

## Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday St. Martin's Church Welton Baby Project JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

**Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.**

In December 2013 I was inspired during lay ministry training by the example of the Baby Basics team in Northampton. I remember coming home and wanting to see if we could do something similar in the Daventry area.

We have now delivered over 150 baths (including 5 that have been delivered this December 2016). We have grown in a very different way to Baby Basics. Both projects are centred on sharing God's love. Both rely on people from all walks of life with various skills and a heart for needy newborns and their families wherever they are.

This letter is sent to celebrate both that initial inspiration and the broadening of the work of the Baby Project since 2013. The contents of this newsletter demonstrate exactly what we have achieved as a community in and around Daventry. Our "Making Love Visible Christmas 2016" campaign was designed to reach out to newborns and their families wherever they may be. **Please enjoy celebrating your part in the result.**

### **Knit for Peace**



At the beginning of December your contributions started pouring in so much so that I felt an urgency to get them to where they were most needed. One of our contributors had raised our awareness of "Knit for Peace" which sends items to families of newborns wherever they are at home or abroad.

After Jan and I had sorted and counted them. We sent them off with this message on your behalf. "These items have been knitted for the St. Martin's Church Welton Baby Project with love from knitters of all ages some of faith some of none. Happy Christmas to our global neighbours? We sent 18 jumpers, 48 hats, 5 pairs of socks and booties 15 pairs of mitts and gloves and a thick crochet cot blanket.

## Support of Maternity Units

Those of our members who are skilled at knitting, crochet and quilting enabled us to send a large parcel to a maternity unit. It included small cot quilts for incubators, ventilation hats, memory blankets for stillborn babies and items for premature babies. It even included a Christmas quilt for the first baby born on Christmas Eve!



## Christmas Interactive and Action for Syria Collection in Hook Norton



Following Christmas Interactive at the Methodist Church which was attended by primary school children in the town. Pupils and their families presented gifts to Mary and baby Jesus for our project. This time they included toiletries for newborns. We received so much that we were able not only to replenish our stocks for the baths but also donate 4 bags and a box full of items to the Action for Syria. Those items will arrive in Syria in early January.

### **Baths**

Your donations also filled the five baths that have gone out this month. We have come a very long way.

**Happy New Year to ALL members of the Baby Project community whatever your role or involvement.**

Gilly Beardmore (coordinator of the Baby Project and reader at St. Martin's Church)