

Dear Supporter

This is our Winter update newsletter for 2021. We continue to be busy and we feel so blessed with the amount of donations we receive. It can be quite overwhelming to see the generosity of local people and it is such a joy to be able to pass this generosity on to local families. Here are some of the comments we have received recently:

“... the baby was born yesterday and this mum has nothing for her child. Thank you so much” (Social Worker)

“I truly cannot thank you enough for your generosity! This family will be so grateful for this incredible support” (NHS Midwife)

“I watched (the mother) open the basket. She was so happy when she had been so worried about everything before. Well done Baby Basics” (NHS Midwife)

Baby Basics UK now has a strong national profile with 54 centres, including seven in Northern Ireland. They have raised money for a very large warehouse in Sheffield where corporate and individual donations are sorted, stored and some are then distributed to the local Baby Basics centres. Baby Basics Sunbury was delighted to support their national initiative with Afghan Welcome to support 690 Afghan children 0-5yrs and their families who are being resettled around the UK with everything they need, including toys, clothing, cots, Moses baskets, bedding, nappies, toiletries, prams/pushchairs, slings and feeding sets. Baby Basics centres have together supported 32,928 children and families in 2021.

It is nearly a year since we delivered our 1000th basket and we have completed over 200 since then! As we look forward into 2022, we give thanks for the work we have been able to achieve and we pray for our work in the coming year. If you are interested in joining us or supporting us, please do get in touch. Please share this newsletter with your friends and family, and thank you for your continued support,

Mary Somerville

<https://e-voice.org.uk/sunbury-methodist-church/baby-basics/>

Goodbye to Diane

We are sad to say Goodbye to Diane who has volunteered with us since 2017. Diane has been a great ambassador for Baby Basics, helping in the storeroom, delivering items to Health professionals and purchasing items for our baskets. She has also helped on the Administration and referrals coordination. Diane has been a wonderful member of the Baby Basics team and we will miss her. Thank you Diane!

"My time volunteering with BB has taught me many new things but, above all, to be thankful. I have worked alongside a fantastic team of volunteers with unbelievable energy levels & met so many wonderful, dedicated health professionals. It's been a real privilege & an experience that will stay with me."



Goodbye to Philippa

We are also sad to announce that our Chair, Philippa Newis, is stepping down from her role. Philippa stepped in "for a couple of months" when our Minister, Rev Vicci Davidson went on a Sabbatical Leave in January 2019, and she has remained in this role since then!! Philippa has been an immense support to the team, has successfully applied for funding for us and also raised funds directly (pictured below as a Hobbit from the Lord of the Rings, raising £800 for BB Sunbury!) Her work has been greatly appreciated and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

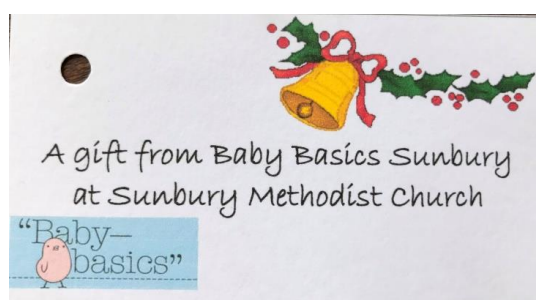
"The team have done amazing job this year. COVID continues to add complexity to the preparation and delivery of Moses baskets. Despite this, Mary and the Baby Basics volunteers have gone the extra mile to provide supplies for Afghan refugees and families who find themselves struggling financially as a result of COVID. I'm stepping down as Chair early next year. I'm glad I have been able to support the team over the 18 months. 2022 will no doubt bring challenges. The need for flexibility and creativity will continue. The team in it's current form is in a strong position for the year ahead.



Christmas

We have been delighted to support the Christmas Day event “Never Alone at Christmas” at The Inspired Hub in Hampton. This is the fourth year we have done this, and the gifts are really valued by those attending. Volunteers collected and packaged up 100 bags of toiletries for those attending. We were delighted to welcome an extra volunteer for the day, Jess Healy from BDB Pitmans. Afterwards, Jess said “I had a great day and I’m glad I could be of help”

<https://theinspiredhub.co.uk/>



That's a Wrap!

Just before Christmas we were given gifts and toys from East Molesey Methodist Church's Gift Service and That's a Wrap, a charity based in West London <https://thatsawrap.org.uk/> Thank you so much!

Common Good

Did you know you can donate items to us online? Following an increase in those wanting to donate to us we now have a Common Good page listing a range of products we're short of.

www.forcommongood.co.uk/pages/baby-basics-sunbury

Liz – volunteer profile

I have been a volunteer with Baby Basics Sunbury from the very beginning in 2014 when we delivered one basket every one to two weeks! I remember when we celebrated our first anniversary with an event for supporters and referrers and wondered if anyone would come. It was a resounding success with much cake consumed and a privilege to show everyone our little storeroom from which so much love pours out. It is a pleasure to meet folk who bring donations of their cherished baby items to pass on to other families and to hear from referrers how these are joyfully received.



In 2015 another charitable outreach grew out of the need identified at Baby Basics for help for families with older children. The Extra Mile was formed, based at Hampton Methodist Church and now both BB and TEM work together passing on information and often transporting donations between the two sites. Find out more at www.hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk



Thank you to all of our volunteers who do a brilliant job responding to queries, arranging referrals, sorting donations, packing baskets, delivering baskets and supporting fundraising activity.

How to Get in Touch

Find out more about us on our website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/sunbury-methodist-church/baby-basics/>

Arrange to make a donation by emailing: donations.babybasicssunbury@gmail.com

Referrals are received through health and social work teams, to make a referral or if you have a press or general enquiry please email: babybasicssunbury@gmail.com

You can also follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BabyBasicsSunburyOnThames>