

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH WELTON BABY PROJECT NEWSLETTER JULY & AUGUST 2023



Being kind to families fighting hard battles during a summer break
Dear Friends,

The reality for needy families who have been referred to us this month for help, clearly reveals how deepening uncertainty, has impacted the welfare of their babies over these past 3 months.

Even though we are a relatively small project we can see these patterns clearly. For example, this past month alone, we have received 6 requests from Milk & You showing that the cost of disposable nappies and formula milk make a big proportionate dent in the disposable income of families. This means that parents have to make difficult decisions for the whole family and in some cases mental health situations such as anxiety and depression accompany these pressures.

We, in our turn then try to pause, listen carefully to these needs, as a team we pray, make decisions together after discussion and then with your support are able to put human love into action whatever the burden of stress we are all sharing these days. We hope our work as a community uplifts your spirits as much as it does ours.

Through your support this was our considered response this month Holly from Big Issue was able to collect 5 large bags of donations of beautifully laundered and sorted clothes for babies and their siblings from 6 months to 5 years old.

Through Milk and You we have been able to support a Family practitioner and supply furniture protectors that aid the safety in the home for toddlers and provide a travel cot for future parents who currently are sleeping on the sofas of friends.

We all know that following Covid financial; uncertainty and mental illness has increased across all areas of society and it touches our work too. For example Milk & You recently requested a grant for the emergency dental treatment of a parent of a three-week-old baby. They had been suffering from the pain of an abscess for over a week and couldn't find a NHS dentist. They had a history of struggling with anxiety and were estranged from their family. In cooperation with 2 other voluntary groups, an emergency appointment was made and our project paid £70 that morning for their treatment. This parent's birthday had been the week before; so we asked the receptionist to

do us a favour by delivering a message from us. We (the Baby Project) were sorry this birthday present was belated one but it was being gifted by a group of people who truly care whatever an individual's situation. God had called us to alleviate the pain and suffering of this new family. What a privilege. Please hold them in your thoughts.

We also received a request for a baby bath full of goodies and purchased another bath and 3 board books to replenish our stocks.

THANKFUL MUMS RESPONDED WHEN Bethany Milk&You texted, "I think it is fair to say that this Mum was overwhelmed with her delivery!" She said that these nappies would last for ages and be a massive help to relieve family finances.



The picture above is of Holly (Big Issue representative) with the twins and the travel cot for the sofa surfing couple yet to find a home. We have parental permission to publish this picture of the twins.

Ramona and her husband have sent messages of gratitude and love too. They had received your donations of clothes for the twins and older children in the family and some formula milk. Holly kindly collects and delivers these clothes and those left over are shared forward with other needy families.

A TRUE STORY – you have an opportunity to join in individually with good quality recycled items during our July August Summer Break The Methodist Church, Milk & You and The St. Martin's Baby project are working together to see if we can provide seeds of hope for a very needy family .We could make a difference to the lives of a Mum and her 5 girls? This family are now living in safety; we hope to provide them with a relaxing time and space in which to plan their lives again ready to find a home full of new beginnings.

The girls range in age from 15,13, 6, to 2 toddler twins. If you have any of the following **good second-hand quality** items can you box them up and clearly label **FOR A NEEDY FAMILY WITH LOVE FROM THE ST.MARTIN'S BABY PROJECT** and take them directly to the to Daventry Methodist Church post code NN11 4FH. Go to the Daventry Methodist website welcome page, It provides a weekly link to full detail of dates and times when the church is open.

ITEMS ARE:-

- Second hand curtains for small windows
- Food bowls cutlery etc.
- Blankets for beds and cot
- Art activity and craft supplies all the age ranges
- Clothes for a teenage girl
- Toiletries for Mum and children

OUR GRATITUDE TO INDIVIDUALS

A changing table and breast pumps for Mums and a baby bath requested for a baby boy to be born soon.

Both of these items have reached needy families this month because of you. We can only imagine how uplifted families struggling with a whole range of needs are, when they receive your gifts of love and support.

GREETINGS FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL as we take a break during August when there will be **no newsletter or collection of items.** **We will resume in September.** The team plan is to come back then refreshed and renewed with the intention of preparing during the autumn for a new Christmas challenge 2023. This is our main annual fundraiser.

Love From the Baby Project Team

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR we review and update our database which is always growing .If you know of anyone interested in receiving a copy of our monthly newsletters they can contact Gilly see below.

UNSUBSCRIBE BY E- MAIL to Gilly Beardmore OR **UNSUBSCRIBE BY POST** 27,Claydon Road, Daventry, NN11 8AZ **HOW TO DONATE** donation can still be made by cheque to Welton PCC Please **label it, for the Baby Project, on the back.** **CONTACT DETAILS** **Gilly Beardmore 07807 011205** beardmoregillian@gmail.com 27 Claydon Road Daventry NN11 8AZ Sue **Jennens** suejennens21@gmail.com OR See full details of the Project on our Church website stmartinswelton.org.uk