

welcare

strengthening families since 1894

Dear Friends,

As the long, hot days of summer give way to rain showers and back-to-school routines, I wanted to take a moment to share some highlights from a busy summer at Welcare.

I'm delighted to welcome Shaun Macdonald as our new Chair of Trustees. You can read more about him [here](#). I'm very much looking forward to working with him as we continue to grow and strengthen our work. I'd also like to extend sincere thanks to Chris Taylor and all our trustees for their commitment, providing vital governance, direction and support to both me and our dedicated staff team.

We've also been fortunate to have the support of our wider Welcare community. A brilliant team of 20 volunteers from St Margaret's Church, Chipstead brought their *Faith Outside the Pews* project to life by revitalising the outdoor play area at our Redhill Family Centre. You can see the transformation [here](#). Meanwhile, a full team of 10 runners took on the [London 10K](#) to raise funds for Welcare – their JustGiving page remains open until the end of the month if you'd still like to donate.

Our summer events were a real highlight. In August, we arranged [community picnics](#) at Redhill Memorial Park for over 100 local children, supported by our fantastic partners Raven Housing, SES Water, and Surrey Police. In Bromley, Christina organised a [Rock Choir](#) concert, with Morrisons generously double-matching the funds raised and our Greenwich Friends arranged a lovely, mid-summer Afternoon Tea at Shooters Hill.

We have been honoured to be one of three charities supported by Cllr Dr David Jefferys, the former [Mayor of Bromley](#). Thanks to the generosity of those who attended a variety of events throughout the year, we've received an incredible £7,733 to support our work with children and families in the borough.

All our fundraising efforts enable us to continue supporting families like Leo and Toby's. You can read their full story [here](#) but, thanks to Welcare's involvement, their mother was able to secure appropriate education for both boys, improve safety in the home, and begin rebuilding her confidence and hope for the future. This is just one example from more than 800 families we worked with during the last twelve months.

Looking ahead, we're excited to be taking part in the [2025 JPIC Conference](#) on 8th November led and organised by our trustee, Natalie Walters.

We warmly invite you to join us at the [Annual Service of Thanksgiving](#), taking place at Bromley Parish Church at 11:30am on Friday 14th November. More events and activities are being planned for the autumn and Christmas season, so please do keep an eye on our [events page](#) for the latest updates.

Thank you, as always, and I look forward to seeing you again over the autumn,



Anna Khan,
Welcare CEO



OUR LATEST NEWS

Shaun Macdonald, New Chair of Trustees



We are delighted to announce that **Shaun Macdonald** has been elected Chair of Trustees for Southwark Diocesan Welcare, following our recent board meeting on 21st July. His appointment has also been formally endorsed by our President, Bishop Christopher.

Shaun shared:

“I’m humbled by the trust placed in me and committed to serving Welcare to the best of my ability. One of the guiding principles I bring with me is: listen, learn and react – and I hope you’ll support me and fellow trustees in doing just that.”

Shaun first became involved with Welcare in 2023, offering pro-bono consultancy support, and joined the Board in July 2024. He brings extensive leadership experience from corporate, public, and charitable sectors – currently leading a borough council in Surrey and serving as Chair Designate of a children and young people’s counselling charity, among other roles. He is also a husband, father of two, keen hockey player, cyclist and lover of long days in the Scottish mountains.

Reflecting on his new role, Shaun said:

“The dedication of our frontline staff, often working with families in the most challenging situations, drives us as trustees to ensure the right systems, funding, and governance are in place to support their work.”

In the year ahead, Shaun will be working closely with trustees, senior staff and those who support our work to shape Welcare’s future direction and ensure we reach those most in need.

Faith Beyond the Pews



Faith Outside the Pews: St Margaret’s Chipstead Brings Hope to Welcare Redhill

At Welcare, we believe faith is especially powerful when put into action — and earlier this year, the congregation of St Margaret’s Church, Chipstead, did exactly that through their inspiring *Faith Outside the Pews* project.

Inspired by a reflection from Revd Hannah Gordon, the church community took part in a project designed to make a real difference beyond their church walls. Drawing on the biblical examples of Abraham and Rahab — both of whom acted boldly because of their faith — the congregation was challenged to respond: *“What are you going to do?”* Their answer came in the form of service, love, and dedication.

Transforming Outdoor Spaces at Welcare Redhill

A group of 20 volunteers from St Margaret's gathered at Welcare House in Redhill to restore and revitalise our outdoor play area a key space for the children and families we support. Volunteers planted flowers, painted equipment, and created a welcoming, colourful environment filled with hope and joy.

