

30th Anniversary



# SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

- Life is what you make it
- Doctor in the house
- Morrisons partnership

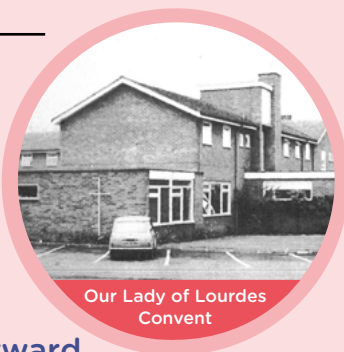
## A growing family

Francis House Family Trust  
Registered Charity Number 328659



---

# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY



Our Lady of Lourdes  
Convent

**Spring is the time when we look forward to new things and say goodbye to the old, a time for giving thanks for all that has happened and to ask God's blessing on that which is to come.**

In this edition you will read about one of our devoted volunteers Ann who sadly died in January and as we go to press I have heard of the death of another of our dedicated volunteers Maureen Gordon, both ladies have given so much to Francis House since we opened and we give thanks for their dedicated service.

I am also sad to tell you that the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph (the "Rescue" sisters) have left Didsbury after 100 years of Ministry here. Whilst Sister Maureen O'Driscoll continues to work at 463 our residential house, the convent of Our Lady of Lourdes at the gateway to Francis House has closed and the sisters have now moved to other houses in the Greater Manchester area.

In 1990 the sisters gave up their home to be converted into Francis House, not only losing their convent but changing from their congregational way of life.

They moved into smaller houses around the city living in places where they could offer new ministries to local communities. Francis House was born out of their sacrificial gift and I will never forget the sight of their possessions being wheeled down the drive as the builders moved in, to transform what had been their home, into a place for families to rest and recuperate on their difficult journeys. Thank you to all of the sisters past and present for the major part that they have played in the care of children and families over the last century here in Didsbury.

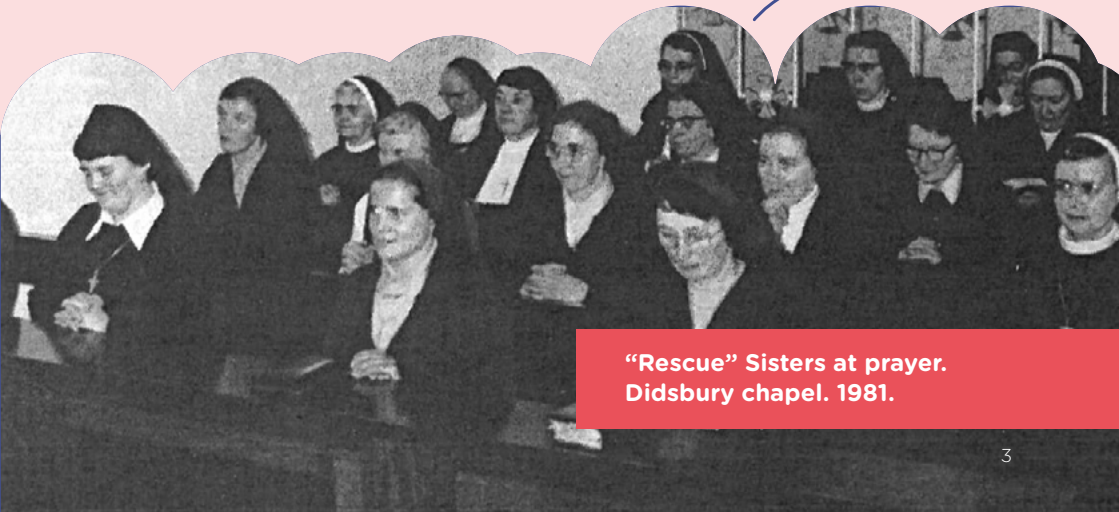
We must also remember Father Tom one of the founders of Francis House and the person who made it financially possible. Francis House and the families who use it owe so much to the far sightedness of Monsignor Mulheran (to give him his proper title) many families have benefited personally from his priestly ministry as our chaplain, but he did so much more. Father has moved to live with the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Josephs. We wish him a happy retirement and a well-earned rest.

So much to be thankful for but now we look to the future and we ask God's blessing on all of the young people and families already using Francis House and those who are to come through our doors in the future.

We thank God for the staff at Francis House and especially ask his blessing on the new members of staff as they get used to a different way of working. We ask that everything that is done in Francis House will remain true to the philosophy and ethos established by Fr. Tom and the Sisters, honouring the Sanctity of Life, showing that every life matters, maintaining the dignity of the individual at all times and understanding that when life is short it should be lived to the full.

