

Update for parishioners following Robert Simpsons pre-Christmas visit to TCHC :

1. To mark Chris' first anniversary we have launched an annual award in his name, ***The Bendon Bursary***. It is an attempt to ring fence some of our funds and direct them specifically towards the continuing professional development of TCHC staff who are enrolled on courses of study. For example, we discovered that Raggiato JALLOW, the current incumbent of the SRN post that St John the Baptist Church has been funding for the past two years, is self-funding her degree in midwifery to further extend her qualifications. She asks the manager to deduct some of her salary at source to pay for her fees. As you know, although the SRN is the highest earner at the Centre, she only earns circa £100 per month so any deductions will make a dent!

Anyhow, given Chris' career in education we thought supporting staff attempts at bettering themselves was totally befitting his memory.

2. Below are the main positive points arising from the visit by trustees to the Centre:

1. The Centre is still going strong despite a VERY tough 2017 with the political uncertainties and the German charity withdrawal. The manager to be congratulated - an achievement not to be underestimated!
2. Trustees very impressed with manager's report at Management Advisory Group (MAG) meeting – thorough, wide-ranging and professional.
3. Great to see [aidgambiavisits](#) leaflets being put in hand of Kololi hotel manager, Baks. Essential that the TCHC manager pursues local contacts and establishes links.
4. Trustees VERY impressed with their first visit to the Centre. They appreciated that it was well organised and strategic that it coincided with visit of councillor looking at possible transfer of adjoining land.
5. Trustees particularly impressed with staff: - please feedback to staff
 - shared vision evident re the future of the Centre
 - all aware of the ante-natal clinic project and its potential benefits
 - all spoke highly of the manager
6. Trustees reassured to see SRN now in place for past year thus providing a much needed medical lead
7. Clear unique selling point USP – community focussed and open to ALLcomers
8. Two existing trustees have now visited and we have brought one new trustee to visit. They all left very committed.
9. Turn German charity withdrawal and reduction in finance into a positive – it simplifies our role and position. New regime and different approach that requires greater self-sufficiency for long term sustainability.