



Hello Friends and Neighbours

Our target is to raise is £20,000 by mid-December!

The Furniture Shop, 79 Northumberland Avenue, RG2 7PT is now open! See the photo above. Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Please come along and visit us. We are open Monday to Friday 10.00h to 16.30h – and will be open on Saturdays from early 2019.

³⁵ “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25 verses 35-36 (NIVUK)

These verses summarise what we strive to do each day at CCAM to glorify God and serve Jesus who was the role model for all who want to assist their **Neighbour**. If we use these verses as a ‘checklist’ for serving our **Reading Neighbours** then we would have it covered! In each of the sites’ stories below you will read how we feed the hungry, quench people’s thirst both physically and spiritually, supply good quality clothes for the ‘naked’, care for the isolated and work with those who have been in prison ...read on...

Be amazed by what is going on and how Christ is dwelling with us in Reading.

News from our Community Shops:

The Support Centre, Oxford Rd: ‘A stranger and you invited me in’

They have assisted **918** complex cases (Jan to Aug 2018) where individuals and families have required help – from furnishing their new home to emergency food parcels. Two **Reading Neighbours** came to the Support Centre and were in desperate need of help. One elderly gentleman had been discharged from hospital following a long stay and was still undergoing treatment for a life-threatening illness. During his stay in hospital he lost his home but had been allocated ‘new’ accommodation. He was grateful for the housing but it was completely empty! There was **nothing** in it to make it a home. The staff organised, at very short notice, a bed, bedding, kitchen equipment and enough food for three days. A young woman came to us in similar dire circumstances –bewildered by the situation she found herself in which compounded her fragile mental well-being. The staff made sure she had sufficient furniture and practical support to get her home somewhere she could feel safe. Neither of these **Reading Neighbours** had any family support nor a network of friends. However, their **Reading Neighbours** gave them the practical love and support at a time when they felt they were ‘strangers’ in their own town.

YOU CAN DONATE TO US BY USING THE ENCLOSED FORM! Or by visiting our website: www.ccam.org.uk

'I was hungry...'

Caversham Baptist Church hosts our free hot meal service on Wednesdays:

700 free hot meals have been served to our clients (Jan to Aug 2018) and we have retained our *5 star rating* by the Environmental Health team! The drop-in Christmas party is on 19th December 2018. This may be the only Christmas celebration our guests will have; but we provide them with a three course home-cooked meal, crackers, a goody bag a present, carols and lots of great conversation and most importantly a practical demonstration of God's love. No one goes hungry at the Drop-in!

'I was in prison and you came and visited me...'

All of our shops serve their local communities by providing work experience for young people, individuals with learning disabilities who will never find paid employment; ex-offenders who need that second chance; all need to experience being valued and shown that they do matter and can contribute. They all have so much to offer as long as it is in a safe and supportive environment which we provide on a daily basis. This work is vital if we want thriving and sustainable communities.

'I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'; I needed clothes and you clothed me'; I was ill and you looked after me...'

Sonning Common:

This shop always has something special to offer – a designer bag or dress. Tea is served in our best china by the staff and volunteers who make time for everyone but especially those who live on their own or those who need a friendly listening 'ear'. This shop certainly knows how to celebrate - from birthdays to Royal Weddings – any excuse to get the bunting out! However, not everyone enjoys financial stability in this area and increasingly we are supplying emergency food parcels and crisis support.

Whitley

This shop is an oasis at a very busy road junction. The staff and the volunteers thrive on the way donations are sorted and in record time are on the shop floor ready to be snapped up by our eager customers. The shop needs more volunteers – can you spare some time for them? Or would you be willing to help re-decorate? This shop provides emergency food parcels and undertakes assessment of those who are in financial crisis and need furniture and practical support.

