Dear Members,

Our mission statement is, “Bringing Jesus to the heart of Farnborough”. Introducing the saving grace of Jesus to someone is the greatest service we can do them. The Trustees and I firmly believe that The Triangle still offers the opportunity to fulfil this mission objective. To continue this work, however, we do have to “balance the books”. **Which leads me to the principal reason for contacting you**.

 This is probably not the best time to be launching an appeal! It’s a time when many of us are facing much higher energy costs, challenging inflation and probably continuing fears about Covid.

Nevertheless, despite the partial relief now offered by H.M. Government, your Triangle, which so many of you have supported faithfully, is now faced with a rise of approximately £1,000 per month in our energy costs! We are doing everything we can to mitigate this, but it is a huge challenge, and **we may not actually be able to manage** it without support. Until August, which is always one of our worst months, trade and contacts had been encouraging, and we were seeing new people finding us and enjoying the welcome and the Christian resource, and Fairtrade products which we strive to provide.

**Now all that is in danger of being lost**! Unlike some other organisations, **we rarely ask** for additional funds but we now have no choice. There are always more cost-savings which we can make, and we will do that. We will also have to put our café prices up but still remain very competitive.
But **we really do need your help now**. Ways in which you can do that are set out below:

* **If you do not currently pay monthly, please consider doing so. A monthly standing order of just £3 would be enough to cover our new suggested minimum subscription**
* **If you are already paying monthly, please consider a modest increase. Approximately 170 of you already pay by standing order. An increase of just £3 each would provide us with an extra £510 per month, plus more if gift-aided.**
* **Suggest membership to a friend, who you may know already visits us but has not joined.**
* **As mentioned before, many of you will be buying online over the coming months, including Amazon. Either of the following would help, us but not cost you a single penny!
Register on Amazon Smile and nominate Farnborough Christian Outreach as your chosen charity. Once you have registered, always buy using Amazon Smile, and we will receive ½% of everything you order. It doesn’t sound much but cumulatively it can mount up. You use the site in exactly the same way as the ordinary one, and recognises any gift tokens, addresses etc., which you may have saved with them.**
* **You could also register with Easyfundraising.org.uk, again naming us as the beneficiary. Anything you order online with over 3,000 organisations, generates a percentage of as much as 6% in some cases, for Farnborough Christian Outreach, and it costs you absolutely nothing!**
* **Always remember, of course, that anyone can leave us a legacy in their will. This is a subject which many people do not like to talk about, but any sum left in this way, can be of real benefit to us.**
* **Order your Christian products, from books to communion wafers, from us instead of using Amazon or Eden. They are not always cheaper and we can often beat or match them for price. If not, we feel the small difference is worth it to keep us on the ‘high street’**

Being in the heart of Farnborough, we really do make a difference in the community, both near and further away. We provide a haven for the vulnerable; we are a witness in the retail and business community; and by giving true personal service, we believe we provide a great value resource for churches and schools, many of which now use us instead of going online.

**PLEASE CONSIDER THIS APPEAL PRAYERFULLY, AND DEPENDING ON YOUR OWN PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF COURSE.** I or any of the trustees would be happy to answer any questions which you may have about this, or any aspect of what we do here.

Paul
General Manager 5 September 2022