**If we continue in the footsteps of these great pioneers, I believe that we will continue to be truly blessed. Thank you to all of them and to everyone who has played their part in the Francis House story over the years.**

*David*



**"Rescue" Sisters at prayer.  
Didsbury chapel. 1981.**

---

# LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT



**Dawn had a difficult birth with Paul, he wasn't breathing and was taken to intensive care where he remained for 12 days. He started having seizures and tests revealed he had brain damage.**

"It was hard to take in because I was so young," says Dawn. "You don't expect when you have a baby that you're going to be hit with something like that."

Dawn's grandad then said something to her that has remained with her for the rest of her life.

"He said to me, 'you know what? Paul's life is what you make it. You have to do the best for him, and as long as he's happy, that's all you can do.' That stuck with me, and that's kind of what's made me the person I am today with Paul, and I'm grateful for that," says Dawn.

Major surgery followed with operations on Paul's bowel and stomach after which Dawn was told that he only had twelve months to live.

"Paul was about 4 years old when I was told about Francis House. I'll be honest, I was a little bit reserved. I'd been through a lot with Paul, and it was twelve months after his surgery, and I thought they want him to go there because he's not got long left and I'm not ready for that. The Francis House homecare team then met me and invited us to visit. We came and have never looked back since."

Dawn, Paul and his younger brother Dylan have been coming to Francis House for approximately 14 years.

Paul, now 18 years-of-age has severe cerebral palsy and seizures, as he's grown older, he's developed scoliosis and hip displacement.

"Paul loves coming here. When he's happy you see his face light up and he looks very stimulated.

They've got multiple sensory rooms, the jacuzzi and a cinema room. One thing he loves is meeting new people - he just loves people.

"When Francis Lodge opened it was amazing because it allowed me to remember that it doesn't stop when Paul is 18 - it continues, which was comforting for me that I wasn't going to lose the service and that the care for Paul will continue.

"It gives me a chance to have 'me' time - and recharge my batteries to be able to carry on and care for Paul. It is very tiring to look after a child or young person with complex needs and it allows me to have the energy to do it all again."

Solicitor and Assistant to the Chief Executive, Rachael Taylor, is assisting Dawn so that she can make decisions about Paul's welfare in the future.

Dawn says: "Paul is classed as an adult now and as a parent I have to apply to the Court of Protection to be appointed as his deputy. Paul can't make decisions for himself, he'll need a bank account as eventually he'll get his own benefits, but he can't physically apply for things like that. Being Paul's deputy will allow me to make decisions which I think are in his best interest like the places for him to go to for respite. If it wasn't for Francis House, I'd have to go to a solicitor who doesn't really know anything about Paul, his condition, and why it is I'm fighting to be able to make the right decisions for him."

**For more information about our support visit: [francishouse.org.uk/what-we-offer/support/teenagers-and-young-adults](https://francishouse.org.uk/what-we-offer/support/teenagers-and-young-adults)**



**Rachael Taylor providing advocacy services to Dawn**

# GET INVOLVED



## Are you brave enough?

If you are looking for an exhilarating event, then look no further than the 170ft Barton Square Tower abseil at the Trafford Centre. The event takes place on Sunday 26th June and places are limited. Book now. \*Terms and conditions apply.

Visit [francishouse.org.uk/abseil](https://francishouse.org.uk/abseil)



## Join #TeamFrancisHouse

Run solo or part of a group and take part in the Great Manchester Run soaking up the atmosphere of this vibrant city. Be part of the nation's favourite 10k and half marathon on Sunday 22nd May. Book a discounted charity place via our website.

Get the young ones involved too in the Junior & Mini Run on Saturday 21st May. They'll receive a t-shirt, sponsor form and wrist band.

[francishouse.org.uk/great-manchester-run](https://francishouse.org.uk/great-manchester-run)



# SUMMER DRAW

Exciting prizes

Enter the draw and support the work of Francis House  
Draw 31st July 2022 - £2 per ticket  
Buy your tickets online or call our fundraising team on:- 0161 443 2200

[raffle.francishouse.org.uk](https://raffle.francishouse.org.uk)  
**Good luck!**





# SUPPORT US

## Trek Norway

Francis House is seeking adventurous supporters to explore Norway's mountains, glaciers and fjords during a fantastic fundraising expedition this September. The eight-night trip, taking place from 2nd -10th September 2022, will include five full days of trekking in high alpine terrain. Participants can



expect challenging yet rewarding hikes amongst beautifully coloured glacial lakes, spectacular fjords and high, snow-capped mountains. To find out more, visit [francishouse.org.uk/norway-trek-2022](https://francishouse.org.uk/norway-trek-2022)

We are delighted to announce that Francis House has been twinned with more than 20 Morrisons stores across Greater Manchester, as part of a national three year partnership with Together for Short Lives raising vital funds for children's hospices. This is a great opportunity to raise our profile in the local community and we look forward to working with each of the Morrisons community champions.



