



*Living Community  
Serving with love*

# Advocates & Supporters Community



The British Province of Carmelites

## **A simple and hopefully helpful description of Carmel (ite) ...**

*The Carmelite Order is part of the Catholic Church and traces its beginnings to hermits who lived on Mount Carmel in late twelfth century Holy Land. They sought God in prayer, simplicity and community, inspired by Elijah and Mary. Today, Carmel is a worldwide family of friars, sisters and lay people, who continue that same call: to pray, live together in faith, serve others and share God's love.*

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## **A brief introduction to 'The Friars', Aylesford ...**

*Set in the heart of Kent, The Friars is an ancient Carmelite religious house dating back to the thirteenth century. Over the centuries and in recent years, it has grown into a centre of pilgrimage and welcome, drawing people of all ages and backgrounds. Many come to enjoy the peaceful grounds, while others take part in prayer, services and retreats, all experiencing the hospitality and peace that the Friars continues to offer.*



# Introduction

The British Province of Carmelites is creating new opportunities to journey with young people and young adults, valuing the gifts, hopes and questions each person brings.

Rooted in the Carmelite charism, this initiative is about walking side by side in meaningful ways: listening, supporting and growing together in understanding, faith, friendship and ministry.

At the heart of this work is the Simon Stock Community, a residential young adult community at The Friars, Aylesford.. Each year, a small group shares daily prayer, community life, formation and ministry particularly with School, Parish and University groups. A wider network of associates and advocates also connects through prayer, reflection, volunteering, support and shared experiences.

Together, we seek to build a community that welcomes others, strengthens belonging, supports wellbeing and inspires each person to recognise their significance, knowing that every life has meaning, that lives can be enriched through genuine encounter with Jesus Christ, and that together we can make a positive difference in the world.

## **Unpacking some words...**

**Charism** – a distinct gift of the Holy Spirit, given to individuals or Religious Orders for the good of the Church and the world.

**Formation** – personal and spiritual growth.

**Ministry** – sharing our gifts to support others, live out our faith and make a difference in people's lives.



# Vision

We are creating a space where young people and young adults can search for meaning, grow in faith and discover their purpose.

Rooted in God and our Carmelite tradition, we journey together through prayer, community and service, seeking to live and share the Gospel in fresh and authentic ways.

At the heart of this vision is a young adult community at The Friars, Aylesford, a place of welcome and encounter, inspiring others to recognise their worth, experience transformation and walk with hope in the world.





# Mission



- **Accompany** young people and young adults as they seek faith, meaning, and purpose, nurturing a shared journey of growth and transformation.
- **Build community** rooted in prayer, friendship, and shared life, where each person is seen, valued, and supported.
- **Form and empower** young adults for service and leadership within the Church and wider society.
- **Collaborate** in ministry with schools, parishes and universities, offering spaces for reflection, connection, and genuine encounter with Jesus Christ.
- **Witness to the Carmelite way**, drawing from its contemplative heart to inspire reflection, compassion, and hope in today's world.

We walk in the footsteps of Mary, who carried God's presence into the world with courage and care; Elijah, who stood for truth and listened for God in the silence; and the witnesses and saints of Carmel, who show us how ordinary lives can burn with extraordinary love.

Our mission is not lived alone. We walk and work alongside Carmelite friars and other members of the Carmelite family, as well as friends and partners who share our vision.

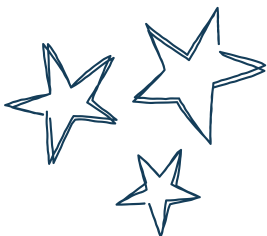




# Values

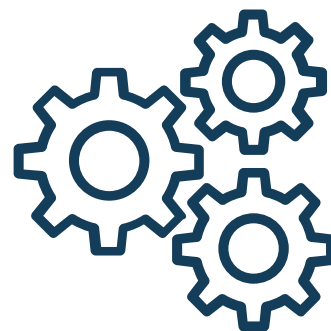
The values guiding our mission keep us grounded, attentive to those we encounter and open to God's call:

- **Community** – We commit to creating spaces of belonging, where relationships of trust, friendship and mutual support can grow.
- **Love** – We place love at the centre of everything we do.
- **Hope** – We trust in God's future, even in times of uncertainty.
- **Resilience** – We remain steady, learning to adapt and move forward, asking for support when needed.
- **Authenticity** – We dare to be real with ourselves, with others and with God.
- **Compassion** – We are attentive to the struggles of others, ready to act in support.
- **Presence** – We keep our hearts open to the 'more' of life, always attentive and responsive to God.
- **Peace** – We seek the peace of Christ in our hearts and lives, carrying it into every situation and working for reconciliation in our world.
- **Sustainability** – We commit to care for creation, choosing ways of living and acting that respect and protect our common home.





