

WHY VOLUNTEER WITH US?

The Christian CARE Association [CCA] is a well-established and respected charity that has been working in the London Borough of Merton for over 50 years. In 2017 we were honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Our referrals come from Children's and Adult Care, the NHS, schools, as well as through liaising with other charities. It encourages us to hear from them how much they appreciate the speed, thoroughness and care with which we meet requests for help in situations that are often challenging.

The gratitude of the families we meet is overwhelming. Even a small act of kindness can be transforming when the situation seems hopeless. Thanks may come through tears on the doorstep, in effusive text messages, in cards and pictures drawn by the children. "*Christian CARE was there for us on our hour of need,*" they say. To many we become the extended family they do not have.

So to volunteer for CCA is immensely rewarding. Volunteers come because they want to give of their time to make a difference to those who have so little, and we find that the families give so much back to us in their trust and openness. For many volunteers support for the families becomes a long-term commitment.

To take a leading role in CCA is an honour and a privilege. There is a real bond of unity and mutual support among the volunteers.

COULD THIS BE YOU?

CCA is an ecumenical Christian charity with its volunteers drawn predominantly from local churches and committed to fulfilling Jesus' command "*Love your neighbour.*" It tries to put this into practice by responding in very practical ways to the needs of families, of any faith or none, who are living in poverty in the local community in Merton. We are looking for a Deputy CARE Coordinator who **shares this vision.**

The charity has changed and adapted over the years and we want to keep moving forward. This year, for example, as we come out of Covid times, we have decided to focus on our children. We would like to appoint someone as Deputy CARE Coordinator who will **bring fresh ideas** to the work.

The families we support come with a wide range of issues - illness, disability, debt, benefit delays, abuse, immigration problems, poor housing, eviction, bereavement. The Deputy CARE Coordinator would be someone with both an **awareness** of the deep poverty that exists in what is often perceived to be a wealthy Borough and also some **experience** of working alongside those in need.

CCA is unusual for a charity run totally by volunteers in the breadth of its services. With 6 Projects - Befriending, Family Support, a Furniture Project, a Baby, Children's and Household Project, Children's Activities and an Office 'Hub', the word 'Coordinator' in the role title is really significant; **coordinating the work** means taking in the big picture.

ARE THESE YOUR SKILLS?

The management of the charity is through the CARE Committee which meets bi-monthly, and comprises the Coordinators of the six Projects under the leadership of the CARE Coordinator. The Deputy CARE Coordinator would share in the overall **organisation, planning and reviewing** of the work, and in the **support** of the Coordinators and their teams.

With the CARE Coordinator, she or he would **oversee** the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers to ensure that their work was both effective and rewarding.

Again with the CARE Coordinator, she or he would be involved in **assessing** the referrals of families to the charity and then **delegating** responsibility to one or more of the Coordinators, while **taking the lead** on more critical issues.

CCA has a Board of Trustees most of whom have had experience of day-to-day practical work in the charity. Alongside the CARE Coordinator, he or she would be **liaising closely with them and following their guidance.**

We hope the Deputy CARE Coordinator would **welcome opportunities for training and networking** with other charities within the borough and across London which share the objective of the relief of poverty.

He or she would be encouraged to work to his or her personal strengths, for example a **gift for communication** could open up opportunities for being a **spokesperson** for the charity in the local community.

Who we are

We are a group of about 60 volunteers, many from different churches in Merton, who want to show care and concern for our neighbours as Jesus did. We are supported by more churches, by schools, women's groups as well as many individuals in the Borough and across the UK.

What we do

- Our Befrienders give time to listen when people are feeling lonely and isolated
- Through our Family Support scheme we help with regular and emergency food deliveries
- Our Furniture Project delivers recycled furniture, bedding and kitchen items
- Our Baby and Children's Project provides clothes for children and items for newborn babies
- Through our Children's Activities we address our concerns that youngsters should not miss out on things that their friends enjoy like birthday gifts, parties, camps, workshops and outings

HOW TO CONTACT US

Call by appointment only at...

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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9.30am to 2.00pm

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Visit us online at....

<https://christiancaremerton.org.uk>

Registered Charity : 1044099



**in the London
Borough of Merton**



**DEPUTY
CARE
COORDINATOR**