Over the course of the project, 41 members of the church were involved in some way from toddlers to octogenarians. Eleven young people also participated, offering their energy, creativity, and compassion. What was once a tired, weathered outdoor space has become a vibrant area for children to play, explore, and flourish.

Faith in Action and an Answer to Prayer

Family Centre Manager in Redhill, Catherine Adeji, joined the group on the Saturday evening and was deeply moved by the experience.

"It was a wonderful encouragement to us," she said, "and a reason to thank God for His awesomeness. We have truly seen God at work through the people of St Margaret's."

We are so grateful to everyone who took part your time, energy, and prayers are a blessing to the families we serve.

London 10k – What Stars They Are!



We are full of admiration for our incredible London 10K team of ten dedicated runners. On one of the hottest weekends of the summer (thankfully a little cooler in the morning than forecast!), they raced through the traffic-free streets of central London to raise vital funds, helping us support even more children and families.

It was wonderful for some of us to come together at the end to share stories, celebrate each other's achievements and have a well-earned drink! The whole team was truly magnificent – but a special mention must go to our long-time supporter, Sue Floyd.

Sue has championed our work for over a decade, including running a solo 10K during the Covid pandemic. She is a tireless advocate for our mission and an inspiring example to all generations of our supporters. If you would like to support our magnificent team, the JustGiving link will be open until 30th September 2025: [JustGiving page](#)

If you would like to run for Welcare in the London 10K 2026 whether you're a first-time runner or a seasoned pro chasing a new PB, it's a flat, friendly, and fantastic event and we'd love to have you on our team. Please contact us at fundraising@welcare.org to register your interest.

Summer Picnics – Bringing Families Together in Redhill



Welcare welcomed families to the Memorial Park, Redhill on 20th and 27th August for two joyful summer picnics, bringing together 95 adults and 103 children across both events.

Organised in partnership with Raven Housing Trust, SES Water, and Surrey Police, the picnics provided a safe and inclusive space for families to relax, connect, and enjoy a variety of activities. The events were designed to support families from all backgrounds, offering opportunities for play, conversation and community building.

Children enjoyed a range of activities including a dedicated baby and toddler play area and the popular smoothie bike—provided by Raven Housing Trust—which combined making healthy snacks with active fun. Welcare staff and volunteers were on hand to welcome families and ensure everyone felt supported throughout the afternoon.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the relaxed atmosphere and thoughtful activities. Families appreciated the opportunity to spend time outdoors, meet others in the community, and access support in a friendly and informal setting.

Chris, Redhill Centre Administrator, said: “It was such a lovely couple of afternoons. We’re really thankful to our partners and all the families who came along. These picnics are all about bringing people together and creating a space where everyone feels welcome and supported.”

Welcare would like to thank all partners, volunteers, and families who contributed to the success of the summer picnics. Events like these highlight the importance of collaboration in strengthening local communities and supporting family wellbeing.

Rock Choir Bromley



The music was truly uplifting and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I even put in a request for a future performance of *I Predict a Riot* by the Kaiser Chiefs – so watch this space!

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who made the concert possible from the generous and enthusiastic audience to the wonderfully talented members of Rock Choir, led by their inspirational conductor, Michael.

Special thanks also go to the Revd Rachel Winn and the PCC of St Paul’s Beckenham for kindly hosting the event in the relative cool of a hot midsummer evening.

We are thrilled that, thanks to match funding from The Morrisons Foundation, an incredible £2,500 has been raised.

We are especially grateful to Christina Clark for her dedication and hard work in organising the event, and to the Friends and Parish Reps of Welcare in Bromley for their continued support.

A Mayoral Year to Remember



One of the highlights of 2024 came in April, when Councillor Dr David Jefferys called our office with the wonderful news that he would be serving as the next Mayor of Bromley and that he and his wife, Ann-Marie, had chosen Welcare as one of his three nominated charities for the mayoral year.

What followed was a fascinating and inspiring journey into the life, history, and duties of a London borough mayor. We gained a deep appreciation for the incredible commitment shown not only by the Mayor but also by their consort and the dedicated team working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every event ran smoothly.

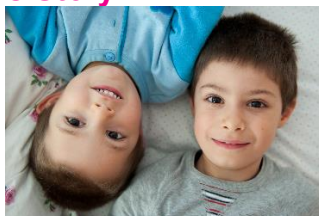
The role of Mayor is a civic one, representing the borough as its First Citizen and acting as an ambassador on behalf of the King. Over the past 12 months, the mayor and his wife attended over 900 engagements, frequently several in a single day. While the Mayor's official duty is to chair council meetings, the role does not involve executive powers. Instead, it is about celebrating community life and shining a light on the achievements, organisations, and people of Bromley.

