

Autumn 2023 - Newsletter

Summer has definitely gone and there is a definite autumnal feel to the weather, must be time for an update....

A Newly Commissioned Evangelist

Just after our last Newsletter hit the presses, on July 18th, Our Lead Evangelist, Helen, was formally Commissioned into Church Army and was Admitted into the Office of Evangelist in the Anglican Communion. The culmination of her 3



Helen
with
Bishop
Tim

years studying, this involved a service in



Sheffield Cathedral for her and the rest of the "Class of 23", led by Church Army CEO Peter Rouch and Bishop Tim Thornton. It was a wonderful celebration with colleagues, family and friends and she now gets an official Church Army scarf to wear!

Circus Time

Esther, Helen and some of our volunteers joined St John's, Chatham and Chatham Evangelical Church's joint holiday club in the Summer. Obviously slightly envious of Helen's new scarf, Esther chose a Big Top theme for the games and activities just so she could wear a lion outfit! 47 children attended, most of whom do not go to church so it was great to make contact with them and their parents and we pray this is the start of journeys to faith. Since then our Team have also worked with the two churches to host a Light Party on 31st October.



We've Moved...

In August, we moved premises to make space for the long-awaited renovation of St John's Church. We are now meeting at Emmaus Christian Centre, still in the centre of Chatham, but with the benefit of rooms we can use and, our particular joy, more than 1 toilet! We expect to be here 18 months to 2 years before returning to the new-look St John's.

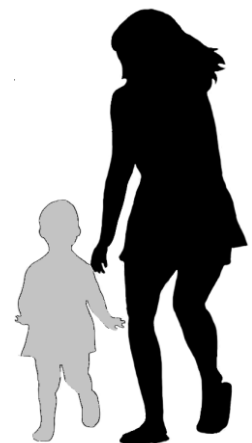


...But It's Business As Usual



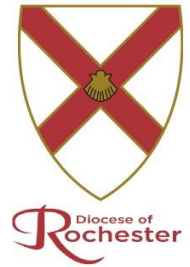
We have received a wonderful welcome from the URC fellowship who meet there and are blessed to have been able to continue all our regular activities without interruption. One particular blessing is that Medway Oaks now meets in the room where we first started. Numbers have dropped slightly, with 25-35 joining, but we have seen a number of new guests coming. The sandwiches are still as good so we pray more will come to try them.

Our group for mums with children in care is still full of cake and laughter and tears. Our ladies are an amazing group of people who are learning to start to see themselves more as God sees them as opposed to how the world has made them feel. We use various craft and other activities to reinforce this, from writing down some of the things that have been said about us on pieces of paper that we subsequently burn, to making coasters from broken pieces of glass to remind us that there is beauty in the brokenness.





MEDWAY CENTRE OF MISSION



New Activities

We've been expanding our work with Children and Families;

- Esther and Helen are now running "Kids Matter" a 6-week parenting course with 8 parents attending.
- Esther also now leads Collective Worship once a week at our local infant school, as well as a weekly lunch club. She is becoming more of a chaplain there as staff start to talk to her and share some of their worries.
- Helen has taken on the running of Toy Time, a stay and play for pre-school age children at a local church. Anyone who knows Helen will know how much this is not her calling, but the alternative was it closing due to pressure of work on the vicar and, as most of the 10-15 mums who come are not churched, we felt it important to keep it going until a new local team can be formed. Fortunately Esther does all the hard work in preparing for Little Lambs, the stay and play group now running at Emmaus, so Helen can use her ideas.

Supporting Our Work

There are a number of ways to support what we are doing in Medway:

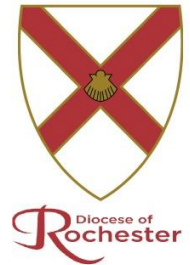
Pray – Please pray for all of our activities, for our staff and volunteers, and for those that we come into contact with, that lives will be changed and people will be brought into closer relationship with God.

Be inspired – We would love to expand our activities and groups into other churches around Medway and offer advice and help with setting up groups and other missional activities. For more information, or to discuss opportunities to volunteer at the Centre of Mission please contact Helen (details below).

Spread the Word – Tell your friends what we are doing or send them this newsletter. Helen is also happy to talk to churches or other missional groups about the work of Church Army and to share some of the real stories of the lives we've seen changed.



MEDWAY CENTRE OF MISSION



Financial Support – It’s a real-world fact that everything we do costs money and there is never enough. If you or your church would like to financially bless the work we are doing we can assure you we will put the funds to good use. Regular giving is the best way to support our work as it helps us to budget, meaning we can focus more on the frontline work. However, every gift makes a difference.

To support **Medway Centre of Mission** please quote reference: **1177**

To support **Helen Kiralfy** please quote reference: **2020HKI**

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| Donate Online: | churcharmy.org/donate |
| Donate by Phone | Call 0300 123 2113 to make a card donation over the phone or to request a Direct Debit mandate for a regular gift |
| Internet banking | Barclays Bank Sort Code: 20-49-81 Account Number: 80255459 Account Name: The Church Army |
| Standing Order | Email Helen (details below) for a form |
| By Post | Send cheques made payable to “Church Army” to Church Army, Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ |

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Church Army is a registered charity so donations by qualifying individuals can be enhanced by Gift Aid – Contact Church Army for a Giftaid declaration form.



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

If you would like to do a fundraising event to support our work please contact Church Army’s Fundraising Team on 0300 123 2113

Thank you for your support!

Contact Details

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For more general information about Church Army see www.churcharmy.org

Medway Centre of Mission is a partnership between the Diocese of Rochester and Church Army.

Transforming lives and communities