



Registered Charity Incorporated Organisation No: 1181896

Encouraging those with hearing loss to reach their potential and grow in their Christian lives.



OPEN EARS is an inter-denominational Christian Charitable Organisation providing fellowship and support for people who have impaired hearing, and anyone sympathetic to their special needs. Our main ministry is to deafened people who use hearing aids, lip-reading and other forms of communication and whose first language is spoken English, but we also attract and welcome British Sign Language users. All our events have Speech-to-Text and Loop, and we endeavour to provide sign-language interpreters at our in-person events.

Realising that Christians with impaired hearing miss out to some extent in their own churches, Open Ears aims to provide the following:

- Additional fellowship and Bible teaching online. We anticipate also holding some in-person events from 2024.
- Pastoral care and prayer support via e-mails, letter and Zoom calls. If you would like to have some contact from our Pastoral Lead, Marylin Kilsby, she can be contacted by post or via pastoral@openears.org.uk
- Our “Hearing Eye” magazine past copies of which are available on our website <https://www.openears.org.uk/magazine/>
- Our website <https://www.openears.org.uk>
- An Open Ears Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/openearscharity> and a closed Fellowship Group [\(1\) Open Ears \(Fellowship Group\) | Facebook](#)
- Information about deafness for churches and other Christian groups

However, we encourage our members to be as involved as they possibly can be in their own local churches and fellowships.

HISTORICAL Open Ears was founded (as the Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship – HHCF) by a group of concerned Christians in London in 1974. The first Fellowship Weekend was held in 1977. and a national weekend or holiday took place every year until the Covid pandemic.

EVENTS A national weekend or holiday took place every year until the Covid pandemic, either as a weekend away or a Monday to Friday break. They were held at lovely hotels and Christian centres in different parts of the country, to encourage as many people to come as possible. We hope to hold more in person events from 2024; all events will be fully accessible to all those with a hearing loss, with induction loop and speech-to-text facilities provided, and BSL interpretation where possible.

PASTORAL Although we are unable to provide in-depth care and counselling, support via emails and letters is available. If you would like to have some contact from our Pastoral Lead, Marylin Kilsby, she can be contacted by post or via pastoral@openears.org.uk

PRAYER Personal sharing or prayer times are also very much part of Open Ears. We have a quarterly Prayer Calendar <https://www.openears.org.uk/magazine/quarterly-prayer-calendar/> and a weekly e-send to encourage and interact with Members. Our Open Ears Fellowship Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/314897178647037> gives further opportunity to build friendships with like-minded people. If you would like prayer for a particular situation, please contact prayer@openears.org.uk

MAGAZINE Our own magazine, **Hearing Eye**, is published quarterly and is available digitally, in A5 format or in large print. It contains Open Ears news about people and events, articles written by readers (both light-hearted or more serious), and Christian teaching. Many articles are of special interest to those with impaired hearing, giving reports on latest technology, descriptions of audio equipment and personal experiences. Past editions can be found on the website

WEBSITE Our website, www.openears.org.uk is regularly updated with useful information, news and blogs.

INFORMATION We provide information to churches and other groups about hearing loss and offer advice to church leaders about the problems faced in churches by hard of hearing and deafened people. We also advise on suitable equipment such as induction loop systems.

EDUCATION On request at info@openears.org.uk Open Ears can give information on technology and equipment; provide illustrated talks about living with hearing loss to schools, training colleges, PCCs, church-based groups, ministers and others who are concerned to meet the needs of members with impaired hearing in their own congregations.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS Open Ears is a member of Churchear, a European organisation with similar aims to Open Ears. We liaise and share information, and encourage Open Ears members to attend Churchear's biennial conferences. Churchear's website address is www.churchear.org.

Open Ears prayerfully supports an Ear Hospital in Nepal which is run by the International Nepal Fellowship, www.inf.org.

CHARITABLE GIVING Open Ears is funded entirely by voluntary donations and may, at the discretion of the Trustees, give a proportion of its donated income to specified Christian charities and other organisations involved in supporting people with hearing loss.

UNWANTED HEARING AIDS We are unable to recycle unwanted hearing aids. Please ask your local provider for their advice on recycling old hearing aids.

To find out more about Open Ears, please visit our website at www.openears.org.uk, or e-mail info@openears.org.uk or phone **07396236214** (voice or text), or write to our Administrator (Sophie Herd) at **6, Westfield Road, Leicester. LE3 6HR.**

SIGN UP SOON! We would love you to become part of the Open Ears fellowship, please complete the contact form **at the end of this leaflet** and send it to the Administrator by email info@openears.org.uk or post 6Westfield Road, Leicester. LE3 6HR

Large Print Leaflet

If you know people with both sight and hearing loss who may be interested in knowing more about Open Ears this leaflet can be sent in large print format on request.

Administrative Address:

6 Westfield Road
Leicester
LE3 6HR

Phone: **07396 236214**

Email: info@openears.org.uk
Website: www.openears.org.uk

CONTACT FORM for OPEN EARS

I agree that Open Ears may contact me and can store these details, in accordance with their Data Protection Policy.

NAME :

ADDRESS:

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POSTCODE: **Date of birth (optional)**

TELEPHONE **MOBILE NUMBER:**

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

I would prefer to be contacted by (please delete as appropriate)

Email	Telephone	Mobile voice/text
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I would like to receive a copy of the quarterly magazine Hearing Eye.
Please indicate how you would like to receive your Hearing Eye.

Digitally, by email	Paper copy A5	Large print paper copy
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I would like to financially support the work of Open ears by making a regular/one time donation.

Donations can be made online <https://www.openears.org.uk/finance/donations/> or by cheque. If you are a UK tax payer, please contact us to Gift Aid your donation.

Signed Date.....

Please send the completed form by email to info@openears.org.uk or post to Open Ears, 6 Westfield Road, Leicester. LE3 6HR

Open Ears is a registered charity 1181896. We will not share your information with third parties.
(Contact Form May 2023)