



SUMMER NEWSLETTER UPDATE



2025



Dear All, Welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

We hope you have been enjoying the recent good weather and this lovely, blessed and fruitful season that God provides. We want to take this opportunity to share with you what we have been up to within Oasis and our local communities.

Since our last newsletter......

With the aid of the Co-op grant funding we have received, we have been able to hold both the events below to signpost our free services and to hopefully attract more volunteers for the schools and store teams.

- Open afternoon- tea and cake at The Charis Centre in Crawley
- Open afternoon tea and cake at the Drill Hall in Horsham Q

The afternoons were appreciated, and a lot of questions were asked.



Unfortunately, we had to re-schedule our original planned Quiz night back in March due to low numbers of tickets sold. We gave some thought to this and decided that the Autumn would most probably be a better time to consider hosting it, with most holidays finished. Saturday, 11th October is the new date, and we do hope that many of

you will look at putting this event/date in your diaries. We will need to sell tickets in advance to gauge numbers attending and take payments for the tickets, to enable us to send them out via email. We will make a note of all those that have bought them so that there will be no issues at the door. To purchase a ticket, please email info@theoasis.org.uk Thank you!

Do please look out for more information on this on our social media pages, (Facebook, Instagram) and on our website.

As a charity we rely on the generous support of local Churches and individuals to enable us to continue to provide our services in our communities. We are asking people to perhaps think up new ways they can fundraise for Oasis, such as a coffee and cake morning, or a sponsored event etc. We are always looking for further help in raising finances and are very keen to hear from you!

Please do contact me on <u>info@theoasis.org.uk</u> if you have some ideas or want to run an event.



HCT (Horsham Churches Together) post various notices for Oasis in their regular newsletter on events we are holding or volunteering opportunities within Oasis and this is circulated to many Churches within the Horsham area. Do also take a look at our website for the latest details on our services and events. www.theoasis.org.uk

Please see more detailed updates on the different services we provide below

Dawn Spouge - Centre Manager



... Unplanned/Crisis Pregnancy at Oasis

We currently offer remote Practitioner support for Crisis Pregnancy/Unplanned Pregnancy situations and we have a fantastic, experienced Support Practitioner who is contracted to do this work for Oasis. Our website fliers/leaflets reflect our current services. Do spread the news to those who you think could benefit from our FREE services.





...Education Programme



This has been a busy and exciting school year for the schools team. We have visited five schools in Horsham and Crawley giving our presentation to almost 2000 students in total. In Horsham we visited Year 10 at Bohunt and Tanbridge House, and at Forest Community School we covered both Years 9 and 10. In Crawley we were welcomed at Hazelwick, where we visited Year 9, and at Thomas Bennett where we gave our presentations to the whole of Years 10 and 11. All these schools have given us good feedback, and we hope to visit them all again in the coming school year. There are several other secondary schools in Horsham and Crawley we used to visit before the pandemic, and we would love to go back to them.

We are a small team of just six 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 often 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.

If you would like to join our team we would love to have you! You don't have to be a presenter; most people join the team as an assistant, handing out sheets and running the Powerpoint. If you are interested in finding out more, do contact us and we can arrange for you to observe a lesson and see what's involved.

Lynn Woroniecki - School Team Lead





...Baby Clothing and Equipment

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



E-mail: Store@TheOasis.org.uk

Tel: - 07927 659529

The Baby Clothing and Equipment Store continues to open weekly on Thursday afternoons and once a month on Monday mornings, to provide baby equipment and clothing (up to age 2) for people who are unable to afford to buy these items.

The Monday sessions cater for The Happy Baby Group for refugee families which meets at the Charis Centre. These sessions are invariably very busy and are very much appreciated by the clients.

We have recently advertised in two local free magazines and distributed updated posters to various locations around the town. We are praying that these initiatives will bring more of the people who really need our services to our regular Thursday afternoon sessions, which have been rather quiet of late.

We are completely dependent on the many generous people who donate clothing and equipment which they no longer need for their own families, so that others can benefit. Our premises are small and space is at a premium, but over the years we have had many instances of items being donated at exactly the time they are needed.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who work on a rota basis, without whom our work would not be possible. Sadly, we have recently lost two members of the team, one as a result of ill health and one due to a change in family circumstances. We are very grateful to a long-standing volunteer in other areas of Oasis's ministry who has offered to help fill the gap for the remainder of this calendar year. If you are interested in joining our team, we would love to hear from you!

Elizabeth Watkins - Store Team Lead



From the Treasurer

Oasis' year end is 31.3.25 and we have now completed our finance records ready for our annual Independent Examination. It looks like we will finish the financial year with a surplus of £2130 and a good balance in the bank. This year we have received a couple of generous one-off gifts which have boosted our finances. In addition, we have been

accepted on the Co-op Community scheme for 2025 and have already received a £500 grant towards growing our schools and store teams.

A BIG thank you to all the local churches & supporters who regularly give financially to Oasis; we couldn't manage without your generosity.

If you would like to donate to our work, please email me at info@theoasis.org.uk for more information or check out our GoFundMe link on our website! If you would like to see the completed accounts in due course, please get in touch.

Sue Gatland - Treasurer



From the Trustees

Little has changed from a trustee perspective in the last six months, other than a significantly improved financial position. A positive cash flow at the end of the financial year [March], reversed the position from the previous year-end. This has strengthened our resources and enabled us to consider expansion of our operations. Working with the Centre manager and Management Team we are assessing the feasibility of expanding geographically and re-establishing a base in the centre of Horsham. If this comes to fruition it will be very exciting.

As trustees we are collectively responsible for overseeing the aims of the charity and to ensure it meets its legal obligations; we meet three or four times a year working closely with the centre manager and management team. We continue as a board to be thin on the ground and would love to have one or two additional trustees.

If you are interested and have skills that you think might be of use, please get in touch.

Sue, Phil, Tim and Malcolm....





Prayer at the Oasis

Prayer and God's guidance are fundamental and essential to all that we do here at Oasis and underline all the services we deliver.

You are all invited to come to our monthly remote prayer meeting on Teams, anyone can access it and the prayer meetings take place for an hour on the 2nd Monday of each month. Please do email us at info@theoasis.org.uk to enable us to send you a link to the meeting for that month. These are usually sent out a week to a few days before the meeting. We would love to see you there if you would like to attend.

The Oasis Team would like to say a huge thank you to all those who volunteer for Oasis or support us in other ways. You are all very much part of what we do and we feel so blessed.



In case you have any thoughts or questions on volunteering for Oasis after reading this newsletter, here is a reminder of some of the great positives that come from volunteering.....



If any of the above volunteer posts interest you, please do not hesitate to contact us, all our details are on our website, below or look for our posts on our Facebook page and Instagram.

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HORSHAM

RH129YF

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info@theoasis.org.uk

http://www.theoasis.org.uk

Charity number 1193428

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

https://gofund.me/ee230086

