

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH WELTON BABY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

September 2023



Living as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8)

We can all be children of light and of the day. We do not belong to the darkness. Just look at these children confidently being themselves. They are getting ready for the shortest day of the year as well as celebrating the stars that shone in the sky for the timeless special birthday which happened so long ago in Bethlehem.

OUR CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE 2023 IS TO REACH FOR THE STARS

We have plans for our annual fund raising this year. This picture below will be on each of our Baby Project Newsletters from now until December. We have chosen a theme tune to inspire all involved in the challenge. We shall be learning the words to the song, "Reach For the Stars"! The lyrics and melody can be found on YouTube. We shall use phrases within the song month by month to focus our prayers, provide encouragement and hopefully experience the light of Love as we live and move and have our being adjusting to shorter days however they may arrive on our doorsteps. To get you started.

"When the world, leaves you feeling blue
 You can count on **us**; we will be there **for you**
 When it seems, all your hopes and dreams
 Are a million miles away, **we** will re-assure **you**
We've got to all stick together
 Good friends, there for each other
 Never ever forget that
We've got you and you've got us, so
Reach for the stars.

This month, to get ready, we invite you to dance into the light alongside us

as we begin to enjoy our challenge.

Firstly find a comfortable way of your own to move to the rhythm of the music and learn the words as a group, on your own or with your families.



...create a healthier happier time inviting as many as possible to join in This poster from UNICEF reminds us that every innocent child matters and is entitled to be healthy and happy wherever they may be.

Last year we raised over £500 and donations of £75 were made to each of these causes. Free food was provided for needy Mums attending Milk & You events at the Dave try Methodist Church. Great Ormond Street Hospital received a donation for the treatment of babies suffering from cancer and The United Nations Refugee Council for children around the world.

Your donations also helped us, to supply baby baths full of goodies and supply £50 one off grants to families in desperate need.

EXAMPLES OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF NEEDS EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR

expressed in this prayer request sent out to the prayer groups who support us. It reads "We are in the process of supporting a Mum with 3 children, including 2 five month old twins. She is here on a work visa and currently on maternity leave. Her rent has now been increased and is £27 pounds more than her total income. Very difficult decisions, about feeding her family, possible homelessness and care costs if she eventually returns to work are impacting her mental health.

We also helped two Dads. For one, we paid for his emergency dental health appointment and the other for a travel cot and mattress. You have all created light in darkness with your donations this year.

As we continue to receive these cries for help, it is always important to be alerted to real stories behind them. You have a wide diversity of skills to use more powerfully as a member of the Baby Project and in turn we link

with other groups like Milk&You and the Big Issue who have more firsthand experience of the reality of needs and the stories behind them.

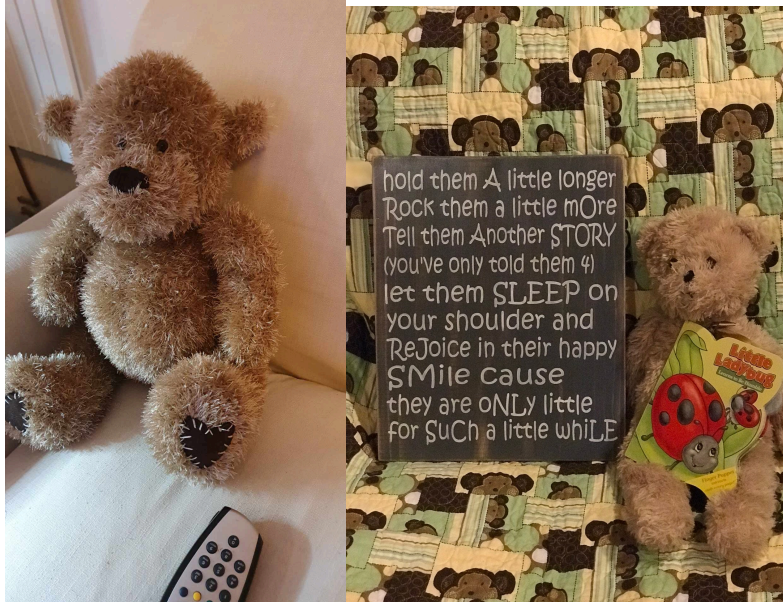
In this spirit of responding to need with simple acts of kindness, we have received messages of thanks. e.g.

"I think it fair to say that Mum M, struggling financially, was overwhelmed by her delivery of nappies which will last for ages". This was the reply of a dental receptionist when we sent an emergency payment. She simply said over the phone, "Bless you all"

...THE STORY OF A SPIRIT OF LIGHT IN DARKNESS THAT LASTED THROUGHOUT 2023

This bear on the left was made for one of you who had found a sewing kit in their father's belongings after he had died. It was to be her next Christmas present. Two cuddly toys were patiently waiting to come alive last Christmas! She contacted us and S volunteered to use her gift of sewing to make them both. In **August** we received this message of bittersweet happiness.

"Can you please forward a Huge, Huge Thank You to S. I received this second cuddly toy today & we have had huge cuddles & some tears. I absolutely adore him & can never thank You Baby Project and S enough for doing this for me xxxxxx "



...And so these real stories can encourage us to confidently prepare for our 10th anniversary Christmas Challenge.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO GET READY TO REACH FOR THE STARS CHALLENGE 2023 AND ENJOY OURSELVES



Have fun learning to sing and move to our Reach to the Stars theme music.

We currently have good stocks of clothes for babies up to 3 months but **need items for older babes up to toddler size.**

We rarely receive items for Mums, which can boost their spirits in hard, times e.g. toiletries that pamper, fingerless mittens, scarves and pretty bobble hats.

We have a storage problem at the moment and are looking for a couple of Mums or a group that might be able to help us. Contact Gilly if you have any suggestions.

And finally see if you can **create an Elves Workshop** of your own which will become a place to relax create and get ready for the shorter days ahead.

OUR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER will outline other ways of getting as many of our friends, families, neighbours, local schools and community groups involved.

With Best Wishes

Gilly, Jan Wall, Sarah Parry, Sue Jennens, Hazel Gault, Jan Krehel and Fran Deeley

COLLECTION POINTS by delivery to Gilly at home or to the Daventry

Methodist Church and direct to Milk&You.

THIS IS HOW TO CONTACT US A donation can still be made by cheque to Welton PCC Please **label it, for the Baby Project, on the back.**



Square feet NN11 8PQ drop off 9-6 on Wednesdays and Daventry
Methodist Church

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Road Daventry NN11 8AZ Sue **Jennens** suejennens21@gmail.com OR See

full details of the Project on our Church website

www.stmartinswelton.org.uk **UNSUBSCRIBE BY E- MAIL** to Gilly

email above **UNSUBSCRIBE BY POST** 27,Claydon Road, Daventry.NN11 8AZ