

# HEARING EYE

**THE VOICE OF OPEN EARS**



**ISSUE 176**  
**SPRING 2023**

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## **Welcome to the Spring edition of Hearing Eye.**

Welcome to this edition of Hearing Eye. There is such a lot to share with you, and I hope you will be encouraged and enthused by what we are offering. You will read about our new prayer and fellowship initiatives, our desire to support you pastorally, and ways in which we will be keeping in touch. THANK YOU for filling in your GDPR Form so that we can keep your data safely, I know you have done this because you are receiving the magazine! However, if you are reading this because a friend has passed it on, or you saw it in church, and you would like to be a part of Open Ears, then please contact our Administrator, Sophie, and ask for a form, or download one from 'Contacts' at the top of our website. All details can be found on the back cover of this magazine.

The warmer weather has certainly taken its time coming to my part of England, I thought I would never get out of my 'winter woollies'! One benefit, though, has been the wonderful displays of blossom. Since the blossom didn't show until after the wild March winds, the trees have looked beautiful for a few weeks.

One morning, as I was putting some rubbish in my dustbin, a small boy walked past my house, along with his Daddy and their dog – they had been to the park around the corner. I said 'hello' and they stopped to chat. I hadn't spoken to them before, but the father and I had a pleasant conversation, when suddenly the little boy – he was about 3 years old – held out his hand to me and said, 'this is for you.' Lying on his palm was a tiny flower, one of the many that make up the mass of blossom on a tree. It was such a precious gift, so freely given and so gladly accepted.

In the following days, as I enjoyed my special flower (now floating in water in an eggcup to help it survive a bit longer!), I pondered the power and importance of small things.

Our daily lives are made up of little things, aren't they? That first cup of tea in the morning; the smile of a neighbour; the helping hand gladly given; the smell of freshly mown grass... I'm sure you have your own particular favourite.

Sometimes we can feel small and insignificant, but we are never that to our Lord. Just as that little boy noticed, collected, and gave the flower to me, so Jesus notices, gathers and delights in each one of us. He shields us and cares for us, He guards us as the apple of His eye, He spreads His wings over us and carries us. He nourishes us with all good things (Deuteronomy 32) and He presents us to His Father with great joy (Jude 1:24).

Zechariah reminds us not to despise the day of small things, in other words, don't worry when we feel of little worth, because the Lord says that He will meet our every need. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." (Zechariah 4:6).

I wonder how you perceive the Holy Spirit? At this time of Pentecost we think of the house shaking, tongues of fire and great excitement! My personal experience of the Spirit has generally been less spectacular! I have been more like Elijah when he discovered that the Lord was not in the great and powerful wind that tore mountains and shattered rocks, nor was He to be found in an earthquake or fire, but He was there in a gentle whisper. (1 Kings 19:11-12)

As we look forward to longer days and warm summer evenings, let us also look for the small things that bring joy to our lives, giving God thanks for each one. Let's listen for His gentle whisper, knowing that He is with us, that He takes great delight in us and that in His love He does not rebuke us, but rejoices over us with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17).

God bless you,  
Anthea

# Pastoral Ministry in Open Ears

***Therefore encourage one another and build one another up***  
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

How do we bring people together? How do we pray for each other? We're spread out throughout the UK. Most of us find it difficult, if not impossible to use a phone, so it's easy to feel isolated and unable to share any challenges we're facing. We all face situations where our deafness or hearing loss is an issue.



Sometimes we just need to have a one to one conversation with somebody who understands hearing loss and who will come alongside us and pray for us. Some of you reading this may not have a hearing loss yourselves but you share your life with someone who has. You, too, might welcome a conversation and prayer, because your life is impacted by your loved one's lack of, or changing, hearing.

To meet this need, Open Ears is setting up a pastoral ministry, a one to one time where you can share your situation with me and we can pray together. We can also talk about any practical solutions that might help you. Most meetings will be over Zoom but individual support could be via email, text or old fashioned letters!

If you have access to email, you can contact me via  
[pastoral@openears.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@openears.org.uk)

You can also leave a message for me via the Open Ears mobile number or you can write to me care of the Open Ears postal address, and I'll contact you back as soon as I'm able.

All contacts will be confidential within the Open Ears Trustees, associate committee members and Sophie, our part time Administrator. I'll only share your name and the basics of your situation with them so that they can pray for us.

Marylin



## Fingerprints by Emily Owen

My niece: I brought a balloon for you

Me: thank you

(I look at it)

Me: is that your fingerprint?

