

# Keychange Contact

ISSUE 7 WINTER 2017

## Rediscovering creativity

**Prudence Yates**  
**Alexander House**

"I came to live at Alexander House following my stay in hospital. I wasn't physically or mentally fit enough to go home, so felt I would no longer be able to look after myself independently as I once did. I decided that I needed to have some support so I came for respite care for a month while I was getting my strength back. However, at the end of the month, I decided I wanted to stay.

"Living in Alexander House has brought new things into my life, as well as helping me rediscover others that I used to enjoy. I used to do cross stitching, which unfortunately I can't continue with because I don't see as well as I used to, but instead, I've taken up knitting, which

is something I haven't done for years, and I've now rediscovered my passion for it. Another activity I do and particularly enjoy is gardening, which I was not particularly interested in before coming here to Alexander House.

"What I most enjoy about living at Alexander House is that everyone is always ready to help when it's needed. I do particularly like the atmosphere and having people around, both other residents and staff. I also enjoy the walks in the garden, without which I could not have designed the Christmas card! *[See enclosed card created by Prudence which has been so popular that we have had to arrange a second print run].*

"The idea of how to make the card came from something I used to do in the past. In fact, I made greetings cards with pressed



Prudence Yates

flowers for a church sale years ago. I had a flower-press at home which I brought here to Alexander House but had never used it up until now.

"Hearing about the Christmas card competition made me think about using it again so another hobby was reborn from my past."

## Centre for Creativity and Innovation in Care

**Brian James**  
**Operations Manager**

**Keychange is very pleased to be a founder member of the Centre for Creativity and Innovation in Care (CC&IC). We were invited to join by our development partner, Ladder To The Moon.**

The CC&IC venture is a collaboration of care providers keen to innovate in order to improve the care experience they provide, alongside a bold overall aim to transform the care sector as a whole.

Chris Gage, founder of CC&IC states: "We enable care organisations to meet more of the CQC characteristics for outstanding service, 55% of which... refer

to creativity and innovation."

CC&IC use a mix of business insight and quality assurance with fun methods to allow staff to develop the skills and processes that release inspiring ideas and turn them into useful, practical actions that improve wellbeing outcomes and business performance.

CC&IC is founded on the belief that everyone is creative and everyone can contribute to creative processes that produce valued outcomes all round. Appreciating that everyone has something unique to contribute we will be encouraging three principle behaviours for creative teams and services:

- being generous and open – respecting everyone brings everyone more fun
- experimenting and enjoying yourself – playing around makes good stuff happen
- welcoming new ideas and building on them – saying "yes" makes the impossible possible

All the Keychange Communities will benefit from additional resources to support their

delivery of a creative culture. In brief, these include:

- Access to the CC&IC website with our own Keychange page
- Creative Leadership Training delivered through a Training Day and monthly webinars
- Ongoing resources and templates to help introduce CC&IC to the home
- Quarterly surveys to assess our progress in building a creative climate to live and work in
- Quarterly CC&IC meetings for the company leaders

By using these new tools and opportunities we hope that we will:

- develop creative confidence throughout the organisation at every level
- support staff to find ways to inspire themselves and others
- enable staff to be spontaneous
- make care fun and attractive
- challenge boundaries
- ultimately make it an even better experience to live and work with us



The Centre  
For Creativity  
And Innovation  
In Care

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# Christmas in Community – ‘God With Us’

**Phil Martin**  
CEO, Keychange Charity

**I love Christmas. I don't enjoy the way it has become so commercial, but I love the true meaning of Christmas. The hope and promise of Jesus coming as our Saviour – “Good News for all the people” – is how the Angels announced the birth of Jesus to the Shepherds in the Bible story.**

One of my favourite expressions of Christmas is the word ‘Immanuel’ which means ‘God With Us’. The word Immanuel was used as part of a prophecy in the Bible, over 700 years before Jesus was born.

For me, the term ‘God With Us’ means that God wanted to, and still wants to, be part of our lives. By sending Jesus, God’s Son, into the world as a baby, to grow up and live as a man, God was demonstrating that He wants to be actively involved in our lives, helping us, encouraging us, and by the way Jesus lived his life he showed us all how we should live our lives, how we should treat each other, how we should love God and love our neighbour as Jesus did.

‘God With Us’ also reminds me of the importance of community. In the same way that God wants to be with us to share our lives, so it is important for each of us to share our lives with other people. Being part of a community, especially at Christmas, is an important part of enjoying life. I firmly believe we were created to be part of communities and not to live our lives alone. Sadly for too many people, especially many that Keychange care for and support across our communities, loneliness can be a real issue, and being looked after and cared for in our communities is their most important part of overcoming their loneliness and feeling loved, accepted and happy.

This is one important reason why we have adopted a new strapline – ‘Creating Caring Communities’ – as this sums up so well what we strive to achieve as a Christian charity, especially at Christmas.

Across our thirteen Keychange communities we are looking forward to enjoying Christmas together, with other people, with families and friends, especially making sure we look after those who feel most alone, whilst also always remembering that ‘God Is With Us’.

