



Summer News



Pre-school graduation



Residents trip to Brighton



Nursery sports day

A new season

It is hard to believe that summer is over and September is here. Summer has flown by with the hottest June on record followed by the wettest July since 2009 and then disappointingly low temperatures in August. September brings with it the beginning of a season change both in the weather and at CFC.

We will be losing two long standing members of the Trustee board. Rev. David Rogers who has served as a Trustee for eight years, two of which were as Chair of Trustees and Lyndon Thomas who has served as a Trustee for sixteen years most of which he has been Hon. Treasurer, additionally taking on the role as Company Secretary for the last two years. They will both be stepping down at the upcoming AGM in October and will both be missed on the Trustee board. I am thankful that CFC has had the benefit of their commitment wisdom and direction for so long and trust that God will continue to bless them and order their steps as they continue to serve Him.

If you feel God is calling you or someone you know to serve as a Trustee please contact us, details as per the enclosed advert.

We serve the one true and living God who changes the seasons and time and we continue to trust Him to supply all our needs even through changing season.



Thank you all and may God bless you for your continued support.

Sandra April - Chair of Trustees

Supported Accommodation

We continue to invest time and money into creating accommodation that is not only safe and secure but also clean, welcoming and homely. A local artist volunteered her time to create a beautiful mural in our newly decorated corridor in Wallis House.

Each room is re-decorated when a resident moves out, with a feature wall and unique wall prints. We offer bedding and kitchen starter sets and have also recently started to offer welcome bags to all new residents; these contain items such as toiletries and food items, as well as some treats.

The support and care we provide our residents, aims to help them live as independently as possible in the community when they move on.

Due to the impact of the current housing crisis over the last few years, there has been a dramatic decrease in the availability of suitable temporary accommodation within Croydon. This poses a big challenge for our residents at a crucial point when they are ready to move on to independent living meaning that many of them end up in emergency accommodation for long periods, often in properties, even low budget hotels, that are not appropriate for mother and baby.



Mural by @KTdesigns



Re-decorated Wallis lounge

Our Senior Housing Support Officer was invited to meet with representatives of the council's housing and social services departments, as well as a local councillor and deputy mayor. This was an important opportunity to highlight the difficulties our residents face when they leave us and move into emergency housing. There haven't been any immediate changes as a result of this discussion but we are hopeful of long-term advantages for our residents.

As a result of the difficult housing situation facing our residents, we are finding that they require continued support to navigate the first few weeks or months after they have moved out, especially if they have been housed in unsuitable accommodation without any choice or alternative options. They are invited to continue attending our weekly group sessions and can contact any of the team at any time. Some ex-residents are still in touch with us many years later and consider us to be their only form of support.

Please see the next page for a testimony from a previous resident who recently got in touch with us. This is a real example of the impact and longevity of our work.

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU
HOPE AND A FUTURE"**

Jeremiah 29:11



Messy play group session



Ready for a new resident



Photo shoot for an ex-resident

Resident Testimonial



My daughter and I were residents back in 2005 for around 6 months until you helped us move into council accommodation.

The time we spent with you really helped us get started. We were treated with respect, well looked after and given tools and support to last a lifetime (with a little hard work on our end!)

Although the past 18 years have been a lot of work with ups and downs and I had continued to be a single mum with very little support; I managed to buy a beautiful little home in Somerset, I run my own digital agency business and Leiya has made it through to A levels and is getting ready to go to university to study oceanography.

We have a really good life now and I wanted to let you know that we are very grateful for the work your charity does and that we are a success story from a difficult start being a teenage mum as most of your residents are.

Thank you for you help all those years ago.



Laura & Leiya

Birdhurst Nursery

We have been very busy this term, with our first ever sports day in July. It was very well organised, filled with a variety of activities including the traditional egg & spoon race, 3-legged race and much more! The weather was great and the children enjoyed themselves very much.

We held our pre-school graduation event at Croham Road Baptist Church. It was such a joy to see our 40 graduating children put on a brilliant musical performance enjoyed by all.

The main focus of the curriculum this term has been "Transport". All the children had the opportunity to take a trip to South Croydon train station to learn about trains. We were fortunate that some of the children's parents/carers were able to come along too.

We were excited to provide a Summer Holiday Club for the children this year, offering a variety of fun activities including cooking sessions, gardening skills and outings to the local library and market! We plan to run this again next year to increase our childcare provision for parents during the holiday times.