There was much joy along the way from afternoon teas and civic carol services to quiz nights, walking the borough boundary (during almost the last period of rain we've had this year) and a moving art exhibition and talk at Bethlem Royal Hospital. Highlights also included a formal dinner at Apothecaries' Hall and many other memorable occasions. We were especially honoured to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress to our Annual Service of Thanksgiving at Bromley Parish Church, and to have their support at other events such including the Newstead Singers' concert.

Thanks to their tireless efforts, and the generosity of those who supported the Mayoral year, a magnificent £7,733 was raised in aid of Welcare's work in Bromley. This supports our services directly but has also raised valuable awareness of our mission within the local community.

From all of us at Welcare: thank you, to the former Mayor and Mayoress, for your unwavering support and dedication. Your contribution will make a lasting difference to the lives of children and families in Bromley.

Families we've helped: Leo & Toby's Story



A referral was made to Welcare to support Mum and her two children, Leo, aged 5, and Toby, aged 3, following concerns raised by their Health Visitor. This was the second period of intervention, the first having taken place the previous year.

Leo, who has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), is non-verbal and is awaiting an autism diagnosis. In the previous year he was allocated a place at a mainstream school, but following his initial visit the school explained they could not keep him safe. A placement had been secured at a specialist centre for children with communication and interaction needs (CoIN), but

this was later withdrawn when the necessary paperwork was not completed on time by professionals.

By the time of the second referral to Welcare, Mum was becoming increasingly distressed. Leo was not in school, and she had experienced four different SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Case Officers in quick succession. The lack of continuity, along with the constant chasing for updates, was taking a significant toll on her mental health. She felt hopeless about anything changing, while also trying to care for both children at home. Having given up a job she loved to meet their needs, her financial situation was becoming increasingly difficult.

During the early stages of support, it became clear that Leo urgently needed a specialist school placement. He had recently turned five and was legally required to be in education, but without consistent professional involvement this could not be secured. At the same time, Toby was beginning to copy his brother's behaviour. Mum wanted him to start nursery so that he could learn and socialise, but a number of barriers stood in her way. She was struggling to take both children out of the house safely, Dad was unwilling to adjust his childcare days, and Toby still needed to be potty trained. Mum was also worried about the family's housing situation. Leo loves to climb and she was fearful that he might fall from an upstairs window, which left her desperate to move to a ground-floor flat.

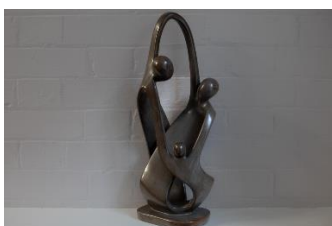
With support from Welcare, things gradually began to change. Working alongside a consistent SEND Case Officer and setting clear timescales, Leo's case went to panel and it was recommended that consultations be made with specialist schools. This decision paved the way for him to attend a setting focused on Autism and Speech and Language Delay, and Mum was hopeful that he could start attending in the next academic year.

The Family Support Worker visited both parents and spent time with the children in each home. This consistent approach helped the whole family feel supported. Toby has now been offered a place at a local school nursery, Mum has successfully potty trained him, and Dad has agreed to alter his days of care so that Toby can attend five days a week. This gives Toby the chance to learn and socialise with his peers, while also providing Mum with valuable time to focus on Leo.

Concerns about housing have also been addressed. In partnership with the Housing Association, locks were fitted to make the family's current windows safer. More significantly, the Housing Association agreed to move the family into a vacant ground floor flat within the same block. This will reduce disruption for Leo while also ensuring that Toby can continue at his new nursery.

For Mum, these changes made an enormous difference. She felt more positive and could see a future where both children are settled in school. She even began to explore the possibility of returning to work, which would improve the family's financial situation and restore a sense of purpose and independence.

Sign up for Welcare's Prayer Suggestions e-letter



We are seeking to build a prayerful community around our mission. We regularly share prayer suggestions, expressions of thanks, and reflections. To sign up, visit: welcare.org/prayersignup

To see more of our news from 2025 visit www.welcare.org/news-listing

EVENTS

Saturday 6th September 2025
Walk for Welcare, Charlton Park
Charlton Park, 21 Cemetery Lane, SE7 8DZ

Saturday 8th November 2025 at 10am to 4pm
The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Conference
St John's Church, Waterloo Rd, London SE1 8TY

Friday 14th November 2025 at 11:30am
The Bromley Service of Thanksgiving
Bromley Parish Church, St Peter & St Paul Church, Church Road, BR2 0EG

To enquire about any of our events please get in touch with us at
fundraising@welcare.org or 020 7820 7910



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