**Look out for the fundraising campaigns that will be running in your local Morrisons and please show your support.**

## 30k-ers Challenge

HMG Paints Ltd is the first of 30 businesses pledging to raise £1,000 as part of our 30k-ers Challenge. To help us raise £30,000 during our 30th Anniversary year contact Kate on 0161 443 2000

or [kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk)



**Kate Puc**





# 30 YEARS

## SPECIAL FEATURE

**Providing medical cover 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the children and young people at Francis House is the responsibility of a team of six doctors.**

A GP will visit the hospice every day to meet with any children and their families and look after any medical needs that they may have.

Dr Emma Leon has been one of the Hospice doctors for the past 25 years and co-ordinates the team at Francis House. Dr Leon explains: "Most of our time is spent advising on acute problems which may or may not be related to the child's underlying condition. We will also, of course, be available for end of life care to help support the young person and their family physically and psychologically when needed.

"All the doctors are GPs with a special interest in paediatric palliative care. We all work closely with each other as well as the children's hospital teams including consultants, community nurses and social workers – to give the child the best possible care at any given time."

2021 saw the retirement of Dr Andy Wright after thirteen years, followed by Dr David Dawson who retired in March this year after more than a quarter of a century at Francis House.

Dr Dawson has been a familiar face to the young people and families at Francis House and his daughter Kirsty has now joined the team.

Dr Dawson said: "When the opportunity came to work at Francis House it was my ideal job. When I first came in 1995, I thought wow this is totally above and beyond what could be provided on the NHS. I was overawed by what Francis House was offering the children in terms of the facilities, multi-sensory rooms, tactile experiences, and wonderful toys.

"In the early days whilst on call I was able to take my own children with me and they would have their lunch



# DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE



Dr Emma Leon



Dr David Dawson  
and the Duke of  
Cambridge in 2016

at Francis House. My daughter Kirsty went from the age of four or five and now she is a doctor herself at Francis House and I can retire now because of that continuity.

"It's been enjoyable looking after the children. People think a hospice is a sad place and how could I do it, but it's not sad, we often have a laugh. Yes, the children do die but you have to accept that.

"Some of the most important and memorable times for me were spent with the bereaved siblings during the 'Shining Stars' sessions, just sitting and talking and spending time with the siblings. I have met so many families and parents over the years and I was always pleased to see to them. The children knew your name and would chat to you. I'm proud to have been part of the team and enjoyed the holistic approach to care."

## OUR FRANCIS HOUSE DOCTORS

- ☑ Dr Emma Leon
- ☑ Dr Nutan Patel
- ☑ Dr Kirsty Dawson
- ☑ Dr Rebecca Leon
- ☑ Dr Elizabeth Eales
- ☑ Dr Nandita Joshi

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE DOCTORS PAST AND PRESENT

For more information about  
the care at Francis House visit:  
[francishouse.org.uk/care](https://francishouse.org.uk/care)

# SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY

If you're considering making a donation to Francis House, why not share it with one of your favourite Francis House memories!

We'd love to see your photos of incredible fundraising feats, a great community event, a memorable time at the hospice or anything

that celebrates your involvement with Francis House from the past 30 years. Be part of our 30th Anniversary Memory Wall and you'll be helping children with life-limiting conditions and their families make their own precious memories.

Visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/30th-anniversary/memories](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/30th-anniversary/memories)



Kyle's memory



Lynda's memory

"Over the years at Francis House I've got to do lots of cool things, and got loads of interesting memories, but probably one of my favourite is getting to meet Cristiano Ronaldo in 2009."

"Alongside the Annual show we have all had great fun raising funds; from sponsorship for tidying bedrooms, sleep overs at the studio and my most fool hardy to date a sky jump!"

## IN TRIBUTE

**Ann was a wonderful volunteer in Francis House for many years. She helped in Reception by welcoming visitors and answering the phone.**

**She also helped in the kitchen and dining area by preparing delicious meals for children, families and staff.**

Sadly, Ann died in January aged 89 years. A very wise and competent lady, she had a degree in Applied Chemistry and worked for Shell Chemicals and then as a Senior Experimental Officer at UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology).

She enjoyed rambling, swimming, gardening, theatre trips and holidays with family and friends. She was an active member of St. Catherine's Parish, Didsbury. Ann brought all her skills, experience and more to her role Francis House. We will miss her smile, her friendly nature and her willingness to come in whenever needed. Her help was much appreciated by all of us.



