

December 2024 - TRINITY Mission News

OPEN HANDS - TRINITY's Christmas appeal

TRINITY

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OPEN HANDS work with children and families in rural communities of Romania who suffer from isolation and poverty, typically caused by a complete lack of education and poor opportunities for work. Most children and families they work with are of Roma ethnicity and face severe hardship and destitution. Discrimination, lack of education, unemployment, homelessness, extreme poverty and hunger are part of their daily lives. They work with parents who had traumatic upbringings themselves and received no education as children. Open Hands is often the first and only support these families receive. They meet many parents who have no bigger wish than to lead a 'normal' life and provide for their own children. They find hope in Open Hands and work with them to improve their children's situation. Open Hands' activities focus on:



Rainbow House: The Rainbow House is a small day centre which has the capacity to receive up to 25 children a day. It is a safe haven for deprived children, a place where they can recover from experiences of neglect, abuse and trauma. Here their needs are met and children are encouraged to discover their potential.

Lighthouse: Many children who come to Lighthouse have lost years of learning and are under-achieving at school and at risk of dropping out. By supporting children's educational development, Open Hands give them the tools to escape poverty.

Family Support: Open Hands workers see many homes which are places of extreme poverty and neglect. Children suffer from a lack of food, emotional warmth and care. Many share one small bed or sleep on the floor, and have no toys. Limited, if any, access to water and electricity, often coupled with very limited parental capability, results in homes becoming unsanitary and neglected. Open Hands visit children at home to strengthen families and empower parents to break away from poverty.



Education: According to UNICEF, 300,000 – 400,000 children of compulsory school age in Romania do not attend school regularly and so will have very limited work opportunities. They are therefore at risk of following the same path as their parents and grandparents. To break this cycle, Open Hands put a strong focus on the children's education: not just being able to read and write, but learning new things to develop their potential and thrive.



It's that time of year again: Christmas Appeal

Time flies, and Open Hands Charity is working full steam ahead towards its Christmas preparations. For many of us here in the UK, Christmas is such a special, cosy time filled with family love. As a charity, Open Hands wants to share some of that love and happiness with disadvantaged children in Romania who have nothing at all at Christmas.

Open Hands plans to hold large Christmas parties for children and families living in poverty. During these parties the Good News of Jesus will be shared, Carols will be sung, Christmas dinners will be served, and the children will meet Santa and receive gifts.

Additionally, Open Hands will deliver over 500 Christmas gifts directly to children who are living in poverty in rural communities. Over the years, Open Hands workers have entered into many poor homes where they found children in very neglected states – receiving a visit and beautiful gifts is an experience these children never forget. Please help Open Hands to make this Christmas an unforgettable one for every child! Every donation, large or small makes a BIG difference.



CAFÉ 12/31
will be closed for
Christmas
from
Tuesday 24th December
to **Monday 6th January**



TRINITY Southover Churchyard Working Party
Please join us on Saturday 14th December from 10am for a churchyard tidy. Hot drinks & Christmas treats provided.
Children welcome.



TRINITY'S MISSION GIVING IN 2024	
As a church we give a tithe of our planned income to mission.	
Total funds disbursed to mission partners during the year amounted to:	
Lisa Buyinza & Pearl of Grace Ministries, Uganda	£7,500
Life In Abundance	£2,500
Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team	£2,000
Prison Fellowship (including £500 to Angel Tree appeal)	£3,500
Family Support Work	£4,595
Bible Society	£2,000
HOMELINK	£4,500
The Leprosy Mission	£3,000
Hannah Colpus - GoMAD Tanzania	£1,000
Total	£30,595

The amounts given reflect the information we had to hand at the time about partners' needs and resources.

UPDATES AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MISSION PARTNERS



Algeria is a hostile place to be a Christian, but Christianity is growing. For former-drug dealer, Idir, life has been transformed through discovering Christ. Idir, 37, is one of many Algerian Christians who has engaged with the Bible for the first time through Bible Society. He explained how he became a Christian after reading the Gospel of Luke: 'in the early 2000s Christians here used to meet in hiding, under the trees in the mountains. This is also when the first Gospels were distributed in our area and one of our cousins brought one to my parents' house.'



Please pray for our children and families and carers as we come to the Christmas period which is a time of concern and pressure and highlights their situation without school meals provided.

Please pray for our frontline teams as they handle the diverse pressures of the intensity of this Christmas season and for the central team as they support and fund raise.

Please pray for the joy of our carol service on 12th December in Fletching at 7.00pm.



Please pray for TLM's partner, Karuna Project in Mumbai, the mobile clinic providing free healthcare and Leprosy treatment, and that the medics have the skills to bind up wounds and broken hearts. That families will find a pathway out of poverty through vocational training, especially the young people.



Our chaplains are on patrol at Beachy Head 365 days of the year. Please pray for those chaplains, members of the police, coastguards, ambulance service who will be on duty on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day and that there will not be any suicides at Beachy Head during this holiday season as we know it can be a difficult time for many.



Trevor and Tracey Meadows are visiting Lisa in Kampala for a week in early December. Please pray it will be a very encouraging time and a lovely experience too for Lioness and Levani.



Please pray for LIA-Kenya and the success of their outreach communities so that churches can be equipped to foster growth and transformation within their communities. Pray too for church leaders enduring illness, economic challenges, and persecution, that they may find grace, strength and encouragement in Jesus.



Exciting news: 50 - 60 gifts are being sent to their children from men in Lewes Prison this month, through Angel Tree, along with personal notes from the men. Thank God for this!

Pray for those prisoners being transferred between prisons – for support during the transition time, and that access to family and friends will not be inhibited.

Pray for all prisoners with depression and anxiety, and for those trying to leave addictions.

Pray for a wonderful Christmas message to be shared in each prison, and for many prisoners to be blessed by attending Chapel services.



Praise and pray for HOMELINK's faithful trustees, staff and volunteers, and pray that they will be able to help many more of the hidden homeless in the Lewes area to settle into suitable accommodation.

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Sue Clyde writes: Thank you so much for the fantastic response for the Shoebox appeal, 83 families and elderly will be blessed this Christmas with our love and generosity! Praise the Lord.



TRINITY Southover open for prayer
normally Monday to Friday during the day
Southover High Street BN7 1JH



CAFÉ 12/31
Tues to Sat 9.30am - 2.00pm
Hot food served daily
9.30am to 1.30pm



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) TRINITY's parish code 100610471.

You can make direct internet payments to our bank account. Name: TRINITY Southover Church Council. Sortcode: 20 49 76. Account Number: 20775894. You can also give using our contactless systems at our sites.



If you are able to gift-aid your donation please email Bill our treasurer, and he will give you the relevant form:

finance@trinitylewes.org

Our website has more details: <https://trinitylewes.org/about/giving/>

CLOTHES FOR HOMELESS & REFUGEES

Many thanks for ongoing donations. As the colder weather comes please look out any warm clothes, jackets, boots, sleeping bags . . . all very gratefully accepted in the collection boxes at our church sites, or contact Mary Boyum on 0780 3630831 to collect from your home. Thank you!



trinitylewes.org

The TRINITY Centre, Abinger Place, Lewes BN7 2QA / 01273 474377
office@trinitylewes.org