# Impact & Benefits



## **Carmelite Friars and wider Carmelite family**

**Renewal & Hope** – being refreshed by the presence of young adults who bring new energy, faith and perspective.

**Shared Mission** – sharing our Carmelite charism and communicating in new and innovative ways.

**Community & Continuity** – experiencing the joy of intergenerational community, which will strengthen the Carmelite mission in Britain and beyond.



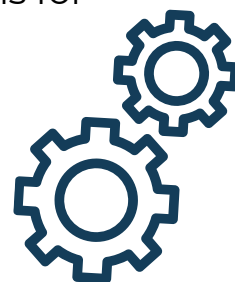
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## **Young Adults Volunteering and living in community**

**Personal Growth & Formation** – growing in faith, identity and purpose and learning to listen deeply to God's call in life.

**Belonging & Friendship** – discovering authentic community, building trust, resilience and shared responsibility.

**Skills & Leadership** – developing confidence and practical skills for service, ministry and leadership, and preparing for the future.



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## **Young People experiencing our programmes and retreats**

**Encounter & Inspiration** – meeting young adults who live their faith with energy, honesty and passion, who are living the Gospel and helping to make it relatable.

**Support & Formation** – receiving encouragement through tailored programmes and retreats, with opportunities to explore or deepen faith, reflect on values, and gain support, tools and accompaniment for making good decisions in everyday life.

**Invitation & Belonging** – finding a safe welcoming space to feel valued, and having the freedom to explore and grow.



# Advocates & supporters Community



The Simon Stock Community at The Friars, Aylesford, is a new and exciting initiative. While young adults will live, pray and serve as part of the residential community, their journey will be strengthened by a wider circle of advocates and supporters who **share the vision** and believe in the value of this ministry.

We aim to build a network of advocates and supporters who will offer their **time, energy** and **prayer** to ensure the Young Adult Community can flourish. By offering **friendship, promoting** the project, **fundraising, sponsoring** aspects of the ministry, or simply keeping the community in prayer, supporters will help create the environment where young people can thrive.

## Mission

As advocates and supporters, we share in the Carmelite **mission** by accompanying and enabling this new community. The role is to strengthen the foundations of the project, raise awareness and contribute **practical** and **spiritual** support. In doing so, we will help to open spaces where young adults and young people can encounter God, build community and discover fresh ways of living the Gospel.

## Impact and benefits

Together we can **make a difference** to young people by collaborating in living the vision, sharing the Gospel and helping Carmel to flourish. By supporting the project, you will:

- **Enable** - young adults to grow in confidence, leadership and faith
- **Contribute** - to a ministry that supports young people
- **Strengthen** - a positive Christian presence and witness in society
- **Belong** - to a community rooted in prayer, hospitality and service



## **Our name**

Saint Simon Stock, a thirteenth century Carmelite friar born in Kent, was a man of deep faith and vision. He inspires us through his courage and openness to the Spirit. In a time of transition and uncertainty for the Carmelite Order, he had the insight and energy to reimagine Carmel, giving it new expression in the heart of the people. Like him, we seek to help Carmel flourish today through faith, community and service.

## **Our logo is a symbol of faith, growth and accompaniment**

The central focus is the tree, representing new life and growth. Its strong roots keep us grounded, drawing on the wisdom and strength of those who came before, and reminding us that we are part of the bigger Carmelite story and tradition. Some will nest here; others will pause to rest. It is a place that seeks to offer care and support.

The tree also reminds us of our commitment to caring for creation. Our community house sits within the walled garden at The Friars, Aylesford, a daily reminder that we live close to the earth, in tune with creation, and seeking to live sustainably. The tree also reflects our commitment to one another as a community: rooted, growing and flourishing together in a shared journey of faith.

Behind the tree rises Mount Carmel, symbolizing Christ and guiding our spiritual journey. A path winds up from the roots, showing both our personal journey and the support we offer each other, especially to those seeking meaning, purpose or belonging.

The three stars represent Elijah, Mary and our Carmelite family, guiding us forward in faith, courage and hope. This logo invites us to walk together, grow deeply and be transformed.

