



# WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

- New Chief Executive
- Four Ways to Raise Festive Fund
- Celebrating 10 years of 463



FRANCIS HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY



**In 1990 Sr Aloysius and Fr Mulheran established the charity that became Francis House. From nothing we became an important support for so many families across the North West.**

All of this was made possible because of the generosity of thousands of people many of whom are still supporting us today.

In 2005 Sister retired and I was privileged to take over, like Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon, I was able to pay off the debt to Salford Diocese and gradually expand and develop the service to what it is today.

Stable leadership over thirty four years and the generous commitment of so many supporters allowed us to uphold the principles established at our inception, whilst continually adapting to the changing needs of the young people and their families.

Now it is time for me to retire and I was delighted when Rachael Taylor applied for the post and was eventually chosen as my successor.

People should be aware that the post was advertised widely and that we received twenty two valid applications which were shortlisted and a number of applicants invited for interview and subsequently to make a presentation.

At each stage Trustees with various professional and cultural backgrounds were involved in the process overseen by our Independent Employment Solicitor.

How to  
contact us

Francis House  
Children's Hospice,  
390 Parrswood Road,  
Didsbury, Manchester,  
M20 5NA

Hospice tel:  
**0161 434 4118**  
Fundraising tel:  
**0161 443 2200**

Rachael was appointed on merit and has already proven herself eminently suitable to take on this extremely important role.

Announcement of her appointment has been welcomed by both the families and the staff.

Deciding to retire from a role which has been my life for twenty years has been a difficult decision but I can now look forward to retirement knowing that Francis House is in safe hands.

I hope that our supporters will give the same commitment and encouragement to Rachael that they have given to me over the years and that Francis House will continue as a Beacon of Excellence into the future.

As my instructor used to say when I was learning to fly - "you have control Rachael."

**May God continue to pour his blessings on all that is done in Francis House in the years to come and on those who work hard to support us, most of all may he guide Rachael in her new role and bless her in her work.**

*David*



**Rachael Taylor to succeed David Ireland as Francis House's next CEO.**

# NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **Francis House Family Trust has appointed Rachael Taylor as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Francis House Children’s Hospice (and Company Secretary of Francis House Families Ltd).**

The appointment comes after Francis House’s current Chief Executive, Revd David Ireland, announced his retirement earlier in the year.

Rachael will take up the role in April 2025. She has been Deputy CEO for thirteen years and was a trustee for 10 years before that.

Rachael is only the third Chief Executive Officer to be appointed in the 33 year history of Francis House. In 2005 David Ireland became Chief Executive following the retirement of Sister Aloysius the founder of Francis House which opened in 1991.

On her appointment, Rachael said: “It is an incredible honour to step into the role of CEO at Francis House, a place I have had the privilege to serve for over two decades both as a staff member and a Trustee. I am committed to leading Francis House with compassion, dedication, and a shared vision for the future. Together with our amazing team, I look forward

to continuing our vital work, ensuring every child and family receives the best care and support during the most challenging times of their lives.”

Under the leadership of David Ireland, Francis House doubled in size with the opening of Francis Lodge in 2014 to meet the demands for respite care for teenagers and young adults. The opening of two residential homes, on Parrswood Road and Barcicroft Road, followed exclusively for young adults with life-limiting conditions and complex needs, whose parents were unable to continue to care for them.

Jane Kempler, Chair of Francis House Family Trust said:

“The Trustees cannot thank David enough for leaving us with the most amazing legacy and a very strong platform for Rachael to build on.

“We went through a rigorous recruitment programme to find the right person for this key role. The skills, experience, compassion and desire that Rachael brings with her gives us the confidence that she will take Francis House into its next phase and beyond.”

David Ireland said: “Rachael has played an important part in the life of Francis House for many years.

“After ten years in the voluntary role of Trustee she became my Deputy in 2012 and endeared herself to families and staff alike.

“She has line managed the Fundraising and Accounts staff and used her legal expertise to advise Trustees and assist families; not least she has been the “stunt double” for the real Francis Mouse mascot when things became too dangerous!!

