



SUMMER NEWSLETTER UPDATE



Dear All, Welcome to our Summer Newsletter and update from Oasis.

Within our Summer Newsletter you will find information on all the areas of our work in the communities in which we serve in Horsham and Crawley and surrounding villages.

An Update from the Centre Manager 😊

Lots has been happening behind the scenes since our last newsletter went out. Here are some of them.....

- ❖ *Our offices in Horsham have now closed, however, we continue to work remotely and continue to have a physical presence with our Store at the Charis Centre in Horsham.*
- ❖ *We have had a very successful "Pointless" Quiz evening in March this year which raised £536.10. As a charity we are completely reliant on the support of local churches & individuals to finance our work, so your gifts are much appreciated! We plan on holding a yearly spring time quiz, so do look out on FB and emails from us on more information for this for 2024. If you could help with fundraising ideas and holding small fundraising events, do please drop me a line, at info@theoasis.org.uk*
- ❖ *The Trustees and Management team have worked hard to produce a good business plan with ideas and growth we would like to see come to fruition over the next few years. We could not do this without all your continued donations and support which is so much appreciated.*



- ❖ *We have updated our Leaflets and these have been distributed with the help of our volunteers.*
- ❖ *We have been signposting who we are and what we do as much as possible through networking, FB posts, new advertising and talks in Churches. We want to reach as many as possible, those who are in need of our services. Do continue to tell others about us and what we do ♥*
- ❖ *The Trustees held a very delightful 'Afternoon Tea' at the Charis Centre in February that was open for all our Volunteers to attend. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the drinks and cake and meeting others within our volunteer teams.*
- ❖ *We have been advertising through Horsham Churches Together and FB posts on volunteer opportunities with Oasis. We would love more people to join our happy team. Do see the Volunteer Opportunities at the bottom of this Newsletter and get in touch if you feel that you or someone you know could be interested?*

Please see the more detailed updates on different areas of our work below

[Unplanned/Crisis Pregnancy/Post Abortion support – from the Support Practitioner Team](#)



Fiona and Dawn continue to provide support to clients in crisis unplanned pregnancy and post abortion via remote sessions and have undertaken 16 appointments via to help those seeking support since our last Newsletter.

They have recorded a new answer machine message to encourage those who ring us to leave a message to enable us to reach back to those in need. This is regularly monitored by those on the phone rota and Dawn/Fiona aim to call back those in need of support within 48 hours.

Note: We are not able to refer women directly for termination. We offer clients information on all the options and are well-resourced to provide both immediate and long-term support as necessary, directing to other agencies as appropriate.

Education Programme - from the Schools Team



We are a small team of enthusiastic Schools presenters and assistants, and we love going into schools to talk to teenagers. We tell them about the development of the foetus over the 40 weeks of pregnancy, sharing amazing facts which really surprise them (and sometimes the teachers!). For example, at 5 weeks the foetus has a beating heart and by week 9 brain waves are detected. We also talk about the abortion laws.

We show the class a film about a teenage couple facing an unplanned pregnancy. This film was made for us by students studying Media at Collyers Sixth Form College, and it has a really authentic feel. We then ask the class to think about the choices for someone facing an unintended pregnancy. This usually sparks heated discussions, as they aren't afraid to voice their opinions.

Our lessons are varied with different activities; we aim to engage the students and really make them think. Their comments and their reactions certainly tell us we have done that. Most schools follow on with further lessons which build on our presentation.

Since 2020 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) has been compulsory in schools, and the government produces specific guidance. Our sessions cover several points in the guidance, namely facts around pregnancy, choices in relation to pregnancy and the abortion laws.

In the current school year, since September 2022, we have visited 4 schools in the Horsham and Crawley area so far, talking to approximately 900 teenagers. We are in touch with other schools, and hope to visit more in the next school year.

We believe that God uses this work to help teenagers appreciate how precious life is, and the miracle of pregnancy and birth.

Baby Clothing and Equipment - From the Store Team at the Charis Centre in Crawley

Store location: The Charis Centre, West Green Drive, Crawley RH11 7EL

E-mail: Store@TheOasis.org.uk

Tel: - 07927 659529



The Store continues to provide baby clothing and equipment to clients who are unable to afford to buy these items for their babies. The number of clients coming week by week is variable; some weeks are very quiet but on other occasions we are very busy and clients have to wait outside the Store until we have space to accommodate them. Thankfully, since we moved to the Charis Centre two years ago, clients are able to wait in the corridor rather than outside in the cold!

Since late September 2022 we have welcomed 30 new clients, several of whom have come as a result of having seen our poster while attending ante-natal appointments at Crawley hospital. These are in addition to previous clients who return for clothing in larger sizes, often bringing clothes which their babies have outgrown so that these can be passed to others.

