Mustard Seed AGM, 13 November 2026

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 again able to remain open until 4pm Tuesdays to Saturdays, thanks to our super-helpful team of assistants. We were delighted to welcome Adele Vincent during her break from the Town Council and she did some excellent marketing on social media for us during the first half of the year. Rocel Regodon has also been incredibly helpful with holiday cover during the year. We were very sorry that Rosalind Burns felt unable to continue, but grateful to Maureen Courtney who now covers every Tuesday morning. Dave Headey is also stepping back after many years of faithful Mondays, though he is kindly staying on the 'reserves' list.

However, the balance across the churches is not great at the moment – from January, we will have one RC (Maureen), two Baptists (Gill and Rocel) and all the rest are from All Saints'. Of course we are hugely grateful to all, but if anyone else from Blessed Hugh, Faringdon Baptist Church, Faringdon United Church or the Quakers would be interested in joining the team, please do contact Katie. It need only be one morning a fortnight at the most! Thank you.

Sarah Shewring, at Cornerstone Christian Centre in Grove, continues to be wonderfully supportive 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. We now have our own account with the extremely popular Green Pebble cards.

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 are now also available in the shop in bags of 4.

The highlight of the year, as Sjoerd has said, was the 40th anniversary celebration in the Corn Exchange in June, at which he gave an excellent presentation with some poignant photos!













The shop would not have been able to start, let alone continue for 40 years if it wasn't for our wonderful band of volunteers. A **VERY BIG** thank you to all of them!

A stall was held in the Corn Exchange on Faringdon's Big Green Day in June and at the Farmers Market immediately after Fairtrade Fortnight in October. Blessed Hugh church also has a sale after Mass on the first Sunday of each month.

Once again, if anyone would like to have a 'Christmas shopping morning/afternoon/evening' at home and invite friends and neighbours, Karen and Katie would be happy to bring some appropriate stock for a stall. Please arrange a convenient date with them.

We are pleased to say that our landlords, Robert and John Loosemore, have agreed to get the damp sorted in the storeroom and lavatory area, which will finally happen during November. We appreciate the patience of all volunteers who have had to tiptoe through flaking plaster into a less than charming loo for the past several months. We look forward to the refurbishment, although it does mean that the loo and basin will be out of action for a week or two while the work is in progress.

More advertising required! Although some of our community still don't seem to be aware, we have now been selling stamps successfully for over 10 years. Unfortunately, owing to the reduction in mail posted and the consequent regular rise in prices, we are no longer able to stock stamps for overseas mail, but still do a steady trade in 1st and 2nd class ones. The 2026 Christmas stamps have now arrived.

We are always very appreciative of our window dressers for their attractive displays throughout the year. 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.

Approaching our 12th year as co-managers, we and the Management Committee 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!

KV and KMF/21.10.2026