“Rachael has Francis House and the families who use us foremost in her mind and will be able to take the charity forward in new ways as family needs and statutory demands dictate.”



# Francis House Festival of Trees

26 Oct - 15 Dec



Come along and visit our  
pop-up Christmas shop!

Place a bid on your favourite  
themed Christmas tree or  
simply browse our range of  
Christmas goodies...

Quayside MediaCityUK,  
Salford, M50 3AH

SCAN TO  
BID ONLINE



For further information:  
0161 443 2200

[julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:julie.williams@francishouse.org.uk)  
[www.festivaloftrees.co.uk](http://www.festivaloftrees.co.uk)



# RUN HEATON

## PARK

Running events are a great source of income for Francis House and have the added benefit of keeping you fit and active.

This year alone, support from the running community resulted in a staggering £60,000 in donations from the London Marathon, Great Manchester Run and Manchester Marathon.

As the official charity sponsor for this year's upcoming Run Heaton Park series we can now add to the running calendar for our supporters with a further five great running events at Heaton Park in Higher Blackley.

With the first Run Heaton Park partnership event just around the corner on Sunday 1st December, you can take advantage of half price entry fees!

In return for a minimum sponsorship target of £50 per race, we are able to offer a half price entry of £12 for the 5k, £13 for the 10k, and £14 for the half marathon. Minimum age 11.

Further runs take place on 12th January, 30th March, 5th October and 30th November 2025.

Run Heaton Park races are operated by RunThrough Events. All races have a fantastic atmosphere and every finisher will receive a themed medal. In addition anyone running for Francis House will receive a Francis House branded running t-shirt, fundraising pack and in person support on the day to cheer you along!

To sign up visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/run-heaton-park](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/run-heaton-park)



# FOUR OF THE BEST WAYS TO RAISE FESTIVE FUNDS THIS WINTER

1



2



## St Elisabeth's Church, Reddish

December 6th will once again see St Elisabeth's Church opening its doors for a wonderful evening of festive music and celebration in support of Francis House. This beautiful candlelit event will feature Christmas music, carols and readings, with performances from Stuart Beech who has featured on Michael McIntyre's Big Show, the choir and musicians of St Elisabeth's Church, Dan McDwyer and the Northenden Singers, Stockport Schools Brass Band and VIP guests, all coming together to create a fantastic evening of festive celebration.

To reserve your place, please contact Susie at [susie.poppitt@franchishouse.org.uk](mailto:susie.poppitt@franchishouse.org.uk) mobile **07931 6424009**, or book online at:

[www.franchishouse.org.uk/](http://www.franchishouse.org.uk/)

## Memory Lights

Remember a loved one at Christmas by sponsoring a light on the Christmas tree at Francis House in memory of your loved one. Their names will be entered in the Book of Memories which will be on view in the hospice reception. Complete the online form on our website when you make your donation by 30th November and we will send you a beautiful memory card.

Sponsor a Memory Light [franchishouse.org.uk/memory-lights](http://franchishouse.org.uk/memory-lights)

If you prefer to dedicate a light on our virtual Christmas tree in memory of someone special, you can choose a light and add a photo along with a message of love which you can share with family and friends.

Dedicate a Light [www.visufund.com/dedicate-a-Christmas-light](http://www.visufund.com/dedicate-a-Christmas-light)



From a Christmas concert and recycling your Christmas tree to a New Year winter wander, we have something for everyone to enjoy in the wintry months ahead.



**JUSTHELPING**

## Just Helping, Christmas tree recycling

Francis House will once again be partnering with national charity JustHelping and St Ann's Hospice to collect and recycle Christmas trees this January across Greater Manchester. You can register your Christmas tree for collection from 15th November 2024 until 23:59 on the 5th January 2025.

The trees will then be collected by local volunteers between Thursday, January 9th and Sunday, January 12th 2025 and recycled at Wythenshawe Park or Wardley Hall. The trees are chipped and recycled to benefit local parks.