Her: nods

Me: why did you put your fingerprint on it?

Her: because I wanted to.

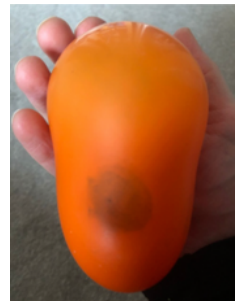
I thought that was lovely.

Why does God put his hand/fingerprint on us?

Because He wants to.

***You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.***

Psalm 139:5



## Subtitle error evokes ghostly story - by Christine Pitts

In the middle of April we were faced with Storm Noe and, although not as bad as some of the storms we have had this year, the South West was quite badly hit. Whilst watching the weather on the news the subtitles read: "Very strong ghosts have hit the Isle of Wight", which reminded me of a ghostly story from many years ago.



One night when our son, Ken, was a little boy I had just put him to bed and was looking forward to a nice peaceful evening when he started calling out loudly, so I went upstairs to see what the problem was, only to find that he was sure there were ghosts in his bedroom. So, to prove that there weren't any ghosts, I searched the room, looking under the bed, behind the curtains, opening every drawer and cupboard and then settled him down again and went back downstairs. A few minutes later he was crying out again, so back upstairs I went, going all through the previous search again, tucked him up in bed again and returned downstairs. I knew he was quite good at playing up so, to begin with, I just thought he was being naughty, but I began to realise that he really was frightened and wasn't playing me up. After another 4 or 5 times I was getting very frustrated and cross, so persuaded my husband to go and see what the problem was. Much to my surprise after a few minutes I heard laughter so went to investigate.

We live about a mile from the sea and when we go to the beach the Isle of Wight is immediately opposite us. At the end of The Needles is a lighthouse and in foggy, stormy weather the fog horn blares out every few minutes - we can hear it from our house when the wind is in the right direction. On this particular night the fog horn could be easily heard at our house....apart from the fact that I was beginning to go deaf and could no longer hear it! I knew, from when I could hear well, that they do sound very eerie and quite frightening and, as Ken had never heard it before, he was sure it was a ghost! After that he used to get quite excited whenever the fog horn was going!



## **Not Alone – An invitation from Emily (Owen)**

Helen Keller said: 'deafness separates people from people.'

Hands up if you agree?! (I'm putting both my hands up!)

Hearing loss can bring isolation.

Times of feeling alone as the world carries on around us.

But what if we at Open Ears try to rewrite Helen Keller:

'Deafness CAN separate people from people.' Or

'Deafness OFTEN separates people from people.' Or

'Deafness MIGHT separate people from people.' Or

'Deafness DOESN'T HAVE TO ALWAYS separate people from people.'

***The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."***

(Genesis 2:18)

Those of us that live with hearing loss, or alongside someone who experiences hearing loss, know the value of people who understand. People who get it.

Those people are 'just right for us'.

Those people are sent by God.

Those people can be Open Ears.

Literal miles may separate us, but there are still ways to help us feel less alone.

**Open Ears Together** is the name of a new weekly email, from Open Ears, that aims to help us be 'not alone'. Will it be coming to your inbox?



If you have given us your email address or mobile number, you will automatically receive it. If you haven't, but would like the weekly e-send, please sign up at **together@openears.org.uk** it would be lovely if as many of us as possible could travel together in this way.

The weekly email will have news, views, devotional thoughts, Bible verses, encouragements, prayer points... any or all of the above.

If you have anything to share, news, encouragements, prayer points, a photo, or something else, please let us know:  
**together@openears.org.uk**

***Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*** (Romans 12:15)

I look forward to sharing together, and growing together, and being not alone together.

***All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*** (1 Corinthians 12:27)

## Who am I? Bible Character Alphabet.

(There are no Hebrew or Greek letters equivalent to the English 'w', 'x' or 'y'.)

See how many you can do without looking up the Bible passage!



