



# Newsletter

## Christian Family Concern



Dear supporters,

As we head into the Easter break, I would like to give a special thank you to the Board of Trustees and all the staff for their continued commitment and hard work. All at CFC continue to work tirelessly to provide the highest quality of care to some of society's most vulnerable, even more so as we continue to face the ongoing challenges brought on by the cost of living crisis.

At Birdhurst Nursery, we are ever so grateful for the "Good" OFSTED inspection outcome. We now have 100+ children in attendance at the Nursery. In our supported housing accommodation, we have a full house with 21 young mothers and their babies. The counselling service has also been very busy with several enquiries coming through.

Easter marks the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is at the very heart of the Christian faith. He died so we may be saved! His death represents hope for humanity and faith in the greater good of humankind.

At Christian Family concern we seek to express the love of Christ in action. We aspire to live by this mantra every day in all that we do. Although not everyone celebrates Easter, the message about treating others with kindness and compassion is appropriate for us all.

I encourage you to spend time with your loved-ones this Easter where possible and reflect on God's love and blessings.



Last but not least, I would like to thank you all for supporting our work, whether it be through prayer, donations or any other way.

Upendo Jordan, CEO



**Coming Soon!** Our new website is close to being finalised, with updated information and an engaging style. Look out for our launch date!

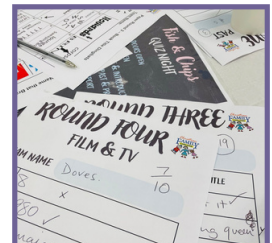
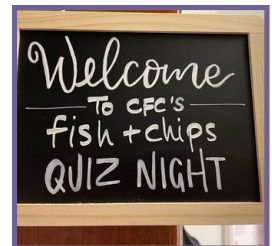
## Fundraising



Our first ever Fish & Chips Quiz Night was a great success and lots of fun! We raised nearly £500 and are so thankful to everyone who came along and supported us.

Thank you to all of you who donated to our fundraiser to replace the Wallis House fire doors, the work is almost complete!

We will be planning further fundraising events and giving various ways in which to get involved!



**Text GENERALFUND followed by your donation to 70490 to give that amount**

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us.

(If you don't wish to hear more from us, please text GENERALNOINFO instead)



Follow us on Facebook for regular updates and news

# Supported Accommodation

## What we've been doing



We continue with our busy and varied support program to offer a range of activities and opportunities to encourage the young mums in our care.

The residents started the year making personalised calendars and they also reflected on life lessons and setting positives goals by looking back on the previous year.

We marked Valentine's day with an encouraging message about what 'healthy' relationships look like and encouraging mums to expect respect and love themselves.

For Children's Mental Health Week our focus was on both infant and mums mental health.

We celebrated Pancake Day and had good conversations around the reasons behind it.

On World Book Day we emphasised the importance of reading from a young age and were able to give the mums book packs donated from Bookstart Croydon.

For Mother's Day, thanks to a generous donation, we were able to give a lovely bag of goodies to every mum, along with an encouraging message.



## Looking ahead

Recently there was a much enjoyed trip to the London Zoo. Some of the mums had never been to a zoo before so this was a real treat. As a way for us to show the mums their value, we put together an Easter/Spring photoshoot. They will treasure these special photos with their little ones, something they aren't always able to afford themselves.

Over the next week, the young mums can look forward to an Easter arts and crafts session. These sessions are always very popular and provide a lovely environment for the mums to chat and mingle.

As we go into the Spring, we can look forward to our outdoor sessions!

"I really do thank God that within 12 hours of being evicted at night time with my son just 20 days old, Christian Family Concern were able to take us in with only hours notice. At the time I didn't realise what a blessing this would be."

Current resident



# Birdhurst Day Nursery

We have been busy in the Nursery celebrating special occasions like Pancake Day, World Book Day and Mother's Day. We have been pleased to invite parents and other organisations in to enhance the curriculum for our children.

There were major renovations over half term to create a fantastic room for our 2 & 3 years olds and a new sensory room. We have welcomed a number of new staff members who are all settling in well. We are planning lots of trips and activities for the summer, starting with an outing to Lloyd Park this week for a picnic and a music & dance session as part of Croydon's City of Culture celebrations of cultures from around the world. Plus our exciting Coronation Fete!

To celebrate Easter, each of the children have been gifted a Christian book, telling them the true meaning of the Easter story.



Children are happy and settled. They have good relationships with staff and each other." February 2023

We are proud to have been awarded GOOD in our Ofsted inspection.

## Nursery Management



### Head Teacher – Dawn Watt

Responsible for supporting, developing, and motivating all staff within the Nursery to enable children to reach their full potential.



### Deputy Head Teacher – Evelyn Miller

Responsible for assisting the Head in providing a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children.



### SEN & Safeguarding Lead – Alex Williamson

Responsible for supervising staff and working with children in relation to all SEN and safeguarding needs.



### Curriculum Lead – Kris Chandler

Responsible for enhancing, developing & supporting the implementation of a Nursery curriculum that is high-quality standard and aligns with EYFS.



### Administration Manager – Katie Cox

Responsible for organising and implementing systems to ensure the efficient running of the office whilst being ambassador for the Nursery.

# Supporting us

## A message from our Trustees

I have been a Trustee of Christian Family Concern for some 15 years and for most of that time, the Hon. Treasurer.

Over the years, we usually operated to an annual breakeven financial result or even a small surplus. These results were achieved thanks to a continued stream of regular donations, one off payments and legacies from our Members and supporters.

The situation has changed. Since the pandemic, and now in this period of high inflation, with rapidly rising food and utility costs, achieving breakeven is proving beyond us. So, we have and will for the next year or so will be operating to a deficit and thus reducing our reserves.

The staff, management and Trustees all give a big 'thank you' to all who have supported financially over the years. We prayerfully hope and ask that not only will you our friends continue to support us, but might even be able to consider increased amounts as we struggle to cope with significantly higher costs.



Lyn Thomas  
Trustee

The Trustees have set new objectives for the Charity which are available to read on our website.



We would also like to introduce our new Trustee, Lydia Brownlow.

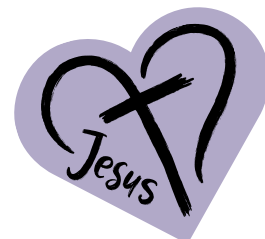
## Prayer

Please remember us in your prayers:

Our Trustees as they seek to guide and lead the Charity for God's glory.

Our residents as they move on from our support and try to find suitable accommodation due to difficulties with housing in Croydon.

Our Nursery staff as they work together to enhance the children's education and pre school experience.



Also enclosed with this Newsletter you will find our Easter message and a leaflet explaining different ways to support us.