

Hello to all our *Reading Neighbours!*

Can you help us raise **£25, 000 by July?**

Of course you can!

**The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;
those who help others are helped.**

Proverbs 11 25 (The Message)

The generosity of our wonderful supporters is a true blessing to people in Reading. You are in our prayers. Thank you for your prayers, help and financial support. Our last appeal met our target of £20,000 – and it was such a blessing – **thank you** so much. Unfortunately our services are in demand even more; Universal Credit is having a devastating impact on many families and individuals.

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The organisation 'End Child Poverty' (www.endchildpoverty.org.uk) published figures (January 2018) for both the Reading East and Reading West Constituencies; a total of 10,319 children are living in poverty – which equates to 22% of children in these two areas. Research has shown that poverty has a detrimental impact on children's ability to thrive and their educational chances. Grants from local authorities have ceased due to austerity measures and more people are coming to us for help who even struggle to pay our low prices - £28 for a complete double bed including delivery! We cannot turn those in desperate circumstances away so we find a solution...but we can only do this with **your support**.



The Furniture Shop, 79 Northumberland Avenue, RG2 7PT is now open 6 days per week; Monday to Saturday 09.30h to 16.30h. Your prayers and support have been

wonderful. **Thank you.** Come in and see you for yourself; browse the fantastic stock we have for sale. We are restoring furniture that has been 'over-loved' and helping each item to find its inner beauty – similar to how we see our mission at CCAM for people! We are caring for God's creation in 2 ways – being good stewards of the world by preventing items going to landfill and providing a creative outlet for our team of volunteers.

A unique coffee table made from reclaimed timber and scrap metal.

Absolutely gorgeous!



Work placements, work experience, Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Question: How does somebody without a good experience of education, or it was disrupted, get work experience for a CV? **Answer:** At one of our shops! In 2018 we supported 26 people on work placements – many long-term unemployed who gained skills fit for work life in 21st century. Our work placements are learning many new skills – cash handling, team work, shop display, customer service and IT literacy. Give people the opportunity to develop and they will blossom like spring flowers and go on to bear much fruit for themselves, their families and their communities. Some work placement trainees will not be able to join the mainstream workforce but turn up regularly to our shops and assist with every task you can imagine.

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

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The Support Centre, Oxford Rd: Myra and her team welcomed **1,377** individuals and families with complex needs seeking help in 2018; from items of furniture to emergency food parcels; providing a child with a new bed to sleep in or the pensioner with a new fridge...One of our clients said, **'You came to my aid when I needed it most. You acted in the spirit of the Mission for which the charity was established which makes you worthy of the purpose of the charity. You and your colleagues brought back meaning to my life and I wholeheartedly thank you for that.'** Together as **Reading Neighbours** we can truly make a difference.

Caversham Baptist Church hosts our free hot meal service on Wednesdays: The team of volunteers (led by Myra) served **1,078**, 2 course meals in 2018 and a 3 course meal at the Christmas party. Everyone is welcome to eat together and share in the joy of fellowship. The team model Christ by showing abundant grace and love to many who are socially isolated, in financial crisis, or are seeking a safe place to go.

Whitley: It is like a beehive at this shop – Jo and her team never stop – sorting and displaying the donations that arrive on their doorstep. The volunteer base is very low and **they would love to welcome new volunteers** to their busy and happy shop. In 2018 they assisted **631** people in the shop, for example with emergency food parcels, prayers and furniture.

Sonning Common: If you are local to the shop or want to make a visit, Mark and his team would love to see you. Their window displays are so creative they always put a smile on my face! They provide a warm welcome to those in need of a cup of tea and a chat; the person with early onset dementia who can navigate their own way to the shop and their carers know that it is a safe haven for them. In 2018 they assisted **410** people in the shop – from emergency food parcels for families during the school holidays to prayers for hospital visits.

Wokingham Road: Sad news, our shop will be closing in a few months – we leave the property at the end of July 2019. It was a very difficult decision to make. Jayne and her team are very sad to be leaving such a great community and we thank every one of the customers and donors for the way they have supported the shop and our mission. In 2018 they assisted 471 people in the shop, for example, a safe space to sit and be listened to when undergoing a stressful moment in their life.

Southcote: This shop is so much part of the local community life – tea, coffee and great bargains are always available. Viv and her team create a wonderful inclusive environment for every single person who walks through the door. One customer commented that it was her escape for some time on her own as she has overwhelming caring responsibilities. In 2018 they assisted **400** people in the shop, for example, beds, food parcels and lots of prayers. Also watch out for breaking news on the refurbishment project this summer...

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On-line selling- we are trying to increase our on-line presence – **could you help?** Do you have an item stuck in a cupboard that hasn't seen the light of day since Noah was a lad? Your clutter could be turned into a treasure producing a vital income stream for CCAM. We are looking for items such as 35mm cameras, camera lenses, old Amstrad computers, motor bike leather, fishing rods, model railway engines and tracks. We posted some mahogany for sale on line – it was an old table top (we think) and it was snapped up – the buyer was ecstatic! So were we ...as we saw the money going into our account... contact Simone on 0118 951 2338 for that initial

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

Romans 12:11-13 (NIVUK)

Please keep praying for our Reading Neighbours who are in need as we pray for them and for all of supporters.

*From the Trustees, staff, volunteers and our clients who benefit from your blessing –
Thank you for your prayer support.*

PS. **Gifts and legacies in Wills** make a huge difference because they help to ensure that CCAM can continue to support our *Reading Neighbours*. Thank you!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIVUK)

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

We need to raise **£25,000** between now and mid-July.

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

By visiting one of our community shops;

Furniture Shop: 79 Northumberland Ave, Whitley RG2 7PT,
0118 975 9459 – **open Mon to Sat 09.30h to 16.30h.**

369 **Oxford Road**, Reading RG30 1HA, 0118 951 2339
Open Mon to Sat 10.00h to 16.00h.

526/528 Northumberland Ave, **Whitley** RG2 8NY,
0118 987 5427 **Open Mon to Fri 10.00h to 16.00h;**
Sat 10.00h to 12.30h.

38 Coronation Square, **Southcote** RG30 3QN,
0118 959 8656 **Open Mon to Fri 10.00h to 16.00h;**
Sat 10.00h to 12.30h.

93 **Wokingham Road**, Reading RG6 1LH,
0118 926 3107 **Open Mon to Fri 10.00h to 16.00h;**
Sat 10.00h to 12.30h.

62 Wood Lane, **Sonning Common** RG4 9SL,
0118 924 2851 **Open Mon to Fri 10.00h to 16.00h;**
Sat 10.00h to 12.30h.

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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 donation I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:
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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	Fist Name or initial(s)				Surname			
Full home address								
		Post Code		Email address				
Signature					Date	Day	Month	Year

Please notify Christian Community Action Ministries:

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
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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: CCAM, 79 NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, READING RG2 7PT

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