- A.** I was a son of the first man. (Genesis 4:1)
- B.** My donkey spoke to me. (Numbers 22:28-29)
- C.** Jesus walked to Emmaus with me. (Luke 24:18)
- D.** The lions didn't eat me. (Daniel 6: 22)
- E.** I was whisked up to heaven in a whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:11)
- F.** My name sounds like a cat, but I was a Roman governor of Judaea. (Acts 24:2)
- G.** I was slain by a single stone from a shepherd's sling. (1 Samuel 17:4,50)
- H.** I was accused of being drunk as I prayed for a child. (1 Samuel 1:13)
- I.** My birth caused my mother to laugh. (Genesis 21:5-6)
- J.** My brothers sold me into slavery in Egypt. (Genesis 37:28)
- K.** I had seven brothers and two sisters. I and my sisters were very beautiful, and our father granted us an inheritance along with our brothers. (Job 42:14)
- L.** I was a doctor and an author. (Colossians 4:14)
- M.** Three people of this name stood at the foot of Jesus' cross. (John 19:25)
- N.** Jesus saw me as I was sitting under a fig tree. (John 1:48)
- O.** My mother in law and sister in law went to Bethlehem and I returned to Moab. (Ruth 1:14)



**P.** I was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard. (Genesis 37:36)

**Q.** I travelled a long way to visit King Solomon. (1 Kings 10:1)

**R.** I was rescued from destruction by tying a scarlet cord in my window. (Joshua 6:25)

**S.** I sang hymns when in prison with Paul. (Acts 16:25)

**T.** My mother was a Jewish believer and my father was Greek. (Acts 16:1)

**U.** King David stole my wife then had me killed. (2 Samuel 11:3)

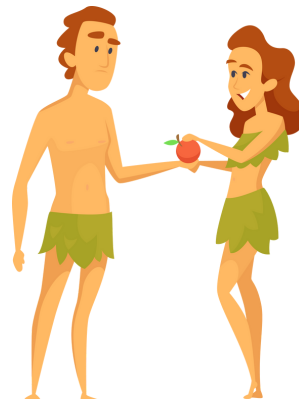
**V.** I am not at all well known! One of my sons was sent to spy out the land of Canaan (see Numbers 13:14)

**W.** I'm not really a person nor what I am known as, I swallowed a runaway prophet! (Jonah 1:17)

**X.** I was King of Persia, sometimes known as Ahasuerus. (Esther 1:1)

**Y.** I AM (Hebrew)

**Z.** I was short in stature so climbed a tree to see Jesus. (Luke 19:2-3)



## **A modern Psalm by Rev Robin Pritchard, written in times of difficulty.**

Like bright tears gathering behind my lids,  
So is my love for you, Lord,  
Like the startle of walking out under a starlit sky,  
Is the freshness of your words to me.  
Like the slow seep of heat from a fire into cold limbs,  
So, your salvation warms my soul.  
O Lord, like the deep depths of still water,  
You refresh my life and give me joy.

The more fragile my body,  
The fiercer my need for you.  
The more anxious my mind,  
'I long for your presence.'  
The more testing the obstacle,  
'Lift me in your arms beyond it.'  
O lord, like the touch of a friend's hand,  
You assure my life and bring me peace.

Closer than a waking dream,  
The inspired thoughts of my mind are terrible.  
Closer than my body's own workings,  
The triumph of your passing overwhelms me.  
No closer than the Holy Spirit,  
I can barely breathe.  
O Lord, the fire of your presence is too much,  
Step back or you will destroy me.

So weak my hands, my will and my soul,  
So feeble my grasp of you.

Should you leave me,  
I will die forever.  
Take me with you.



## **Mountainous Obstructions??**



In 1982 I moved into the house next door to a couple who were deafened in their youth. Over the 5 years I lived next to them I became friends with Elizabeth particularly, and for a while her husband was happy for us to go out together for a coffee and, for a season, for Elizabeth to come to patchwork and quilting class with me. They helped me learn to lip-speak for them as they were lip readers, and I learned a lot about the isolation of those in the Deaf community, and at times had to be the lip-speaking interpreter when there were hospital admissions or visits. When I retired from full time work I tried to train for lip-speaking but cost and distance made it impossible.

In 2007, I moved a short distance away, but my friendship with Elizabeth continued, but in the two years between my move, and the year they both died, I discovered that her husband was actually abusive.

After he died, Elizabeth hit her head on the upper oven door in her kitchen and her GP wanted her to go to the hospital for a CT scan. I took her to A&E where we had a that she could not lip read. He persuaded her she did not need a scan, and sent her home. Within a few weeks, the bleed on her brain resulted in her death. Elizabeth was so used to acquiescing to her husband's demands and directions, she had not been able to assert to the doctor at A&E that the GP had insisted a scan was needed. I was heart broken.

This experience, plus the struggles to try to share about Jesus with Elizabeth and her husband, had me crying out to God for people like them, hidden away in a silent world. God's answer to me came from Romans 10: 14

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*

This commission as I meditated on it, led me to understand that those who are Deaf or deafened need to hear Bible truth in their first language, mostly British Sign Language, so that meant church needed to change to accommodate this need.

