

## **Who we are**

We are a group of 60 volunteers, many from churches of different denominations across Merton, who want to show care and concern for our neighbours as Jesus did. We are supported by churches, schools, women's groups and 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 and other household 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 and outings

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

*Call in at...*

Christian CARE Association

Martin Way Methodist Church

Buckleigh Avenue

London SW20 9JZ

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9.30am to 2.00pm

*Phone us on ...*

020 3302 0181

(Office hours and answerphone)

07932 628840

*Email us at ...*

Email: [christiancaremerton@gmail.com](mailto:christiancaremerton@gmail.com)

*Visit us at....*

Web: [www.christiancaremerton.org.uk](http://www.christiancaremerton.org.uk)

Registered Charity : 1044099



in the London  
Borough of Merton



**JOIN THE FAMILY  
SUPPORT TEAM -  
SHOPPER**

## FAMILY SUPPORT

At this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, Family Support - the provision of food and other household essentials - has become really central to the work of Christian CARE. So does Christian CARE run Foodbank? Yes and No! We do respond to emergency referrals for food eg when there are benefit delays. However our Family Support is about giving a smaller number of families, who are really struggling to provide for their children, a measure of food security. We usually befriend the parents and help the children in these families too, so it is a very personal service. Our shoppers deliver food parcels meeting specific family needs regularly each fortnight [currently each month]. We also include baby, household and toiletry items if necessary. At Christmas we provide hampers for over 30 families. .



***"We will never forget what Christian CARE has done for us at this time. You have stood by us in our time of need."***

## ABOUT YOU

### Are you...

- a sympathetic listener, patient, caring and non-judgmental?
- willing to keep in close touch with and be guided by the Family Support Coordinator?
- reliable, responsible and punctual?
- aware of the importance of issues of safeguarding and confidentiality?
- in sympathy with the ethos of the charity?
- available to offer a 3 hour slot one weekday each fortnight?
- able to drive around the area?

## ABOUT US

### Our commitment to you is to

- train and support you through our Family Support Coordinator
- arrange your DBS check
- invite you to social events with other volunteers
- pay your expenses

## WHY CHRISTIAN CARE MATTERS

In the attic of a 3-bedroomed terraced house in March 2016 I met Grace, Amy (2) and newborn Beth (names changed) referred to Christian CARE as an 'uncomplicated' family. Already the Baby Project had provided everything for Beth's birth. Eleven other people lived in the house sharing a tiny kitchen and bathroom. Grace was sad, depressed, hungry and lonely. For 5 months I visited her fortnightly taking food, nappies, and an Oyster. In May they were evicted and sent, with no assistance at all, to a small room in Lewisham which contained only a bed. Arriving at 8pm with only £5, Grace bought a sheet and a teaspoon. We had paid for her taxi from Merton and the next day we took food, kitchen basics and bedding. This proved an unsafe environment with violent neighbours, so Grace was sent to a small mice-infested room in Brixton. I continued visiting as she still had no social worker or benefits. We found a solicitor to prevent her removal to 'far, cold' Durham and another to help with immigration issues. After a year Grace, granted status and benefits, was rehoused by Lambeth; she was overjoyed. We saw Grace and the girls at our New Year Party and they had a great day on our family outing to Littlehampton in July. In August 2018 helped by friends, Grace moved to a 2-bedroomed flat in Birmingham. With promised help for childcare, things are really looking up for her. Grace has blossomed into a positive, determined and fun-loving mother who cares for her children beautifully. In response to our £50 voucher towards equipping her flat, she texted: 'Thank you soo much for everything, we do really appreciate you. We are very happy here so don't worry too much about us. We will go to church this Sunday and meet other people from Ghana. A big thank you to all the wonderful people at Christian Care.'

Clare Gray