We continue to be very grateful for generous donors who provide good quality clothing and equipment which their families no longer need, so that others who are less fortunate can benefit. We have recently established a link with staff in the excess baggage department at Gatwick airport, who are happy to donate buggies which remain unclaimed after three months of being left behind by people returning from their travels. This is very welcome as buggies are very much in demand.

The Store is open on Thursday afternoons and is staffed on a rota basis by a dedicated team of volunteers, who feel privileged to serve the community in this way.



From the Treasurer

At the time of writing, our finance records for 2022-23 have gone to our accountants for independent examination, so we don't yet have a report to share, but we know we have finished the year with a deficit.

Though we are supported by several local churches and supporters, our income does not cover our outgoings each year, so we regularly need to fundraise and apply for grants. We would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who generously donated to Oasis throughout the year.

Our accounts will be available in due course.



The Oasis Trustees

The role of an Oasis Trustee is varied and there is no one size fits all. The core is voluntarily using skills gained by experience and training in professional, business or similar careers. The Trustee's work involves working with a team on the Trustee Board which meets three or four times a year. Trustees collectively are responsible for careful decision making to further the aims of the Charity and to ensure it adheres to the checks and balances of a public organisation. In the case of Oasis, we are a Christian Charity that serves the public. All Trustees and nearly all volunteers are committed Christians and our Faith underpins everything we do. The Trustees work with and receive reports from a small but vital Management Team chaired by our Centre Manager.

Currently there are five Trustees. We are keen to find suitable committed individuals to strengthen our Team and potentially to take Oasis forward into the next generation. Please do see the Oasis volunteer opportunities listed below and our contact details.



WITH



BECOME A SUPPORT PRACTITIONER? - Could this be you? Do you have a heart to support clients at times when they are often struggling and need unbiased, confidential support in a non-judgemental environment. Do you have some time to spare that is flexible? If you feel this is something you would like to explore and be part of our Support Practitioner team, offering remote or face to face support, then please contact Dawn for more information about our work in this area via our email address: - (info@theoasis.org.uk) or leave a message on our monitored voicemail phoneline (01403 272723). For more details on what we do, please do look at our website. www.theoasis.org.uk Full training will be provided.

BECOME AN OASIS TRUSTEE? - Do you have business skills and experience?

Oasis is overseen by Trustees who give of their expertise voluntarily to benefit the work of the Charity. The current small group of Trustees are keen to enlist the help of new Trustees? Does the description in our Newsletter sound like something you could offer Oasis? Do you have business skills and experience in either, Healthcare, Education, Finance or Administration? All would be a welcome additional benefit to our Charity, alongside hearing about your active membership of your local church. For further information please contact Dawn our Centre Manager by emailing - info@theoasis.org.uk. Please do look at our website for more information on what we do. www.theoasis.org.uk Any enquiry will be treated in strict confidence.

JOIN OUR SCHOOLS TEAM? – are you able to give some volunteer time to helping out our dedicated schools team? Are you able to assist the volunteer who leads the programmed lesson by handing out a questionnaire or leaflets to the class, or tapping the keyboard to ensure a smooth PowerPoint presentation is made? If this sounds like something you feel you could help Oasis with, do contact the schools team. They go into several Senior Schools at different times in the year to deliver a lesson to year 10 pupils. For further information please contact Dawn our Centre Manager by emailing - info@theoasis.org.uk Please do look at our website for more information on what we do. www.theoasis.org.uk

VOLUNTEER TO GO ON THE ROTA TO HELP WITH OUR BABY

PROVISION STORE IN CRAWLEY? – Do you live in the Crawley area? Do you have a spare couple of hours a month? Could you become a volunteer and join the other volunteers on our Store Team? We currently open in the Charis Centre, Crawley, on Thursday afternoons between 1 – 3pm. However, we are looking to open more often with the help of more volunteers to man the small store room and help sort and distribute baby clothing, items and equipment to those in need. Does this sound like you? If you feel this is something you could help Oasis with, please do contact Dawn our Centre Manager by emailing - info@theoasis.org.uk Please do look at our website for more information on what we do. www.theoasis.org.uk

BE A VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATOR? – Do you have a few spare hours each month to work remotely from home and have good organisational skills, are a good communicator? Oasis are currently looking for someone to help out ad-hoc with some simple administrative tasks to aid the Centre Manager. If this sounds like something you could help with, please email the Centre Manager for more information - info@theoasis.org.uk

POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS – Do you know your way around social media platforms? Could you give ad-hoc volunteer help to Oasis by posting each week some information on what we do? An event we are holding? Volunteer opportunities with Oasis etc? Does this sound like something you could help Oasis with? If it is, please email the Centre Manager on info@theoasis.org.uk

To find out more about Oasis and what we do, please do look at our website www.theoasis.org.uk

Do look out for our regular Facebook posts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/198068407274/>

If you wish to support Oasis, please make a donation here:

<https://gofund.me/ee230086>

