



PRAYER LETTER 2010

A word from Becky Foreman

After three years, this is my last prayer letter as Chair of the Management Committee. It has been a busy and challenging time for the OK Club and it has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated staff and volunteers. I am particularly grateful for the support and wise counsel of the other members of the Management Committee. It has as always, been very exciting to see God at work in the lives of all involved with the Club. Much of the past year has been taken up with an extensive review of all the Club's policies and procedures. Although not always the most exciting task, I believe that this will provide the Management Committee and Keith with a solid foundation to serve the young people of South Kilburn in the coming years. It is a pleasure to welcome Roger Foster-Smith to the Management Committee - I am confident that he will be an excellent Chair and a huge asset to the Club. I plan to remain on the Management Committee and I look forward to working with Roger as he takes the Club into this new phase."

Becky Foreman
Chair

A word from Keith Lunn

This year has been overshadowed by the tragic death at his home of an 11 year old boy who was a Club regular - indeed it does not seem inappropriate to describe him as the Club mascot. He was so full of life, so much into our football, and drama, and cookery, and bible study, that it still does not, 11 months on, seem possible that he will no longer bounce through our doors, smiling at everyone. He was well known in the local community. Several Club workers engaged with him often, presenting their anecdotes at his funeral. His family, including his mum, brother, aunt and 3 cousins, have all had a long association with Club, and together with his beloved nan and a family extending well beyond Kilburn, we are all still reeling from this loss in our different ways, trying to understand, trying to support each other. We give thanks for his life, and can be confident that he now shares in Christ's victory over death.

Our Art Exhibition this year took place at St Mary's Church in Ealing. One young person spent much of the previous Sunday recruiting members of its congregation, and created canvases with Christian messages, such as 'Christ is with you', and the Greek word 'kenosis' in 3-D lettering, denoting the way in which our Heavenly Father 'emptied himself' into full humanity, and sacrificed himself for us.

Eleven young people were sponsored by individual donors to attend Soul Survivor this year. Each of them wrote back to their sponsors movingly relating what the event had meant to them. Nearly all went up to the front during worship sessions and received pamphlets as newly engaged Christians.

Two of those helping out at Soul Survivor were this year's and a previous year's representatives from the Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union, the body to which the OK Club owes its original founding - and Chris, the rep this year has been first rate in the hours he personally contributes to Club, the work he puts in including fundraising through a Junior Common Room motion at his college, and the way he has secured involvement from senior OICCU figures, including President and Secretary! As a result a whole group is planning to get involved over Christmas, some funding our resource material.

A previous OICCU representative is spending this year as a resident of Christian Holt House before getting married, and another has now joined the Management Committee. Another Oxford student has now returned several times, though this is at least partly due to an interest in another resident!

In general we have had exceptional staffing this year and Christian Holt House is almost overflowing! This includes no less than six Germans, plus three Africans and someone from New Zealand, who has just taken up the role of resident representative on the CHH Committee, which has taken on a new lease of life recently to support the distinctive CHH mission as a Christian community. Stuart and Harry have returned for a fifth and third year respectively. In Club we have gained hugely from the greater involvement of Rosie, who readily engages young people in intensive Christian reflection. Our new Administrator Flo contributes not only her new qualification in community fundraising, but also keeps us up to date with exciting Hillsong events, to which young people can readily be invited.

It is particularly pleasing to be able to announce that a bid for £1500 to the Youth Evangelism Fund made by some young people has been successful, which is leading to new arts and music projects that will help to spread the gospel. Our resident German band is creating a Christmas CD, we have a carol concert planned, and we are devising posters with Christian messages, which can be used as discussion starters. For example, one poster focuses on the way in which the Truth sets us Free, and another tries to 'unpack' Jesus' saying that it is not the healthy but the sick who need a physician. Similarly we have some original Christmas cards that can be ordered with or without bible passages.

I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing Chair, Becky Foreman, who has succeeded in steering with a steady hand a sometimes difficult course, and provided further solid foundations on which to build for the future. We have benefited greatly from her wisdom and conscientiousness. It is very pleasing that Roger Foster-



Smith now joins us as our new Chair, after being closely involved with a number of Club initiatives over the past couple of years, including two art exhibitions and frequent visits during Club evening sessions.

This year we have necessarily cut back on expenditure as income has reduced. In some ways this can help us to focus on our primary goals – helping young people to ‘grow in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men’ (Luke 2.52), and so helping both children and their families to ‘live life to the full’. We have become quite adaptable, but the next year promises to be exceptionally harsh and challenging from a financial point of view (among others!). Your support is very much appreciated.

Keith Lunn
Director

A word from Stuart McTurk

Thanks to our supporters' giving hearts we were able to put together an unforgettable summer week at *Soul Survivor*, packed with seminars, small group work, worshipping, rain and fun. We took the time to take all meals together, thanks to Len's catering expertise. We were particularly moved when attitudes started to change; for example when young people stayed longer at some seminars, or instead couldn't stay until the end because of emotions swirling, when they decided it was ok to receive and give out 'free hugs', when they started calling out to others 'Jesus loves you' and simply when they visibly built closer and stronger relationships.

Our aim is to catalyse this group to encourage themselves and others exploring the Christian Faith to renew their thinking and lifestyles.' We have been meeting approximately fortnightly in order to keep building on the momentum. For example we attended a recent 'Jesus Rock Opera' put on by a church in central London. In 2011, we will keep on seeking more opportunities in to build on this foundation, and will welcome further prayer support!

Stuart McTurk
Resident Artist and Project Worker



A word from Florence Branchu

Throughout the year we try to thank you all individually for your monthly & yearly prayer but also financial support, but just in case we missed you:

Thank you! We could not do what we do without you.

For 2011, below are some simple ways to help Club do what we do best:

1- Prayer Support

Monday:

For our work with parents, which we pray will help them to be the best parents they can be.

Tuesday: For partnership work with churches, resources to engage more children and young people in Christian faith.

Wednesday: For our work with local police to help them improve their relationships with young people.

Thursday: For capacity building, to engage with an increasing number of children through activities and clubs thanks to additional professional staffing.

Friday: For sufficient funding and resources to help extend our support towards smaller children, and youth organisations in the local area.

Saturday: For further development of our Youth Christian ministry.

Sunday: For the personal, social and spiritual development of all children and young people we meet.

2- Financial support

To carry out a packed timetable of activities in addition to general support, we invest on average resources of up to £15 a month towards each child or young person.

3- Visit

Our Prayer Breakfast usually takes place in May. We will confirm as we get closer, but in the meantime please book XX of May free in your calendar!

4- Beyond and Special Thank You

The OK Club is working in the 'here and now'.... but we want the results to last a lifetime. Every penny given to Club helps us make a difference. That is why, when one of our close supporter passed away in early 2010 it was a tremendous privilege to be remembered by her loved ones. Their gift is making a lasting difference in ensuring that Club keeps on caring for the personal, social and spiritual development of our children and young people.