

The Kings Langley Charities
(Registered Charity No. 234115)

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2021

The Charity itself was established to address “The relief of poverty, sickness and disability among the population of the parish of Kings Langley, Hertfordshire” and the Charity were pleased to welcome 2 new trustees – John Allen (a familiar figure around the village) and Mary Nobbs. Their contribution has been most welcome, particularly in the last 12 extraordinary months; during this period Kings Langley Charities were pleased to be able to ‘do their bit’ to provide support for more local people than ever.

This year the Henry Smith Charity supplemented their annual grant with a further ‘top up’ grant, to which was added a very generous donation of £1,000 from the Revue Theatre Company. In addition to the grants for general foodstuffs traditionally made over the Christmas period, the Trustees made similar provision to some young families during the summer.

With the additional funds, the Trustees were delighted to make two further grants to good causes this year. The first was to Matthew Cooper of Christ Church Baptist Church who is looking to obtain some iPads for a number of older people who are on their own and have felt they are missing out, not just during the pandemic but more generally. However, the pandemic has made the sense of isolation more apparent and acute.

Matthew has identified an ongoing need for iPads (new or used) to provide online access to address this. The Church will provide ‘support’ in terms of using the iPad and enable them to ‘connect’ with friends without leaving the comfort and safety of their home.

The second grant was made to the Waterside Centre, who celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2020, towards the cost of a “Magic Table,” for which they are currently fundraising. This is a mobile unit that projects simple interactive images onto a table or floor that can be manipulated by moving your hands or feet around to stimulate the imagination, respond to all movements no matter how small, and provide opportunities to socialize and work together.

The Trustees have been delighted to enjoy a busy year and wish to acknowledge the continuing and unstinting support of Richard from Kings Langley Butchers and Bala from the sub-Post Office store for their long-standing, ready co-operation and patience in ensuring that, in addition to these grants, their arrangements worked smoothly. A very special welcome to Bhavik Shah who has just replaced Bala at the sub-Post Office now the latter has retired; we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership.

The trustees remain conscious that there are still pockets of unmet need in our community and that with more grants and donations we could do much more. As evidence of the existing demand, we have traditionally spent (slightly) more in each of the last 5 years than we have received.