

Charities Support Group Report to the APCM 26 April 2016

Members: Alison Jones (Chair person), Martyn Greenwood (Treasurer), Christine Rixson (Minutes Secretary), Val Ashwood, Peter Rixson, Roger Sudbury, Gavin Mintern

We were pleased to welcome two new people onto the committee this year Martyn Greenwood who has taken on the role of treasurer and Gavin Mintern.

We thank the PCC for their continuing support over the past year. The amount received from the PCC for 2015 was £12,000 an increase on previous years so we were able to meet our giving commitments. As a result over the past year we have able to donate just over £7,750.00 to overseas charities and £5,511.00 to charities working in the UK. In addition £500 was donated to help victims of the earthquake in Nepal and £1,000 was given to the Red Cross Europe Refugee Appeal. The committee donated £1,000 to help with start-up costs for the new night shelter at Holy Trinity Church for homeless local people.

In February a Charity talk was held in the WCC when representatives from the Street Pastors, Grove Cottage, The Leprosy Mission and the United Society came and gave informative talks about the work of each charity.

Our main fundraising effort concentrated on the Holly Fair as it has in the past few years. A sub- committee was formed again to help organise the event which was a great success and enabled us to raise £3,085. This meant that we are able to support additional organisations and donate to charities that struggle for funding such as The Stort Valley Trust and the YMCA. We were also able to donate £500 to the Cumbrian Flood Appeal.

The Year Ahead

We have reduced the number of charities we will be supporting in order to keep our level of giving the same as in previous years and to give us some flexibility throughout the coming year in case of emergency appeals.

Alison Jones
Chair