Last year Francis House received £8,662 from the scheme and with your support, we're aiming to make 2025 the biggest year yet!

To register your tree for collection visit [www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](http://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree)



## Winter Wander

This January, we're inviting supporters of all ages and abilities to step up for the children and families of Francis House and kick off the New Year with a walk in aid of hospice care.

The Winter Wander takes place throughout January 2025 and you can choose your own route or follow one of our five fantastic walks: the Lymm Loop, Turton Reservoir Round, Saddleworth Circuit, Higher Poynton Hike and Sale Water Park Stroll.

Sign up today for just £10 per adult or £5 per child  
[www.francishouse.org.uk/winter-wander](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/winter-wander)

# TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT 463



**Established as the residential subsidiary  
to Francis House Children’s Hospice.**

463 Francis House Families Ltd was founded to offer young people with a life-limiting condition a home in a nurturing and supportive environment. Over the past ten years, 463 has become a vital part of the local community, providing not only physical care but also helping residents achieve personal milestones and lead fulfilling lives.

Jeff Smith MP and Bishop John Arnold, staff, residents and families attended the 10th Anniversary celebrations at the home in Didsbury.

Mr Smith said: “As soon as you enter through the doors there is real warmth and real positivity. I know this is the only facility of its kind in the country so we’re very lucky to have it in this part of south Manchester.”

Bishop John Arnold offered a blessing and highlighted the values of inclusivity, compassion, and community, that form the foundation of the care provided at 463.

David Ireland, CEO of Francis House, recognised the contribution of the staff in making it such a happy place to live, and the involvement and expertise of Dermot Murphy the Registered Manager.

Kyle Wells was one of the first residents when he moved into the home aged 25. He said: “For most young people moving out of their parent’s house and having their independence is kind of a given, but without 463 that would’ve been impossible. This place makes the impossible possible.”



# YOUR SUPPORT

## Boutique Lunch

A September highlight was the Francis House Boutique Lunch which delighted guests at the glamorous Gusto Restaurant in Cheadle Hulme. Supported by Flair Boutique UK, stall holders, and entertainment by DJ Tom Finkill made for a memorable afternoon.

Zeffi Johnson of Francis House said: "From the fabulous fashion show to the inspiring conversations and generous contributions, the day was nothing short of amazing. Thanks to your kindness, we raised £2,000 in vital funds for the hospice. A special thank you to our sponsor Sinclair Law for making this event happen."

## Get ready for Easter!

Once again, we are imploring knitters and crocheters to send in chicks and bunnies for our next Easter Chick Appeal. These knitted creatures will be filled with a Creme Egg and sold to raise funds. You don't need to be a knitter to take part - we also need:

- Volunteers to help with distribution (especially in North Manchester and Oldham)
- Vendors to sell the chicks (shops, cafes, offices, schools, leisure centres... anywhere!)
- Donations of Creme Eggs

If you'd like to take part in 2025, we're ready and waiting to hear from you!

**Please contact [rachel.nasiri@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachel.nasiri@francishouse.org.uk)**

**Visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal)**



[www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)



Through your support we are making a difference to the lives of local children and their families.

Francis House have just been so brilliant for us. They've stepped in when we're desperate for a break.

It's just love at the end of the day - looking after you, caring about you.

As I got older, I still wanted to come to Francis House, so it's great that there isn't an upper age limit.

As a family, Francis House has given us possibilities, opportunities, in spite of the challenges.

The staff here are absolutely amazing, they're so professional. They make sure that they've got everything in place, even down to the colour of his bedroom.

To describe my relationship with Francis House I'd say 'trusting', because I trust them with my son.

Please consider donating to Francis House this Christmas and help us to deliver much-needed services to the families that we support. **Thank you.**

## Every donation will help the families of Francis House



**SCAN TO DONATE**

- **Donate at [francishouse.org.uk](http://francishouse.org.uk)**
- **Donate by phone 0161 443 2200**
- **Donate using the form below**

I would like to give a single donation

£10    £30    £50    other £

I enclose a cheque made payable to **Francis House Family Trust**

Title.....First Name .....Last Name .....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone Number..... Email Address.....