**Ann Seaston**

## Keith Wilson

Keith and Alpha Printing designed and produced the first Francis House newsletter in the early 90s. Working with Sister Aloysius to successfully spread the word for more than 15 years. Keith and his wife Pat were among the invited guests at the opening of the hospice and met Princess Diana. Keith died on 25th November 2020 and his contribution is gratefully remembered.



# HAVE A CUPPA WITH...

## Sister Maureen O'Driscoll Senior Nurse, Francis House Families Ltd

### What is your background?

I'm a religious sister (Franciscan Missionary) and a nurse. I grew up in Manchester and trained in Manchester hospitals. I've been part of the Francis House team since the beginning in 1990/91. The main hospice building was originally our convent. I remember Sr. Aloysius saying "... we are thinking of starting a Children's Hospice, and using this building..."

### What does your role involve?

Francis House Families provides residential care for young adults with life-limiting conditions. My role involves direct nursing care, ensuring the medical needs are covered, attending hospital appointments, liaising with other health care professionals, staff training and administration.

### What are you most proud of?

I think we can all be proud of the way the hospice has evolved over the years in response to the needs of the children and families.



**Sr. Maureen O'Driscoll**

We can be so proud of all the people who have made this possible. I remember answering the door to a young girl who "wanted to give her Christmas money to help the sick children..." One of many "friends in a million". I'm especially proud of the way we welcome children and families of "all faiths and none". We respect their beliefs and provide for their customs. In any religion / culture the love of a parent for a child is tangible. We are privileged to witness this so often.

### What is the best thing that happened to you this week?

Lots of fun things! Our young residents are such good company and we laugh a lot together.

### What's your secret talent?

When I was younger, I did Irish Dancing. Even now, if I hear Ceili music, I'll be up dancing again - usually to the embarrassment of my family!

**Donate at [francishouse.org.uk/donate](http://francishouse.org.uk/donate)**  
**Scan QR code to donate →**



## **I want to help the families of Francis House**

Here is my gift of:

☐ £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 would like Francis House Family Trust to treat as Gift Aid Donations

☐ This donation

☐ All donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

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.

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

**To donate online go to [www.francishouse.org.uk/donate](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/donate) or call 0161 443 2200**

Registered Charity No. 328659

# MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

To continue to provide our services we need to raise 4.7 million pounds per year to keep Francis House and Lodge operating.

Become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of the families that we support. By completing this form, your regular donation will enable us to plan for future needs. If you are a UK taxpayer, please also sign and return the Gift Aid Declaration.

## STANDING ORDER

The Manager .....

Bank/BSoc Address .....

.....

Account Name .....

Account Number .....

Sort Code .....

Please pay: Francis House Family Trust

Yorkshire Bank, 45-50 Market Street

Manchester M1 1PW

Account Number 68170373

Sort Code 05-05-73

The sum of £ .....

Commencing on .....

and thereafter on each succeeding .....

Ending on .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Signature .....

Date .....

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity .....

Details of Donor: Title .....

Forename(s) .....

Surname .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Email .....

**I wish the charity to treat:** (please tick as appropriate)

☐ The enclosed donation of £ .....

☐ All donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I am a UK tax payer 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 let us know if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and or capital gains

Signed .....

Date .....

Please return to Carole Fletcher, Francis House  
Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road,  
Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA  
Registered Charity No. 328659



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Francis House is a lifeline to more than 500 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.



Ruby River,  
Pageant Queen

**Arts and  
Craft Supplies**



John Lewis Cheadle  
'Give a little love'

**£1,500**



Joyce Young Lady  
Captain & Ashton  
on Mersey GC

**£2,200**



KidSmart  
Learning Centre  
Sponsored walk

**£318**



Paul Hargreaves  
Handmade bird boxes

**£1,508**



Lauren Bacon  
and family.  
Christmas Lights

**£2,023**

# EVENTS 2022

Jimmy Cricket Variety Show at Millgate Arts Centre Delph	23rd April 8pm
Junior & Mini Great Manchester Run	21st May
Great Manchester Run	22nd May
Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	12th June
Trafford Centre Abseil	26th June
NEW - Francis House Summer Party at Emirates Old Trafford	2nd July
Norway Trek 2022	2nd - 10th September
STEPtember	Throughout September
London Marathon 2022	2nd October 2022
Festival of Christmas Trees	October - December
Francis House Christmas Ball	Friday 2nd December

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)

## STOP PRESS!

Join us on Saturday 2nd July for our first Francis House Summer Party! We are excited to be hosting this fundraising event at Emirates Old Trafford. Don't miss an evening of fun and entertainment. To book your tickets contact Lucy on [lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk) or 07841 530248

## 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



FrancisHouseChildrensHospice



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