

Small Steps Highlights from past year September 2026



Small Steps shop was open **462 hours** (4 hours 3 days/week, term time). Every month (except August) approximately **260 families** supported spending on average £1280 each month on low cost, high quality children's items.

50 families were referred to Small Steps for support, receiving free clothing, shoes, equipment (prams, cots, slings, baby baths / highchairs), toys and books for **71 children** and baby baskets (with everything for the first 6 months) for **12 newborns**. The vast majority of these families live in OX4, approximately three quarters of whom are global majority.

- Hosted regular **Babies Matter** family support groups.
- Hosted the Salvation Army **Christmas Gift appeal**, where an additional 17 families with 34 children were supported with on-the-spot social worker referrals.
 - Run monthly pre-school session **Bags of Fun**.
 - Held **Sorting Bags** community volunteering sessions.
 - Alongside Hope Vineyard Church Oxford, offered community activities in Templars Square (Autumn crafts, Carol Service, Easter Egg Hunt - with **200+ easter eggs** given away.)



We have built good local connections, and our referrals come from a wide range of local health and social care services and charities, most notably, midwives, health visitors, social workers, the Family Nurse Partnership, Flo's Equal Start project, Asylum Welcome, Refugee Resource and Migrant Help. We have been raising our profile at community events.

We received:

- **Thousands of items** gifted by local people to enable others to benefit from pre-loved items for 0-10s (and saved from landfill).
- **Hundreds of hours** of time, energy and expertise from our wonderful team of volunteers.
- **Funding** from Well Together, enabling a 'under 5s project assistant', Georgia, to support community projects on Wednesdays.
- **Financial donations** from individuals and Hope Vineyard Oxford Church
- **Partnership lease agreement to continue to host a shop and office space in a new venue** at Templars Square Shopping Centre from Workman Retail / Redevco.

Looking ahead to September 2026 - August 2027 we will aim to:

- **Reopen Small Steps shop 2nd September** (now Unit 5A The Square, Templars Square Shopping Centre - OX4 3UZ)
- **Welcome Sam Richards** (Small Steps Project Lead) to join our fantastic small team
- **Recruit new volunteers** to add to the brilliant small team of current volunteers, in supporting all aspects of the work
- **Expand the referrals offer** to support more families
- **Raise £15,000** to sustain current work, aiming to raise £21,000 to support growth



Enabling local families to meet needs, give and receive,
building community www.hopeoxford.org/small-steps

Shop: quality clothes, equipment, toys for ages 0-10

Baby Baskets: free starter kits

Babies Matters: learning together

Bags of Fun: monthly pre-school group

Sorting Bags: all age volunteering

Small Steps exists thanks to volunteers, gifts and donations from everyone, and is an initiative of Hope Vineyard Church Oxford.



*The church behind 'Small Steps' exists to love our neighbour as ourselves and join with others who want to do the same regardless of religion or background;
FIND HOME, SHARE HOPE*



**HOPE
VINEYARD
OXFORD**