

Mustard Seed AGM, 14 November 2025

Managers' Report – Katie Foot and Karen Vogt

Once again, the shop was open all year, from 9am to 1pm Mondays to Saturdays, and in December we were also able to remain open until 4pm Tuesdays to Saturdays, thanks to our wonderful team of assistants. Denise has had to step back from her second Saturday (but does all Fridays instead) but Katie has been able to take that on. Jim remains as our stand-by which is most helpful.

Sarah Shewring, at Cornerstone Christian Centre in Grove, has been incredibly helpful during the year, ordering books, providing cards, calendars, diaries and other items for us, and Katie, Sue and Karen have been able to go over when the card reps come every few months to help order new stock. Unfortunately, as Cornerstone are registered for VAT, it is no longer practicable for them to order fairtrade goods through us, as the mark-up has to be too high.

Keeping the shop supplied with fairtrade foods continues to be a challenge, but crafts and gifts are easier to source. Toilet rolls can be ordered in boxes of 45 and now also in bags of 4.

A stall was held in the Corn Exchange on Faringdon's Big Green Day in June and at the Farmers Market during Fairtrade Fortnight in October. Blessed Hugh church also has a sale after Mass on the first Sunday of each month, although St Denys, Stanford in the Vale have not been able to have any this year as no volunteers have come forward. The Big Bali Bonanza in the Corn Exchange last November was not quite the success of the 2023 one, owing to a smaller selection of items, but we still made a good profit.

As agreed by the Management Committee, grants were given from the charity account to Faringdon Day Centre (which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year) and the MavkaFest Ukrainian cultural weekend in May, so well organised again by Anastasia Nemchuk.

We are also very appreciative of our window dressers for their attractive displays throughout the year and were pleased to have Anna Greenwood join the team recently. Lois Chell is to be highly praised and thanked for her hard work keeping the books in order and arranging for the accounts to be audited by Alder Demain Akers free of charge. Thank you to all our volunteers!

We remain very grateful for the support from members of all the churches and community in Faringdon and the Vale, both as volunteers and customers – long may that continue!

KMF/27.10.2025