

Open Hands (OH) has been working for more than 13 years helping disadvantaged children and their families in Romania. We aim to break the cycle of poverty which traps so many generations of Romanians, especially those from a Roma background. To achieve this, OH focusses on family support, housing, health and education. It also runs the Rainbow House – a safe haven where children can recover from experiences of neglect, abuse and trauma, where their many needs are met and they are encouraged to discover their potential. OH's programs benefit over 100 children.

Here we spotlight two areas of OH activity:

Lighthouse CP

In 2021, OH took a step of faith to establish the Lighthouse Program even though there was not full committed funding for it. This is a structured education concept aimed at catching up the lost time from school that so many poor and disadvantaged children suffer. The first project within the program is at Ciprian Porumbescu in north-east Romania, using a building made available by the local authority and employing professional staff. This building is now fitted out with equipment and furnishings appropriate to an educational function, including an inter-active whiteboard.

The teaching is offered in the morning or afternoon depending on the timing of each child's school day. About 40 children can take part. A hot meal is also provided, probably the best meal the children will eat that day.

Ukraine

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, OH provided immediate support for refugees – mostly children and parents/grand-parents coming into Romania. That need is no longer there but OH continues to take aid items to Chernivtsi in western Ukraine for people who have fled from other areas.



During the last few months, OH became aware of an orphanage nearby in a place called Magala. This is reminiscent of, and at least as bad, as many of those found in Romania in the 1990s, with children (often with health conditions) virtually abandoned. There is a clear need for some help to be provided but at present OH is carefully considering what can realistically be done in the present situation.

Please continue to pray for all our programs - that God will bless them and the people running them and that children's lives will be permanently improved.

Follow OH on Instagram ([openhands.charity](https://www.instagram.com/openhands.charity)) or Facebook (Open Hands Charity).

Pictures show egg painting at Lighthouse CP, and another van load of aid being loaded.



Open Hands Charity

Committed to support the poorest, most disadvantaged children in Romania

Reg. Charity No. 1136482



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MISSION PARTNERS

- **Prison Fellowship:** Please pray for more volunteers for letter-writing to prisoners, as the need is greater than the number of volunteers at present. And please pray for foreign national prisoners, some with great language and cultural difficulties to cope with.
- **A Rocha International:** Pray for wisdom and discernment for those involved in selecting a new leader and for the team in this time of transition (Graham Wright as he provides interim leadership).
- Pray for mission partners **Wycliffe Bible Translators** and **Bible Society** as they seek to make the Word of God available to all, and for all of us that we may creatively engage with God's Word and live it out in our daily lives.
- **Think & Do, Egypt:** Pray for strength, encouragement and creativity for the staff, especially those serving in the villages, as they work through the long hot summer, and for lasting results in the lives of those they reach.
- Pray for Egyptian Christians (and others) as they seek to help the hundreds of thousands of refugees, mainly Sudanese, currently flooding into Aswan.
- **Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team:** Please pray and declare God's appointed people will apply to join our team for our September training course.
- Pray for God's grace, strength, courage and healing upon all those who have lost loved ones at Beachy Head.





CREATION CARE - A MARK OF MISSION

Did you know the Church of England Fifth Mark of Mission is “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”?

In February 2020 General Synod agreed to set out a plan to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

A more recent proposal highlights the increasingly rapid rate of climate change and the need to act accordingly.

The proposal is wide-ranging and asks the whole church to:

- * review policies and procedures to prioritise creation care
- * invest in renewable energy and divest from fossil fuels
- * develop training to deepen understanding of the missionary imperative to care for creation
- * commit to pray regularly about the environmental and climate crises
- * reduce carbon emissions
- * access central support including advice, guidance and central procurement of appropriate products to achieve savings
- * lobby HM Government to support the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change



BEEKEEPING AT SOUTHOVER

Beekeeping season is back and I shall be inspecting the Southover bees each Monday evening from 18.30 weather permitting. Anyone is welcome to come along and we have protective clothing for adults and children. Henry Foster



ECO TIP FOR JULY



Help hedgehogs in hot weather. Hedgehogs particularly need help in a heatwave, as their usual prey of slugs, snails and worms are often unavailable. Leaving out a juicy snack, such as mealworms or canned dog food, can help in sustained warm weather. If you have a garden pond, ensure there's always a way for hedgehogs (and other small mammals) to climb out if they fall in.

WILD BEE ACTION PACK

To download your free Wild Bee Action Pack from Sussex Wildlife Trust, full of amazing facts about wild bees and how to encourage them in your garden, go to: <https://dnu7gk7p9afoo.cloudfront.net/wild-bee-action-pack-2.pdf>

If you don't have access to download the document, ask one of the Creation Care Team to print you a copy.



GIVING TO TRINITY

You can give to support the ministry of TRINITY in a variety of ways. If you are a regular member or consider TRINITY your church, the best way to give is through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).



Please visit our website for more details <https://trinitylewes.org/about/giving/> For any queries about setting up regular giving with the PGS, please get in touch with their support team: Phone: 0333 002 1260; Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk; Our church name is TRINITY Church Lewes and our PGS parish code 100610471.

You can also give using our contactless systems at our sites, and you can give cash or cheques to the clergy or post cheques to the office. If you are able to gift-aid your donation, we can claim back 25% of your giving as no extra cost to you. Please email (finance@trinitylewes.org) and our treasurer will be able to give you the forms to do this.

WATCH WHAT YOU WASH DOWN THE SINK!

Some cosmetics, soaps, washing-up liquids and cleaning products can be harmful to wildlife with long lasting effects. Assume that many may end up in the sea and accumulate there, with devastating effects. Look for kinder brands like Ecover, Method and some supermarket own-brands which state that they are made from natural and environmentally-friendly ingredients. They are usually made in a more sustainable way and often with re-cycled packaging.



Take just a little time to look before you buy – and be happy that you are helping to preserve our beautiful but vulnerable home, gifted to us by the Creator.

Churchyard Working Party at TRINITY St John's

Saturday 8th July

All welcome from 10am. Please come and help keep the churchyard and front garden beautiful!



RESTORING GOD'S CREATION

As Christians we have a special responsibility to pray and act to restore the creation that God made, nurtures and loves. How can we encourage each other to live out this responsibility? Here is a prayer to help us on our way...

Loving God, fill us afresh with your life-giving, nurturing spirit. Give us a vision of your world as it should be and the strength to pursue it. May we have compassion for those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate change and the courage to stand in solidarity with them. Jesus, thank you that you invite us to your table where all have equal worth. Show us what it means to put our sisters and brothers before ourselves and be more like you. Amen.



LOCAL FOOD BANKS NEED

Tinned meats, tinned fruit, tinned veg, cereals, UHT milk, toiletries, egg boxes may be left in SO or SJ porch.



CLOTHES FOR REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

There is still a need for men's, women's, children & babies' clothes & toiletries, & mobile phones, if possible with chargers, wiped clean of personal data. Please leave in the box in TRINITY Southover porch.



TRINITY Southover is normally open for prayer

Monday & Wednesday
12:00 noon - 4:30pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9:30am - 4:30pm
Southover High Street, BN7 1JH

trinitylewes.org

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