



COMING SOON  
**2027**  
COMING SOON

*Living Community  
Serving with love*

# Volunteer Young Adult Youth Ministry 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.*



## 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.

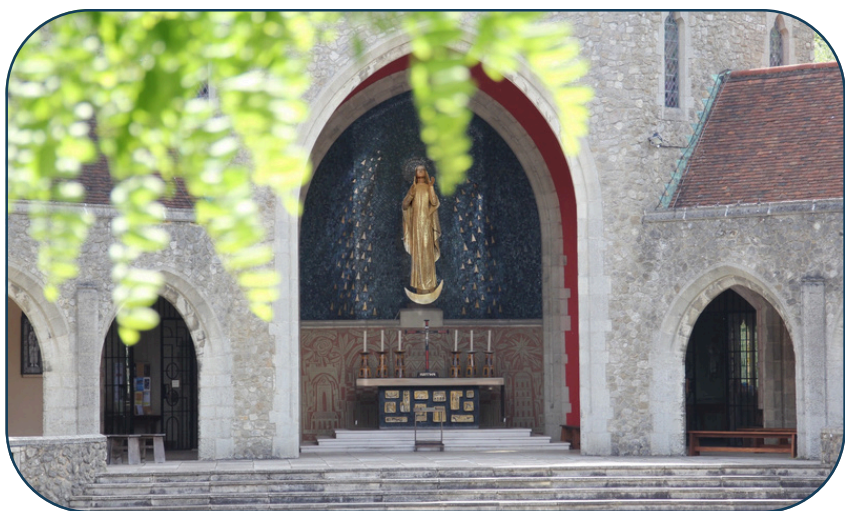
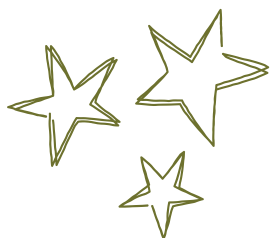




# Values

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.





## **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.



# Volunteer



## Apply to join our Young Adult Residential Community

There is something **exciting** and **adventurous** about being the first. We are inviting up to five young adults (aged 18–30) to join our first volunteer community at The Friars, Aylesford. This pioneering year will involve helping to shape our ministry with young people and young adults, supporting retreats, programmes, and events and building relationships with the Carmelite Friars, other volunteers, and the wider community. You will live, pray and serve together, sharing in daily life and prayer, while gaining new skills, deepening your faith and forming lasting friendships.

### What will you be doing?

- Supporting and leading retreats, programmes, and events at The Friars and around the province
- Contributing to the development of resources and outreach for young people and young adults
- Taking part in wider service and pastoral work as needed

### Community life and benefits

- Live in purpose-built accommodation on site at The Friars
- Daily prayer, reflection, and regular celebration of the Eucharist
- Shared meals, household tasks, social time and enrichment activities
- Training, formation, retreats, and support throughout the year
- Weekly allowance, accommodation, and meals provided
- For international volunteers: visa, health insurance and contribution to one return flight



# Volunteer

Could this be you?

Young Adult  
Residential Community



## Commitment

- Be an active, open, and welcoming member of the Christian community.
- Be a positive example, encouraging others through your life and actions.
- Work collaboratively in a team to lead, plan, and run retreats, programmes, and events, particularly for young people.
- Commit for one year to support stability, community life, and mission.

## Experience & qualities

### Essential:

- Open to possibilities, new opportunities and formation
- Aged 18 + (18–30)
- Able to speak and understand English to a good level
- Willing to provide information for a DBS/police check and two references
- International applicants must be referred by a Carmelite province or entity

### Helpful (but not essential):

- Experience of working with young people
- Active participation in a Christian community e.g. School/ Parish
- Familiarity with Carmelite spirituality

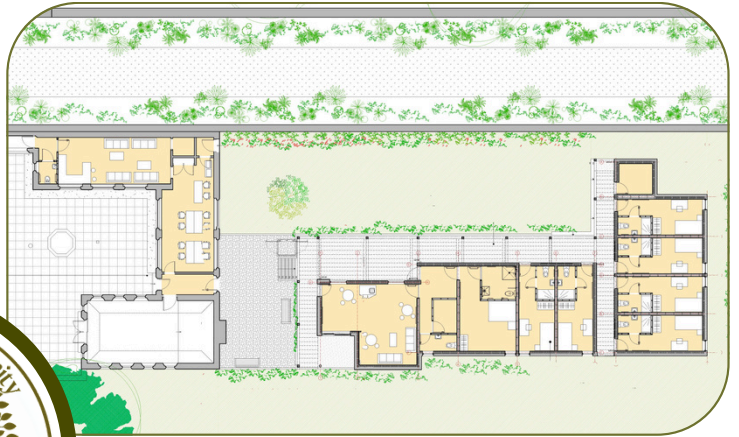


# Community House

## 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 and interest. We truly appreciate your openness to exploring a year of volunteering and community life with us. If you'd like to learn more, ask questions, or register your interest, please feel free to get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.



**+44 7552834019**



**[www.carmelite.org](http://www.carmelite.org)**



**[hello@carmelite.org](mailto:hello@carmelite.org)**



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The Friars, Aylesford, Kent,  
ME20 7BX, UK

