



Newsletter Jan '07

Welcome to the first Living Stones update of 2007. 2006 saw our finances confidently increase from the amazing giving in our gift day, fundraising at the Auction of Promises and craft fair, as well as the funds which build in our bank account each month from regular giving, and the interest raised from this significant sum also helped us.

We spent more and more of the year on our outreach and building relationships within the community, which we felt was the direction God was pushing us in, whilst we learnt the lesson of patience in terms of actual fund raising and finance.

Therefore, our prayer for this is year is to achieve a sense of purpose and direction. We are seeing God working in the outreach we are doing and his input is apparent, but are we focusing on this more than raising money now? Is this what God wants for us? Please do continue to pray for the team, and the project and that God guides us from the very start of the new year.

FINANCE UPDATE

We started 2006 with £38.8k and an income of £60.5k. After spending £26.1k (including fees and tithes) through this year, we ended the year with **£73.2k**. Although as always we understand that we have a long way to go, this does show some remarkable progress in a relatively short period of time.

PARENTING COURSE

Many people felt for a long time that we should run a parenting course. So, what an answer to prayer when Ark mum, Sally Roper, along with Philippa Sherman and Avril felt led to run a course for parents in Crowthorne, and especially from the Ark. This is a Christian course with practical help and advice. Please pray for this group, which is held in the church on Wednesday mornings.

COMING SOON.....

- CBC FILM CLUB 24/2/07 10am
Please come and help if you can. Tell friends about it and book the date, so we have a great response to the film club.
 - QUIZ NIGHT
 - GAMES EVENING
- Both of these will be social evenings for all at CBC and chance to bring friends to join fun. Watch this space.

COMMUNITY

We have had meetings with Jim Finnie, and our MP Andrew Mackay. We hope that our profile and reputation within the village will grow with such links. They will recommend us if they hear of groups in need of premises, and we may be able to assist.

Phyllida has been invited to represent the church, as a community representative, on the Crowthorne Area Steering Group. This is a group which has been set up to help implement the government initiative of 'extended services' - helping schools extend what they currently do to make an impact on the life chances of children and families. It is great that we have an input into this at the early stages, and may become an initiative we can get involved in.

We have also made links with Thames Valley Police in order to see if they are aware of any specific needs in Crowthorne which we could support practically, either now or with the new building. There were points raised but these would need to be when facilities and resources are improved, but they will keep in touch. There are also charitable organisations looking for sites within Crowthorne and we are currently talking to them to assess their needs for the future and how that may fit into our building plans.

Throughout these talks, we were trying to see how our new building could be used once completed. However, we have been made aware that we should make use of what we have now, rather than wait till we have better premises.

ACTION TAKEN

After asking the Crowthorne Traders to contribute to our shoeboxes appeal, we received interest in our activities + 4 shoeboxes donated.

We invited members of the community and people we had built links with to the Christmas services.

TALENTS

Throughout 2006 we were encouraging you to contribute skills that we could provide to members of the church for them to redirect costs that would be given commercially to donate to Living Stones. Please continue to think about any skills you could provide and add them onto the board. If you previously offered a skill and it is no longer relevant, please take it from the board so we can refer to currently available services.

Alternatively, if there is anything you need, eg. someone to take you shopping once a week, then also please add it to the board as someone may be able to help you in a way they had not thought of previously. Add any ideas to the board in foyer/ front of church.

PRAYER POINTS:

- *Direction and Purpose*
- *Continued community links*
- *Parenting Course*
- *Money*
- *Children's Centres and Area Steering Groups*

Please join us for prayer at the Picton at 6.30pm on:

Sunday 28th January 2007

Sunday 18th February 2007

(Please ask if you want to come and need directions or a lift)

NO PRAYER MEETING DURING LENT, TO GIVE CHANCE TO SUPPORT CTC SERVICES.