So, in September 2017, a team of us put on a conference in Eastbourne called "Dear Church, Can you hear me?" We had Rev Gill Behenna the Anglican Adviser on Deaf Issues, and Rev Susan Myatt a Baptist Minister who is a Deaf user of BSL. Both used BSL for teaching with interpretation for those of us who have hearing.

We had a mix of folk who were Deaf and those disillusioned by churches who do not accommodate hearing loss. This in turn led me on a long journey firstly to try to learn British Sign Language, my reasoning being that, if someone with hearing loss came to church, who would communicate with them and make friendships with them?

This led to me starting The Welcome Café for BSL users at Victoria Baptist Church in Eastbourne, and my starting BSL lessons. I had a competent level 6 BSL person acting as an interpreter for me at the café and we had varied success with a variety of people coming on different occasions. Having completed the first level 1 course by 2018, I attended Signs of God Summer School and for that week was immersed in BSL, learning about Deaf Culture and history as well as things like “signing space”, but was certainly out of my depth.

I worked with Sophie Hirshman who with her husband Marcel established Weald BSL, to try to get BSL classes started at Victoria Baptist Church (VBC) to encourage Christians to become involved, and I enrolled in their first level 1 course. Four other members from my church were involved and in this course we better understood how the language worked. We had a Christmas Carol Service with a BSL interpreter which was well received and 2 Deaf people attended.

We thought we were moving forward. I met with Marylyn Kilsby and was encouraged by the link we had forged.

Then Covid!!! Everything stopped and it seemed, crashed around my ears in the next 3 years and I asked God if I could put it all down now being 3 years older. Having overcome what seemed like a mountain range of obstacles in the beginning, the number of mountains now facing me seemed to have increased. But everything confirmed He still wanted to reach Deaf people with the gospel, and I should continue.

The current mountains facing us now;

- The team who established the conference had been disbanded because people were led in different directions.
- My BSL helper for the Café used the Covid shut down time to complete her studies to become an interpreter, so was no longer available.
- Despite desperate efforts by Sophie and me, we could not find BSL teachers to teach in Eastbourne, and one who promised to come in 2022, let us down
- Therefore, Marcel is teaching a short level 1 course at VBC again.
- But no level 2 teaching in person! So, we four are stuck at level 1!

(So my 5 year long level 1 BSL status continues, as on line learning and does not result in me being able to remember and use the language with confidence.)

- Signature who are the only organisation currently promoting “excellence in communication with Deaf people” now have priced the lessons at high cost. To reach level 3 which is necessary for real communication is now over £2100, if a teacher can be found.
- Locally and historically, due to Jehovah Witnesses, situations arose which means that Deaf people are suspicious that being involved with a church means dividing families.
- The Welcome Café has been re-established and we have some increasing numbers , for which we praise God, but mostly this is people who are hearing with a little BSL. We really pray for those who are Deaf to come and discover they are welcomed and precious to God and to us.



So, do you have practical advice you would offer to us as we seek to overcome these mountains?

Desperate Daphne Brett



## **Practical hints for dealing with deafness from the personal perspective of Deborah Jenkins.**

Most people know someone who's deaf. It might be a parent, or grandparent, an older neighbour or colleague. Or it might be a younger person with a long term condition or sudden illness.

Before I was hearing impaired, I didn't know how to talk to deaf people. I just shouted. Now I realise how horrid that is. But what else can you do?



**Thank you for shouting at me,  
said no deaf person  
ever.**

### **'Deaf' or 'hearing impaired'?**

There are many ways to describe the deaf. Hearing loss is a complicated thing. With sight loss you could be -1 or -6 to need glasses. My left eye is -9 with no central vision (If you cut me off from the neck up, I'd be fine). It's the same with hearing loss. According to the British Deaf Association, there are widely accepted terms for those who can't hear well but people also have their own preferences for describing themselves. Here are some of them: –

- **hard of hearing** – those who need greater volume or clarity



**'Grab the reindeer' or...**



**'Grab the rain gear'?**

- **deafened/hearing impaired/with hearing loss** – terms used for someone losing hearing in adulthood due to illness or injury



- **partially hearing/deaf** – when people have some degree of hearing but still need a hearing aid or cochlear implant to cope in everyday life. In some situations (eg. outside) they may still mishear



- **profoundly/severely deaf** – people who cannot hear speech without support (various types of hearing aids or implants)
- **totally deaf/deafened** – someone who cannot hear at all. I have a dear friend in this situation whose faith and optimism are a constant inspiration to me

For this piece, I will use the term **deaf**.