# Prayer for Community

*Loving God,  
we thank you for the gift of young people and for  
the journey we share.*

*Root us in the Carmelite way of prayer, community  
and service, so that our hearts become places of  
welcome, where every person is seen, valued, and  
listened to.*

*Bless our mission and the community at The Friars,  
Aylesford.*

*Guide us with the courage of Mary, the faith of  
Elijah and the love of the saints of Carmel. May their  
witness help us to walk with hope each day.*

*Fill us with compassion and peace, that we may  
share your presence with the world, strengthening  
belonging, inspiring service and awakening hearts  
to the beauty of your love.*

*Amen.*





## Become part of our Advocates and Supporters Community

We can't do this alone! Whether you're able to offer prayer, time, skills or financial support, every contribution truly makes a difference.

Let us know how you'd like to support our project. You can complete our registration and donation forms online or, if you prefer, print the forms on the following pages and return them by post.



**Click here: [Advocates and Supporters register](#)**

*Or scan the QR code*



**Make a secure financial contribution on line. This can also include gift aid.**

**Click here: [Secure donation page](#)**

*Or scan the QR code*



We would also love to discuss other ways to support our work, including sponsorship opportunities. Please don't hesitate to get in touch; we'd be delighted to hear from you.



# Become part of our Advocates and Supporters Community

*Print this page and return or send by email*

**Full Name:**

**Phone number:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**How would you like to get involved?**

- I'd love to volunteer my time to help with events or projects
- I can promote the project in my church, school etc...
- I will pray for the community and its ministry
- I can give my skills or expertise.
- I'd like to support financially.

**If you're volunteering your time or skills, what works best ?**

- Short-term projects (e.g., helping at an event)
- Regular commitment (monthly)
- Specific skills/expertise:

**Note : Volunteering will require a DBS check and training**

**If you're supporting financially, which feels right for you?**

- One-time donation
- Ongoing/recurring donation
- Sponsorship (e.g. toward the cost of a volunteer or resources)
- Interested in legacy gifts

*If you would like to make a donation by cheque and are eligible, you can find our Gift Aid form on the next page. We would also love to discuss other ways to support our work, including sponsorship opportunities. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, we'd be delighted to hear from you.*

.....  
By completing this form you are consenting to the Carmelite Charitable Trust (CCT) holding and processing this data for analysis purposes. CCT will never share your details for marketing. For details see our privacy notice - <https://carmelite.org/policies/privacy-policy/>

*The British Province of Carmelites is committed to safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk, protecting them from neglect and all forms of abuse and promoting a safe environment.*



*Print this page and return or send by email*

## **Making your donations go further**

*Gift Aid is a simple way to boost your donations at no extra cost to you. If your donation is eligible, the Carmelite Charitable Trust will receive an extra 25p from HMRC for every £1 you donate*

*giftaid it*

**Your details, please complete in CAPITALS**

<b>Full Name</b>	
<b>Full Home Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	

I confirm that I would like all my donations past, present and future to the Carmelite Charitable Trust to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify us if your circumstances change.

**Signed:**

**Date:**



**Simon Stock Community, The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX**

*Carmelite Charitable Trust. Registered Charity No: 1061342.*

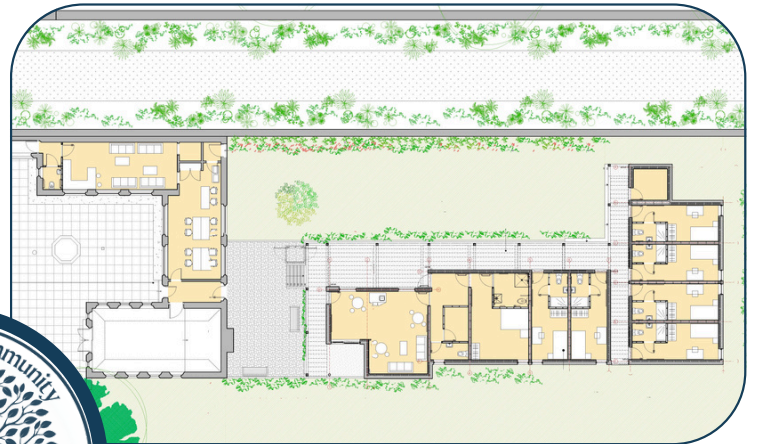


# Community House

## Conceptual design and plan

*Located in a walled garden behind the 15<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse.*

*The development is a mix of new build and renovation.*



*The Friars , Aylesford*





*Seekers of God, discovering how to listen  
for the still small voice of God amid the  
noise of our physical and virtual world.*



# Thank you

Thank you for your time. Your interest in supporting our mission and values means a great deal to us. Together we can achieve more as we continue to create fertile ground for Carmel to grow. If you'd like to find out more about our ministry, ask any questions, or explore ways to support our mission, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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