

Simpson Charity

Report to Parish Meeting – May 2008

The Simpson Charity is a trust that came into being more than 300 years ago to help the people of Debenham. The purpose of the trust is described in the following excerpt from the Will of John Simpson who died 7th May 1697.

“(a) £17 6s 8d to be laid out for the poor in bread, to be distributed on the Lord’s Day for ever, Forty (twopenny) wheaten loaves of bread, to be given out at the Parish Church at Debenham.

(b) £12 13s 4d to be paid the five and twentieth of December yearly, to be laid out in eight coats and six gowns, to be yearly delivered to the eight most needy poor men and six poor women of the town of Debenham

£17- 6 - 8

£12-13- 4

£30- 0- 0

Annual Bequest”

Of course, £30 now doesn't quite buy what it did in 1697, so the trustees have had to change the way the benefits are distributed. However the records show that this wonderful gift has continued each year to help people in the parish.

The charity is managed by three trustees:

Mick Morley, The Oaks, Gracechurch Street

Corel Moreton, 7, Gardeners Road

Francis Prout, 9, Gracechurch Street.

A letter will be sent to C Styles shortly requesting that the annual bequest be paid to the charity as willed. Mr Styles has always responded very promptly to the request and he is thanked for his earlier payments.

Corel Moreton acts as treasurer for the charity and manages the bank account. The year opened with assets of £95.19.

Following discussion last year on the approach to be used to make donations, the trustees agreed that notices should be placed around the village requesting nominations of those who could most benefit from a gift to the value of about £30. Notices are normally placed in the following locations:

Parish Magazine, Notice Board, Paper Shop, Post Office, Dove Cottage, PC Newsletter.

However, due to unexpected extra tasks during the run up to Christmas, this publicity did not take place and there were no nominations this year.

No expenses have been claimed which leaves assets of £95.19

In these days of the welfare state it should be less necessary for charities to provide support for life's fundamentals, as did the Simpson Charity in earlier days. However, with a little bit extra it is still possible to make the year a little more special and memorable.

Mick Morley