## Able or disabled?

Some deaf people don't like to be called disabled. With hearing support, they feel able to function almost as well as the not-deaf. Others would use the term disabled because of their level of hearing loss or the discrimination associated with it.

Because I have very little hearing without support and, even with it, struggle to hear in many situations, I would currently call myself disabled. I am waiting for another operation so that might change though.

I have a bone implanted hearing aid which is a titanium implant inserted in the skull. Once the bone has grown around the end of it, you can attach a receiver which sends sound straight into the middle ear using bone conduction. Although it's not perfect, it has changed my life. I'm so grateful, after many years, to hear birds, rain, footsteps.



**You can see it just behind my ear**

## What is it like to be deaf?

**Isolating** – have you had an ear infection or wax overload? Imagine feeling like that every day, unsure of what others have said, worrying you have misheard, feeling shut out of fast-moving conversations with family or friends

**Shaming** – somehow loss of sight is acceptable but there's a stigma associated with hearing loss, perhaps because deaf people need others to put themselves out, in social situations. This can be irritating. But if they don't, the deaf can feel dismissed as old or out of touch. They can appear stupid.

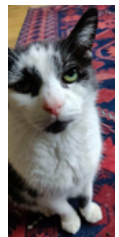
They can come across as anti-social, shut away from shared feelings of excitement or laughter, say, at the theatre or with friends.

Sometimes deaf people speak louder than others because they can't hear their own voices. It can be embarrassing to be shushed or spoken over

- **Anxiety-making** – Hearing loss can cause people to actively avoid social situation. It can be just too stressful thinking you might laugh in the wrong place or say 'You're welcome' in response to 'That's true' not 'Thank you'

## How you can help

- **Face the person and keep your hands away from your mouth.** Deaf people rely on lip reading.
- **Occasionally say things like 'Are you following?'** Some people feel embarrassed saying 'Pardon?' more than once. Check the face for signs of confusion.
- **If in a restaurant/public place invite the deaf person to choose the table and seating arrangements.** Usually, corner positions/cubicles/side tables are better for reducing background noise.
- If a deaf person says, 'You saw him when you left the...?' **repeat the last few words not the whole sentence.** This reduces the break in continuity for everyone.
- Give the deaf person frequent eye contact to help them feel included... **...but not like this.**



- **Try moving your lips more instead of shouting.** This can really help and is less embarrassing. Try saying 'where did you go on holiday?' using dramatic lip movements. There you go...
- **Use gestures** – this helps give context.

- **Have a good laugh at the odd misheard moment.** Turning it into a joke can help. But don't keep going back to it. No one wants their mishaps to be the focus.
- **The bigger the room, the higher the ceiling, the harder the floor covering will make hearing more challenging** so make those lip movements fast and furious in these places.
- **Most people drop their voices at the end of sentences.** Being Australian helps – they tend to go up. Let's all be Aussies!

Faith gatherings can be hard for the deaf. In church buildings, for example, people tend to drop their voices when praying as if God is asleep or noise-averse. It's no doubt a mark of respect but the whole point of praying aloud is to include others. And what with the size of the room, the ceiling height and the hard flooring, deaf worshippers have enough to contend with. If you're a pray-out-loud-er, practise saying 'IN JESUS NAME! AMEN!!' the way you hail a cab in Oxford Street. God won't mind. In fact he'll be touched by your thoughtfulness as will the deaf people who'll know it's time to jump up/say the grace/put the urn on.

I hope this is helpful. Like many disabilities, deafness is unseen but, when you meet someone deaf, it won't take you long to realise. So, what will you do?

I also think we, the deaf, need to be more out there about our struggles, however hard that might be.

**Occasionally deafness can be useful.** I was rushing to get to the Good Friday procession when I was approached in a dark alley by a drunk with a strong accent.

'Swjopdkeioknbui?' he said (or similar)

I looked at him with no clue as to the question. He gazed back expectantly. There was a short pause.

'Sorry,' I said pointing to my hearing aid, 'I'm deaf and late' and strode off. He did not follow.

Feel free to use this. It clearly works 😊

Deborah Jenkins is the author of a novella, *The Evenness of Things*, and a novel, *Braver*, shortlisted for the Writers' Guild Best First Novel 2022.

*Braver* tells the story of unlikely friendships in a local community and how the kindness of people from a church gives them the courage to face their problems.

