**Report on the ‘I Chameleon Pop Up Shop’ 2023 for consideration by St. Eds. and Ips. MU Trustees.**

The North Suffolk Area Committee has for the last 7 years organised the “I Chameleon Pop Up Shop” in Halesworth. This has been open for one week each year since 2017. The NSA Committee have enjoyed working on this project and are in no doubt of its merits as an exercise in teamwork, a positive

publicity opportunity for MU and a substantial fundraiser. In these 7 years over £10,000 has been raised to support the work of MU here and abroad.

Our best fundraising total was achieved this year but we had difficulties in finding members to help in the shop on some days and we were stretched even further when Anna caught covid. We have always requested donations of goods to sell and our members are very generous. A huge amount comes in which often has to be collected, stored over several weeks and labelled before we start transporting it to the shop and displaying it. On the final day, the clearing of the shop and the dispersal of a lot of remaining stock to other churches or charities is exhausting. The week of the shop opening is the easy part. It is what comes before and after that is the most tiring.

With this in mind and also recognising that our members are getting older and less able to transport heavy boxes or stand in a shop all day, we feel that it would not be wise to continue with the ‘I Chameleon Pop Up Shop’ as an NSA project. Perhaps it is time for the Trustees to consider whether they wish to continue with this idea. A new ‘Pop Up Shop’ venue run as a Diocesan venture may be a way forward. If this should be what is decided, North Suffolk Area would be happy to support by playing our part in the running of such a shop.

We would like to acknowledge the support given by husbands in transporting goods, putting up with their garages full of books etc and assisting in the shop.

Sue Norrington

(On behalf of the NSA Committee)

November 2023