

Christian Aid @ St Andrew's & St George's Review

The Review Group would like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to complete the questionnaire sent out earlier this year. We are very grateful for the many considered responses (approx. 30% responded). The group collated, analysed, and discussed all the responses (approx. 240) and please be assured that in addition to being crucial to this Review they will remain a very useful resource for some time to come.

The 19 page Report, with some minor amendments, was approved by the Kirk Session at its meeting on 2nd November. The agreed Recommendations are set out below.

Recommendations

The Review Group makes the following recommendations:

- 1 Morag Mylne, as a UK board member of Christian Aid, be invited to join the Steering Group [we are very pleased that Morag has accepted this invitation].
- 2 As part of the annual review process the Sale Convener (or representative) be invited to report to Session following the Sale and its annual review – e.g. at the first Session meeting after 31st August.
- 3 Minutes of the annual Review Meeting be circulated to Session prior to the Convener's attendance at the above meeting.
- 4 The Steering Group explore ways of co-operating more closely with Christian Aid (Scotland & UK) especially with regard to publicity of Christian Aid by focussing on the particular campaign(s) chosen for each year. [Discussions have already begun with Christian Aid, Scotland]
- 5 Kirk Session endorse the continuation of the Sale, in the usual venue, in April / May 2010 ('Push 'n Shove' Sunday: 25th April, Sale: 8th May – 14th May).
- 6 The recruitment of new volunteers should be encouraged.
- 7 Specific suggestions arising from this Report, on the day-to-day organization of the Sale, are passed to the Steering Group for consideration and action where appropriate.
- 8 All involved in the Christian Aid Sale work in a spirit of Christian love to support the Sale and that any substantive recommendations for the running of the sale are made and received in the same spirit.

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We were encouraged by the very high level of support for the Sale amongst the responses and also by the recognition of its great value on a number of counts not least the invaluable fund-raising effort on behalf of Christian Aid and their work for the benefit of the world's poor. As noted overleaf, the many comments and suggestions we received provided some very useful ideas. These will be examined in detail during the coming months and be fed into the normal planning and review process.

In order to give a flavour of the content of the final Report we reproduce below the section headings with some brief comments.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Review Process – how we approached the task
- 3 Summary of Responses – a condensed presentation of the responses
- 4 Summary of SWOT analysis – an analysis of all the responses in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- 5 Comments – an overview of the results and summary of the main strategic issues
- 6 Recommendations – as given overleaf
- 7 Key Questions – key factual questions which help to deepen understanding of how the Sale works at present
- 8 Current Structure – membership of the Steering Group and their roles and how the Sale relates to Wider Horizons, Session & other relevant bodies
- 9 Financial Summary – proceeds (1974 – 2009), Income and Expenses (2000 – 2009)
- 10 Letter from Christian Aid Scotland
- 11 Review Group
- 12 Conclusion

The full Report of the Review is available on the Church website (<http://www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk/>) or from Arthur Chapman (arthur@newcurioshop.com) in electronic or paper form.

Implementation of the Recommendations

It is important to note that the recommendations overleaf are not simply statements of intent but policies to be implemented. The substantive recommendations will be addressed and implemented by the relevant parties over the coming months to ensure that we move forward creatively and constructively.

Arthur Chapman, on behalf of the Review Group, 4th November 2009