Although the weather has not been as summery as we might have hoped this year, the Nursery has benefitted from having air conditioning fitted in certain rooms. This will help throughout the year as many of our rooms get very warm, especially when busy with lots of active children!



Potato prints in the sun



Smoothie making at Holiday Club



Train spotting

TODAY
is the day to
learn something
NEW

This autumn we welcome back our nursery school children who were away for the summer holidays and also welcome all our new children. At the start of term, the focus will be on settling in our new children and our chosen topic for the term will be "All about me" where the children will be getting to know all about each other, their families, pets and hobbies.

They can also look forward to exploring the forest school and several events in the nursery calendar including Harvest festival, Black History month, Diwali, Remembrance day, Christmas jumper day, Christmas photo shoot and so much more!

We are pleased to announce we have appointed a new Deputy Head Teacher, Maureen, who will join the team in November. She has a wealth of experience and Early Years knowledge. There are also new members joining the Early Years team, who are settling in well to their rooms and getting to know the children.

Counselling



Our team of Christian Counsellors work with people experiencing a wide range of emotional and psychological problems to help them navigate difficult life situations to improve and enhance their wellbeing.

At Christian Family Concern, we aspire to make the counselling service more accessible and affordable to all clients from different backgrounds and sectors of the local community.

We are therefore appealing to you, to support our Bursary fund to enable this to happen.

'THE BURSARY I HAVE RECEIVED FROM CFC HAS ENABLED ME TO HAVE VALUABLE COUNSELLING WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ACCESS.'

Adam, current client

Bursary Support

Acc. name: Christian Family Concern

Acc. No: 20234575

Sort code: 20-24-61

or

Text GENERALFUND 10 to 70490 to donate £10

(Or replace 10 with the amount you wish to donate)

or

Card payments can be taken over the phone, receipts can be sent - 020 8688 0251

or

Justgiving.com and search for the campaign 'nursery and counselling bursaries'

or

Online on our website

One of the biggest challenges facing our Birdhurst Nursery is the impact of the cost of living crisis. This has impacted many parents, who have in turn taken to cutting their outgoing costs by reducing the number of sessions they send their children to Nursery, many opting to only use the government funded hours.

Cuts across local authorities, mean that the funding of Early Years places comes at a low priority. Please support our Nursery Bursary fund to support those parents who are struggling and whose child/children may benefit from extra sessions at the nursery

We have been so grateful to a variety of supporters who have given generously to our recent request for help with raising funds for our Bursaries.

A gift of...

£74 will enable us fund a bursary place for a child to attend a day at Birdhurst Nursery.

£45 will help us fund a bursary for an hours' counselling session.

Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference

Join us

Could your next career be within CFC?

Join our team of compassionate and dedicated staff to bring about positive change to many lives.

Early Years Educator

Birdhurst Nursery is a popular and growing registered day nursery. We are currently recruiting an Early Years Educator to meet the challenges of expansion for this busy setting.

Volunteer Chaplain

We are seeking someone to support, develop and maintain the Christian ethos of the charity across all services. To be proactive in helping the charity to express the love of Christ among the bedsit residents, the Nursery parents and in the community.

For further information about any of the above roles or for an application pack please contact:

020 8688 0251

or

admin@christianfamilyconcern.org.uk

Check out our website for more details of the roles, the full job descriptions and to download our application form.



Website

We have launched our new charity website! www.christianfamilyconcern.org.uk

We no longer have two separate websites, for the charity and Birdhurst Nursery. Now you can find everything under one domain name!

For all Charity news, including Nursery updates, please follow 'Christian Family Concern' on Facebook.



Help build a brighter future for children and families

Volunteer as a... Charity Trustee in South Croydon

We are seeking suitable people to serve as additional Trustees and share the important work of steering and developing this distinctly Christian charity.

The Trustees hold 6-10 main meetings a year, and keep in touch to handle issues arising between meetings.

Do you feel called to serve the Lord in this way?

We are currently looking for a Trustee that can fulfil the role of Honorary Treasurer and a further Trustee with skills/experience in the following areas Fundraising, HR, or Social care or counselling services.

It is a requirement that the post-holder be a Christian who assents to the charity's Statement of Faith.

Closing date Friday 29th September

Application pack can be requested from Chloë:
admin@christianfamilyconcern.org.uk

Potential candidates are welcome to make contact with the Chair of Trustees for an informal conversation:
chair@christianfamilyconcern.org.uk



Coming soon...

CFC Christmas Cards

2024 CFC Calendar

On sale from November