

Stapleford Feoffees Annual Report for Stapleford Parish Council

The Stapleford Feoffees Charity was established in 1885, having merged a few local charities into one, and it exists to support St Andrew's church and to help those resident in the village; at times it has also helped those with close association to it (ie. attendance at the local primary school) also. For those that request assistance it provides grants to people in need, hardship, or distress; for example, to help with the cost of nursery or playgroup places, school trips, undertaking further education, aids for those with disabilities and assistance with trips for undertaking voluntary work. It can make grants to individuals or organizations.

One would have thought that in 2020 with the pandemic and lockdown that the Feoffees resources would have been in high demand; however, that is very much not the case. The charity did help one local family in the lead up to Christmas and has had other requests that have not progressed further, and not without considerable effort from the trustees to assist the progression of these other applications. The trustees have also worked behind the scenes to agree a new tenancy agreement with The Magog Trust for Feoffees land adjacent to Gog Magog and in reinvesting their portfolio into an ethical investment fund. The trustees have also undertaken work to modernise the covenants and terms of the scheme, which are planned to be agreed with the Charity Commission and accepted at the next trustee meeting in September, or earlier if possible. In particular the trustees are keen to formally extend the remit of the charity to assisting those with a close connection with the village (such as attending the primary school or having some other close connection), as well as those who are resident.

For 2021, the charity has a full complement of trustees: 3 officers of the church (ex-officio), 2 from the Parish Council (nominative) and 4 co-opted (co-optative). The two trustees from the parish council are currently the Chair and Treasurer, and the Parish Priest is the clerk with responsibility for maintaining the historical records of the scheme. ***Jez Raphael, Nominative Trustee***