



GOOD NEWS

With your continued support and prayers, we are still here!

Membership increased from 120 to 170, and more in the pipeline. Target 200+

In faith, we did not exercise our lease break clause, so God willing we are here for at least another 5 years.

Despite no Christmas shop available last year,
Christmas and Easter were both successful!

Many stories bear testimony to what we have done for people, simply by being here for them and listening and sharing with them. The witness of our presence is undoubted.

STAFF

We have a great team of volunteers and a regular café staff, ably led by Teresa and Denise, who remain as committed as ever; even under a significant amount of pressure at times.

Have coped with the loss of key café staff such as Andy Layzell and Karen Port after several years' faithful service.

Prayer team continues to meet regularly at 2.00pm every alternate Monday. New members always welcome.

PREMISES

New ceiling and lighting installed: more economical and environmentally friendly; estimated to save approximately £100 per month. Kind gift from a local church and a member.

Raspberry Pi (continuous "revolving" screen) installed on the servery provides details of shop events as well as promoting local events.

SALES

Growing number of orders from churches and schools.

Bibles are still our best-selling book!

We run a very popular line in second-hand books.

Telephone and email orders are growing. Try us on admin@thetriangle.com

We continue to match internet prices where we can, especially for bulk buys!

Nepalese market growing slowly, we can supply much more!

Very careful, control maintained on costs and purchases

Support and supply five local Church bookstalls, taking the Word to a wider audience

If you are able to, please consider supporting us via www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Visits carried out to 30 church leaders; many more to see.
This has increased awareness of who we are and what we do!

CAFÉ

The Fairtrade product range has been significantly widened and a successful Autumn evening sale in 2014 raised a record £2,075!

Providing outside catering lunches for a major customer on a regular basis, and more hoped for in the future.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Cinema impact to be assessed
we are planning to stay open until
8.00pm on Wednesday/Friday/
Saturday - to be kept under review

Volunteer needed to set up and administer our On-line Shop.

Volunteers needed to work evenings in the shop/café, full training provided.

We need your prayers and support please.

**Please become a member if you have not already done so, it is such a good deal!
Minimum donation £20 per year and you are eligible for 10% discount off nearly everything from a doughnut to our most expensive Bible; including Fairtrade.
It's a "no-brainer"!**

NOT JUST A BOOKSHOP; NOT JUST A CAFÉ
Bringing Jesus into the heart of the Community

The **TRIANGLE**. 64 Kingsmead, Farnborough GU14 7SL

01252 519172. admin@thetriangle.org.uk www.thetriangle.org.uk



THE TRIANGLE NEWSLETTER



Not Just a Café; Not Just a Bookshop

An Update And An Appeal

When customers ask ; “how is it going”, the reply might be ‘well, we are still here!’ which although not very positive, in High Street terms, especially Kingsmead, that’s pretty good – commercially. And for as long as we can remain we will be a witness and Christian presence in Farnborough as well as a support to churches, schools and the Christian community.

Of course, it’s thanks to Him – through your support and generosity; the churches’ custom, and prayer. We have our ups and downs and there have been some very tough times, but the Lord continues to provide and bless our ministry.

Christmas sales were slightly up on 2011, helped on with the Christmas shop run by John Edwards. Easter was down a little on last year and we suffered from the poor weather during February and March like most other retailers.

We are providing more church supplies, as a greater number of Churches realise that we can supply much of what they need, from Alpha material to Lecterns! - and we are local – and often cheaper! Fairtrade sales are increasing, especially some of the super range of craft produce, which we can now display on our newly extended shelving.

Although we do not have our on-line shop up and running, we are doing more sales over email, including orders from Bolton, Dublin, and Bristol, many resulting from our website at www.thetriangle.org.uk. This is a tribute to Derek Lee who is so good at getting our name well up that Google list!

BUT --- It’s not just about sales! We have a vision and a ministry to fulfil:

For those who have left the church, or who have never been but would like to – there are many stories of people who have been led back through The Triangle. Either they have felt led to come in, or a church member has asked them in for refreshment. Here are just a few examples:

- ◆ a customer who distributes cheap bibles from us to people in Hyde Park;
- ◆ another lady who does the same on the streets of Bracknell, Camberley and Farnborough;
- ◆ another customer, Wendy, says: “It has been a long, hard road and I am still walking it, but I thank God for the part that The Triangle had to play, a signpost guiding me to Elaine and God’s path of healing for me”;
- ◆ a member of Rushmoor council, not a customer, came in to ask us to pray for a difficult meeting.

