

## **THE CODDENHAM GARDEMAU CHARITIES**

### **UPDATE REPORT FOR THE CODDENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, BY ZOOM, MAY 2021**

The charities have had a busy year in 2020-21, dominated by the Covid 19 pandemic. Since the outbreak began in March 2020, the Gardemau Trustees have worked in close partnership with other village bodies in the Coddenham Community Response Group (CCRG). The Trustees have been very mindful of their founders' intention that the charities should support the work of the church in Coddenham, and the pandemic has highlighted how relevant this work still is.

Significant Church Charity activities have included:

Helping to fund the rapid establishment and continuation of a village website to help make Covid and other information available to villagers.

Financing, in whole or part, a number of events such as drive-in harvest and carol services, the Co-Op Brass band concerts at Christmas and the Christmas trees in the churchyard.

Helping to pay for food and essentials parcels to vulnerable people, both as material assistance and to boost morale.

Providing monetary support to those struggling financially during the outbreak.

In addition, the Charity has continued more traditional work, such as paying for the repair of a dangerous and significant stone tomb in the churchyard and for stonework inside the church, as well as the recent repair of the church clock, which is striking the hours reliably at last! The Charity has also paid for the repair of some garden machinery for use in village conservation work.

The Educational Foundation Charity has provided grants to local schools and to students, and is providing financial support to allow the re-establishment of the Toddler Group.

The Poor Charity makes donations of several thousand pounds each year to Families in Need (FIND), an award-winning local charity which supports struggling families. The huge additional demands caused by the pandemic have led the Charity to substantially increase these donations.

Despite the difficulties of the last year, the charities' funds are in good shape and we look forward to using them for the benefit of villagers in, hopefully, more 'normal' times. As someone recently said 'the Gardemau may not have huge amounts of money, but its existence means all sorts of things can happen which wouldn't otherwise, and don't in many other villages'. We hope Rev Baltazar and Lady Catherine, our founders, would be pleased that their legacy still benefits the village they loved, over 250 years since they passed away.

For more information, or to enquire about grants, please see our section on the Community Website [coddenham-parish.uk](http://coddenham-parish.uk)

David McDonnell

Chairman

The Coddenham Gardemau Charities

25<sup>th</sup> April 2021