



COMING SOON
2027
COMING SOON

*Living Community
Serving with love*

Associate

Young Adult Community



The British Province of Carmelites

A simple and hopefully helpful definition of Carmel (ite) ...

The Carmelite Order is part of the Catholic Church and traces its beginnings to hermits who lived on Mount Carmel in 12th 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.



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 13th 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.





ASSOCIATE

Young Adult Community



Alongside the residential Young Adult Community, we aim to develop a non-residential Associate Community: a place of welcome and belonging for young adults aged 18 to 35 who wish to connect regularly with the life, values and spirituality of Carmel.

The Associate Community seeks to create a circle of belonging for young adults who desire to root their lives more deeply in prayer, community, service and formation while continuing to live their everyday lives. It will be a place of encounter, friendship and shared growth, connected to the residential community and inspired by life in Carmel.

We hope to offer regular gatherings for formation, prayer and social activities that explore aspects of Carmelite spirituality. Additional opportunities throughout the year will allow members to engage with the residential community and the wider Carmelite family in service and outreach.

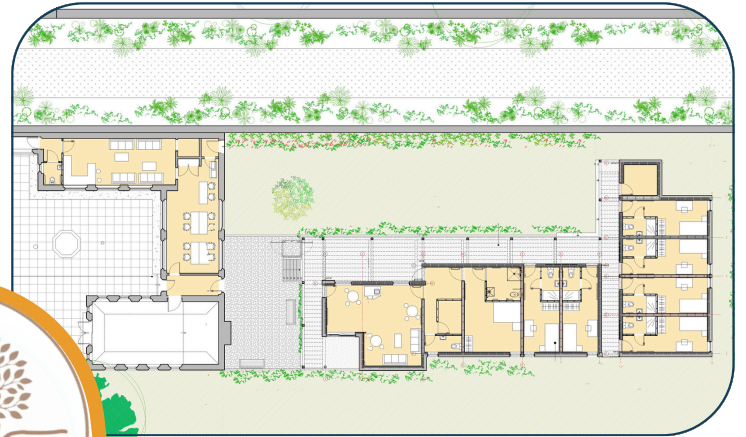


Community House

Conceptual design and plan

Located in a walled garden behind the 15th century gatehouse.

The development is a mix of new build and renovation.



The Friars , Aylesford





Thank you

Thank you for your time and interest. We would love to hear from you and learn what you are looking for or what you might like to offer. If you'd like to learn more, ask questions, or register your interest, please feel free to get in touch, we'd be delighted to connect with you.



+44 7552834019



www.carmelite.org



simonstock@carmelite.org



@gbcarmelite



/orderofcarmelites



**The Friars, Ayleford, Kent,
ME20 7BX, UK**