### Gift Aid

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 donated**

*giftaid it*

I wish Gift Aid to apply to this donation and all donations I make in the future or have made in the last 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in that year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature..... Date.....

### Keep in Touch

Your support is vital and we look forward to keeping in touch with you by post, sharing our news, activities and appeals.

Would you like to receive our supporter emails too?

Yes, I am happy to hear from you by email.      Email Address.....

If you do not wish to receive information by post, or wish to change how we get in touch, please contact [rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk) or call 0161 443 2200.

## THANK YOU

**Please return this form with your donation to:**

Francis House Family Trust, Francis House Children's Hospice,  
390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

# MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

To continue to expand and develop our services we need to raise £4.8 million each year. Become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of the children and families that we support. If you are a UK taxpayer, please also sign the Gift Aid Declaration to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Fill in the form below to make a regular monthly donation or set up a Direct Debit via our website [franchishouse.org.uk](http://franchishouse.org.uk)

## STANDING ORDER

Name of Bank/Building Society .....

Branch Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Account Name .....

Account Number ..... Sort Code .....

Please pay:

**Francis House Family Trust**

**Virgin Money**

**48-50 Market Street**

**Manchester**

**M1 1PW**

Account Number **68170373**

Sort Code **05-05-73**

The sum of £..... each month

Commencing on ..... until further notice

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode.....

Signature ..... Date.....

**GIFT AID DECLARATION** I wish Gift Aid to apply to this donation and all donations I make in the future or have made in the last 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in that year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature ..... Date .....

Please return this form to Carole Fletcher,  
Accounts Office, Francis House Children's Hospice,  
390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

**Thank you for  
your donation**

Registered Charity No. 328659

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Francis House is a lifeline to more than 600 families from across the North West. When life is short it needs to be of the highest quality and that's what Francis House does best.



Emily and Sophie's  
Junior Great North Run

**£225**



Garratt Solicitors  
Donation

**£5,000**



Lisa Burlison's  
Fundraising Night

**£3,500**



Portman Recruitment's  
'Portman Peaks' Hike

**£3,110**



'Rotary STEPsisters'  
STEPtember  
Challenge

**£1,103**



Amaretti Chamber  
Orchestra's 20th  
Anniversary Concert

**£1,000**

# EVENTS 2024/25



2024	
Festival of Christmas Trees at Quayside MediaCityUK	26th October – 15th December
Francis House Christmas Ball at Mottram Hall – SOLD OUT	30th November
Run Heaton Park 5k, 10k & Half Marathon	1st December
A Christmas Story at St Elisabeth's Reddish	6th December
Memory Lights Service at East Didsbury Methodist Church	11th December 7pm
Christmas Musical Bingo at Didsbury Sports Ground	15th December
2025	
Easter Chick Appeal	January – April
Run Heaton Park 5k, 10k & Half Marathon	12th January
Run Heaton Park 5k, 10k & Half Marathon	30th March
Adidas Manchester Marathon	27th April
TCS London Marathon 2025	27th April
Tour de Manc	4th May
Francis House Open Day	12th May
Great Manchester Run	18th May
Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	22nd June
Run Heaton Park 5k, 10k & Half Marathon	5th April
Run Heaton Park 5k, 10k & Half Marathon	30th November

To find out the latest information or to take part in any of these events contact the fundraising team on **0161 443 2200** or email [fundraising@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@francishouse.org.uk) or visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events)

## Newsletter Mailing List

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post, please call the fundraising office on 0161 443 2200 or email [rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk) and ask to be removed. Visit our website to subscribe to our monthly supporter newsletter via email and view our newsletters online [www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/)

 [@FrancisHouseCH](https://twitter.com/FrancisHouseCH)

 [FrancisHouseChildrensHospice](https://www.facebook.com/FrancisHouseChildrensHospice)

 [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)

 [www.instagram.com/francishousech/](https://www.instagram.com/francishousech/)