You all know the threats that exist daily to Christian life and we will remain in the ‘High Street’ for as long as we can. However this next year will be critical for us. The café is essential, but with a Starbucks soon to arrive in the Meads, together with the cinema bringing at least four restaurants with it, we will need to stay very smart, as well as growing sales of our other products. Of course, footfall should increase considerably, and we should benefit from that commercially as well as being able to reach out to new social groups. These are challenges which we must accept, and turn to our advantage.

Closing the gap - 2013 Appeal

We have been working hard at ‘closing the gap’ between our outgoings and income, and although we are seeing some progress more help is needed if we are to continue with our ministry in the heart of Farnborough. The difficult trading conditions which have continued to run for the last few years have completely depleted our reserves and the use of our overdraft has now become the norm. This situation is very difficult and cannot continue for long and so we are calling on our supporters for extra help.

Also we will soon be having to renegotiate our lease with the Kingsmead landlords – which will require a further commitment of 5 years. Although we are hopeful of reduced rents after this for us to be able to comit to a further 5 years in the same location our financial situation needs to significantly improve and we need to raise further ongoing income.

Our target is to raise an additional £10,000 p.a. of income through regular donations (that is £20 per month by 35 people – surely that is possible?!).

Although one off donations are very welcome - we are asking for regular donations (ideally monthly donations) so that we can meet our ongoing expenses.

If we are able to reach this target then our ministry will continue. Please pray and respond generously if you can.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

Some news....

The 'Cloud' has arrived – many of you will understand, but for those who don't this gives free Internet access in the Café and bookshop – invaluable for many these days.

External Catering – we provide this for local offices – ask us for a quote. We are excellent, competitive, and the quality is guaranteed!

Special Hour – every day 3.30-5pm **half price** tea or coffee when you buy a slice of our delicious cake!

Traidcraft Growing - This continues to grow now, under Denise and Teresa in the newly extended craft area. Catalogues available!

'Top Ten' Selling books (excluding Bibles & specials) - Jan to April

- Walking With God / Eldredge
- Jesus the Wounded Healer/ Lifebuilder Study
- Angels/Lifebuilder Study
- Lion Read & Know Bible
- Joseph/Lifebuilder Study
- Acts Revised/Lifebuilder Study
- Goodnight Book/Richard Bewes
- Prayer/Lifebuilder Study
- Freedom of Self-forgetfulness/Keller
- I Was Just Wandering/Lucas

Staff Updates:

We welcome some new team members - Karen in the cafe and Catherine in the office.

Churches from whom our staff come!

St Peter's Farnborough; St Peter's Yateley; Our Lady and St Dominic's; St Christopher's; St John's, Cove; Cove Baptists; Farnborough Baptists; Frimley Baptists; Yateley Baptists; Southwood church; North Camp Methodists; Church of the Good Shepherd; Holy Trinity, Aldershot;

Website and Facebook

Check out our website regularly for latest news www.thetriangle.org.uk and join us on Facebook. If you are not a Facebook fan, then join us now!

The On-Line Bookshop!! ...is still on it's way! and should eventually include E-books too! In the meantime, you can always email your orders to us.

Second-hand books – we are beginning to extend our range of these, now – ably listed and organised by John Edwards. Try us and see what stock we have!

Church Representatives – would you like to be one and help the Triangle and your own church with its ministry? Please contact Paul Taylor if you are interested.

Nepalese link – This important new link is still progressing. Please contact us if interested!

Events and activities:

We held many stalls and events in the period before Christmas, including a very successful Fairtrade evening event in the Triangle. In February Fairtrade fortnight was again very successful, with over 10 'Change your Snack' boxes at schools. There are several items lined up for the spring, including, of course, the Creating Sparks Sunday School event!

The Triangle needs you! – ways you can help...

- * Run a regular bookstall at church or school.
- * Promote Fairtrade products at home or work.
- * Catalogues are available.
- * Become a church representative.
- * Prayer support.

Regular Prayer:

Led by Ann Robinson (tel: 01252 522960) usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday at 2pm at the Triangle.

Become a Member

Why? To help keep a Christian Outreach and meeting place in the town centre. We ask members to donate at least £20 p.a.

Members do benefit from an optional 10% off at any time in the café and NEW up to 10% on many products in the bookshop now as well! Ask us for more details.

However if you want to support us but dont want to be a member then please do.

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Financial Support Reply Form – Please complete and return to Paul Taylor at The Triangle.

£5	£10	£15	£25	Other	Payments
					Please make cheques payable to Farnborough Christian Outreach or request a standing order form from Paul Taylor.

Regular sum – monthly/quarterly

*Lump Sum *Delete as appropriate

Name

Member Yes/No

Address

If not, would you like to know more? Yes/No

Post Code

Have you completed a Gift Aid form before? (If not please request a form from Paul Taylor.)