## Christmas card competition

Outside the sun shone and the day was long and light, but inside you could be forgiven for thinking that it was a December day if you had visited a Keychange community when the people living and working there were seated round a table surrounded by tissue paper, felt pens, glitter and emerging images of nativity scenes,

stars, snowy churches and other Christmas symbols.

We organised a Christmas card design competition across our care homes, hostels and retirement housing scheme, and this needed to take place in the summer so that the cards could be ready to be used this Christmas. Five designs were chosen but

everyone who had taken part was a ‘winner’ in the sense that making the Christmas cards had been a wonderful community activity enjoyed by all.

Each Keychange home and hostel was able to sell packs of cards to raise funds for their community, and one of the five designs was selected as the Keychange corporate Christmas card. As already mentioned, this card is being sent to supporters with this edition of Contact.



**Kim Dobell lives at Wayside Hostel and designed one of the five winning entries – ‘Manger Scene with Black Sheep’ (below left)**

## Faith in Later Life

Keychange was one of five Christian charities that launched a new initiative in October focusing on the profound societal consequences of the ageing UK population.

Faith in Later Life seeks to present the challenge in a way that will inform, equip, encourage and inspire individual Christians and churches to lead the change needed so that older people in every community can live fulfilled, productive and dignified lives.

As a partnership between Pilgrims’ Friend Society, The Salvation Army, London City Mission, Mission Care and Keychange, the campaign identifies that far too often an ageing population is portrayed in terms of being an ‘issue’ and ‘problem’. But the attitude towards older people described in the Bible is very different.



Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who hosted the launch said, “The Bible describes older people as having a vital role to play in the church and in society.

“Many of these will be Christians who will be seeking to know how they can continue to work out their faith in later life. Many are living increasingly lonely and isolated lives and they need to hear the good news of the gospel.

“These are significant opportunities and challenges and I am delighted that ‘Faith in Later Life’ has been launched to help churches and Christian people respond.”

## Prayer Focus

**We give thanks to God for our readers who pray for the work of Keychange. Particular matters at this time include:**

**Please join us in praying that every person living in our care homes and hostels would experience ‘God With Us’ this Christmas.**

As mentioned last time, please continue to pray for the Board of Trustees, and that we will attract new Trustees with the necessary complementary skills and experience.

# Keychange Noticeboard



◀ The annual summer garden party at **Alexander House** set in its beautiful and peaceful garden surroundings

Stella and Elsie loved playing cards and the maracas together! Stella lives at **Rosemary Mount** and Elsie is the one-year old daughter of one of the carers ▶



◀ **Erith House** – despite heavy rain on the day of the garden party, a good time was had by all indoors!

Celebrating a Golden Wedding Anniversary with a party at **The Mount** on a Caribbean theme



▶ Enjoying the garden at **Cressingham House**

A harpist visited **Fair Havens** recently and the residents loved listening to her beautiful playing and lovely singing



▶ A resident at **Sceats** enjoying being creative ▶



▶ With the help of visiting musicians, **Rose Lawn** held its own Last Night of the Proms



▶ A Pyjamas Day was organised recently at **Romans** in aid of Cancer Research, and was enjoyed by staff and residents alike ▶



▶ **Walmer House** took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support with a splendid array of homemade cakes





Farewell afternoon tea at Rosset Holt for staff and supporters

# A time for everything

*"A time to tear down and a time to build" – Ecclesiastes 3:3*

**Phil Martin, CEO**

**Following a thorough options appraisal, review and consultation, the Board of Keychange approved the recommendation to close our care home community Rosset Holt in Tunbridge Wells. This decision was based on a range of economic and strategic factors. This property and site will now be sold.**

The Board of Keychange has directed that any capital receipt from the sale of Rosset Holt should only be used for new buildings, expansion and property purchase to grow the Christian mission and work of the charity. Although we are sad to close Rosset Holt, we are very thankful for the opportunity to potentially purchase, build or develop a new

Keychange community.

We are now starting to explore and pursue opportunities for expanding our existing community buildings and services as well as identify new care homes to purchase or other buildings to convert. We are praying about all these options as we believe God will guide us and lead us to the right opportunities.

With all this in mind we are beginning to plan our fundraising appeal for legacies and donations towards our future buildings and new communities. Therefore please would you consider supporting Keychange as a Christian charity by leaving a legacy in your will or providing a donation towards our 'Time to Build' appeal.

**For further information on legacy giving please visit our website or contact Central Office on 0207 633 0533.**



## Care Homes

- Erith House, Torquay
- Sceats, Gloucester
- The Mount, Plymouth
- Rose Lawn, Sidmouth
- Fair Havens, Southampton
- Walmer House, Torquay
- Cressingham House, Wallasey
- Alexander House, Wimbledon
- Rosemary Mount, Worthing
- Romans, Southwick

## Homelessness Communities

- Esther Community, Exeter
- Wayside, Reigate

## Retirement Housing

- Jubilee Cottage, Lytham St Annes

## Useful links

- keychange.org.uk
- keychangecare.org.uk
- esthercommunity.org.uk
- waysidehostel.org.uk

**If you would like to receive Keychange Newsletters via email rather than post, please send an email to: [info@keychange.org.uk](mailto:info@keychange.org.uk)**

# Contact

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