help at all please do contact Sarah Le Good on 07888 705976.