Wokingham Road:

The window displays are wonderful at this shop – often an eclectic mix from the donations received – a blend of all cultures – just like its location! The shop provides work-placement opportunities for a vast number of people – the young person who is attending college on a foundation learning programme; an individual going through rehabilitation for drug or alcohol addiction; an ex-offender who needs to gain up-to-date skills to re-join the workforce. This supportive pastoral work carried out by the team at this site is an investment in people and society benefits in so many ways – individuals gaining self-confidence, self-respect and people who want to make society better.

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Southcote:

This shop has a village feel but is in the middle of an urban estate. It provides much needed work-placements and a hub for those who find themselves marginalised by society. The staff and volunteers work closely together and want to make the shop a great place to shop. The window displays are always eye catching if not theatrical but best of all for a flavour of old fashioned community spirit then visit our Southcote site. The local community are prayed for on a daily basis.

Oxford Rd:

The kettle is never switched off – gallons of tea and coffee are served to customers! The team at this site have many customers who live on their own and their daily trip to the shop means they find a warm welcome, a chat and the chance to be involved in a community environment. The shop thrives on giving lots of pastoral care as well as providing great quality items – they are even selling small items of furniture!

We are finding it tough to meet all the needs out there in Reading but our staff and volunteers are amazing – giving their **all** to make sure that no-one is turned away as in the verses of scripture at the beginning of this newsletter.

The delay in opening our furniture shop has caused us a dip in finances but we know that God will provide as He is faithful.

*For the word of the Lord is right and true;
He is faithful in all He does.
Psalm 33:4 (NIVUK)*

The trustees, staff and volunteers are dedicated to CCAM and are working extremely hard to serve our *Reading Neighbours*. We cannot do it on our own – please join us. Many thanks from the Trustees, staff and volunteers!

Please support us with financial assistance - it would make all the difference!

One way could be to donate an item which we could sell on-line; our threshold for these types of items is £40. Call us to discuss on 0118 951 2338.

We need to raise **£20,000** between now and mid-December
Donating to us is **simple and easy** - you can donate in the following ways:

By **POST**, using the form on the last page of this newsletter;

By using your **MOBILE 'PHONE** and **texting CCAM00** followed by £5, £10, £20 to **70070**;

By going to our **WEBSITE**: www.ccam.org.uk and using the **Donate to CCA** button;

By visiting one of our community shops:

They are open Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 12.30 pm (Oxford Rd is open until 4 pm)

369 **Oxford Road**, Reading, RG30 1HA

0118 951 2337

526/528 Northumberland Ave, **Whitley**, RG2 8NY

0118 987 5427

38 Coronation Square, **Southcote**, RG30 3QN

0118 959 8656

93 **Wokingham Road**, Reading, RG6 1LH

0118 926 3107

62 Wood Lane, **Sonning Common**, RG4 9SL

0118 924 2851

Furniture Shop: 79 Northumberland Avenue, Whitley, RG2 7PT

0118 975 9

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News!

Autumn / Winter 2018

Our **Support Centres** are places where people can come, not only to have their physical needs met but also to receive warmth, shelter and love.

£10 will buy a single duvet and 2 pillows so we can subsidise a single bedding pack.

£20 will buy a double duvet and 2 pillows to subsidise a double bedding pack.

£45 pays for CCA to make a delivery of essential / emergency furniture items to a client.

£70 covers the cost of the furniture donation line for a month, so we can continue to provide furniture to those families and individuals in financial crisis.

£250 pays for our Support Centre to open for one day so that we can provide a warm, safe refuge for vulnerable individuals, families and children who are in some form of crisis.

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of charity **Christian Community Action Ministries**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details:

Title First name or initial(s)Surname.....

Full Home Address

.....Postcode

Email address

Signature Date / /

Notes

Please notify Christian Community Action:

1. If you change your name or address.
2. If you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains;
3. You want to cancel this declaration;
4. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

I do not pay income tax and therefore cannot complete this Declaration.

Return this form to: **CCAM, 79 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 7PT**

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