

The Daventry Area Baby Project Newsletter September 2024



At this time of year we begin to think about our annual Christmas Challenge. Its purpose is twofold, firstly to renew our creative craft skills in preparing for the cold weather ahead. Secondly we use this challenge to build up our funds so that we can make three £100 donations to organisations concerned with the specific needs of babies. Each year we choose a local group, a national and an international charity to support. In this way we have the opportunity, in true Christmas spirit, to reach babies in need wherever they may be.



Our song this year is "Welcome to the world by Ed Sheeran". The words of the song will help us explore the role of Dads and carers of babies and the kinds of preparations they anticipate. Each month, using phrases from the song we plan to create our welcome, as a community alongside carers. We shall be reaching out to innocent babies and families with our handcrafted gifts so needed in the rapidly changing world of today. Upon request from professional agencies we shall also be able to supply one off grants of £50. So the Daventry Area Baby Project, acting as good neighbours will provide touches of loving kindness and surround families confirming they are not alone.



Here is the September verse and chorus of our theme song this year. **The full song music and lyrics can be found online.**

Welcome to the world by Ed Sheeran
 I heard your heartbeat and lost every word
 Just stood there quietly taking in the sound
 Of our love

And ooh, I know that everything's changing
 Ooh, and I don't wanna miss a thing
 Ooh, I know that life won't ever be the same
 And this love won't ever go away

Imagine a Dad listening to this heartbeat for the first time; an experience of the reality that a new life is on its way. The circumstances and emotions will be unique. We cannot know them all but our own lifelong experiences of new birth can help us anticipate some of them. We can use the practical nature of our work with other agencies to inform our understanding of family challenges today.

Through those inspiring connections we now have first hand experience that has built up over the past 10 years enabling us to learn how to coordinate our responses more effectively.

From September through to January the DABP team will reveal a verse from the song month by month and step by step use it to prepare a special welcome for new babies whilst enjoying the relaxation of making items with real purpose as the light fades and we travel closer to the Advent and Christmas season.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS Often today we hear this phrase on the news, but this year we are confident that we can respond with practical action. Prayer support, this year had been offered by the

Olde House Retreat at Southam and our Benefice prayer chain coordinator Jeni who will receive our requests for prayer.



The hand of welcome

This is a clay model from a bedside table at the Olde House Retreat Southam

Here is an adapted prayer that you may like to use during the challenge.

We pray that our eyes and our hearts may be open to the experiences of babies born into the challenging circumstances of this world; ready to seek their innocent silent pain and, by God's grace, to become a healing presence to them as a welcoming DABP community of good neighbours.

HERE IS OUR CHALLENGING INVITATION TO RESPOND DURING SEPTEMBER

Enjoy gathering your stashes of craft materials ready to creatively and mindfully consider how you could get involved. No rush yet! *Hot off the press* .At the time of writing a large number of warm winter clothing has been collected by Holly from Big Issue. She has suggested an October challenge for next month. This is a great start and its only September!

The Daventry Methodist Church now have our list of items and will encourage local school children to give gifts to Mary at the Christmas interactive in December.

During the Challenge months, as the colder weather arrives, we need new warm items for both babies and adults.

Here is a list of things to create or donate for babies. Items highlighted in yellow are also needed for adults. We need blankets, nappy sacks, wipes, nappy cream, shampoo, bubble bath, lotion, hats, cardigans, jumpers, sleep suits, vests, muslin cloths, bibs, socks, soft toy, first board book for babies, scratch mitts ponchos, shawls scarves, fingerless mitts

For Mums Toiletries, treats and sanitary products



We prepare for colder days with this message.

Try a search online for ideas patterns and suppliers using the content list above. *We have a good collection of double knitting wool FREE to members of the DABP community (text Gilly if you need wool).*

We shall resume receiving and distributing items from the Daventry Methodist Church and 27 Claydon Road on 19th September.

How to make a donation **Daventry Area Baby Project** by cheque to 27 Claydon Road Daventry NN11 8AZ OR online to Account name: Daventry Area Baby Project Sort Code: 30-99-50 Account number 22798862

Contact Gilly 07807011205 or beardmoregillian@gmail.com if you would like to assist us in any way. In past Christmas Challenges we have been amazed by the compassion the DABP community has directed towards innocent babies. We have also heard stories of how uplifting and relaxing it had been to be involved from our supporters. Let's enjoy the next few months in anticipation what lies ahead whilst working together and preparing for new birth.

Thank you, Gilly Beardmore, Hazel Gault, Sarah Parry, Fran Deeley, Anna Barfield, Jan Wall and Jan Krehel. The Daventry Area Baby Project Team.

TO UNSUBSCRIBE Text of email Gilly