Deborah blogs at <https://stillwonderinghere.net/> where you can also find out more about her writing.



Geoff Pitts

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you that the beloved husband of Christine Pitts has died.

Many of you know and love Christine, who has served with Open Ears from its beginning. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as they adjust to life without Geoff.

In the last issue of Hearing Eye we introduced Sophie to you, and this time we introduce Emily(K).

Emily, we are so pleased that you have joined us at Open Ears, with particular responsibility for social media and publicity. Our readers might like to know a little more about you, so I thought it would be a good idea to introduce you more fully.

**Can you tell us a little bit about your background, family, where you grew up etc?**

So I'm originally from the North West of England, i'm the middle of three girls. From the age of 12 I lived in the UAE with my parents and younger sister then moved back to England for university. It was such a wonderful experience!

**Where do you live now and with whom?**

I currently live in Preston, Lancashire with my husband and daughter.

**How did you come to know Jesus?**

I'm lucky that I've always known him. Being brought up in a Christian household really formed my core beliefs. As it's common nowadays I lost my relationship with Jesus for a few years but whilst at uni I found Him again and our relationship has been steadfast ever since.

**What drew you to working with Open Ears?**

I was intrigued by the post as it seemed to marry all my skills and experience, but also was centred on faith. I like that I'm able to use the gifts I've been given for a truly wonderful reason and I'm passionate about accessibility (I previously worked in the D/deaf and HoH community and my older sister is totally blind).

## **What book (other than the Bible) is your number 1?**

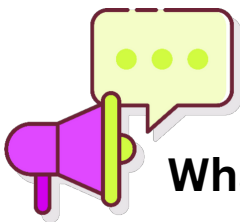
As an English Literature graduate this is an incredibly difficult question... but I do love The Canterbury Tales (in Middle English) by Geoffrey Chaucer. The tales are wonderful, there's variety of genre and style. If only Chaucer had finished it!

## **What is your favourite food?**

It depends on my mood and location. You can never go wrong with Italian, but I also love to cook Mexican food. Or a roast dinner. Or something Spanish. Yum!

## **What would your dream holiday be?**

Something that includes both relaxing and adventure, some sun but not too hot.



## **What's New at Open Ears?**

Recently the Open Ears Team held a weekend retreat. We stayed at the beautiful Douai Abbey in Berkshire. It was great to actually BE together, rather than seeing only one another's faces on Zoom! It was a time of great refreshment and fellowship, and of seeking the Lord's way forward for Open Ears.



We believe that He showed us the pathway for the next few years, and you, our members, are at the top of our priority list. But, in order to support you as fully as we can, we need to know what you need from us.

If you have any suggestions, please send these by email to [info@openears.org.uk](mailto:info@openears.org.uk), or post to Open Ears, 6 Westfield Road, Leicester. LE3 6HR.

Our website ([www.openears.org.uk](http://www.openears.org.uk)) is regularly updated and has links to other useful websites as well as details of upcoming events, links to Hearing Eye magazines, blogs etc. Please comment on the blogs and share them with others. Our Instagram and Facebook pages have some great content. The Open Ears Fellowship Group Facebook page gives you opportunity to build up relationships, share your joys and problems, ask questions and interact within a safe space as well as regular posts on our Open Ears Facebook page.

We want to focus more on prayer, and Julia has compiled a prayer calendar for us. We will make this available on the website, and include it with in Hearing Eye. If you would like to regularly commit to praying for the work of Open Ears, please contact Julia at [prayer@openears.org.uk](mailto:prayer@openears.org.uk) .

In conjunction with that, Open Ears Together invites you to share prayer and praise items by emailing [together@openears.org.uk](mailto:together@openears.org.uk). These will then be included in regular e-sends, which Emily Owen is setting up through [together@openears.org.uk](mailto:together@openears.org.uk) . If you have completed your GDPR form and given details of email or mobile, Emily will automatically include you in her e-sends. You will be able to unsubscribe from these at any time, should you so wish.

Please let us know if you would like these to be kept confidential within the Open Ears Team, or if you would like us to share them with others who have committed to pray with Open Ears, and/or members.

See page 8 for further information.

Marylin Kilsby is offering one-to-one pastoral support to our members, their families and carers. See page 4 for more details. Marylin can be contacted by email on [pastoral@openears.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@openears.org.uk) or through the usual contact channels as noted on the back of the magazine.



**Members Online Prayer Time**

When: 2nd June 2023  
Time: 2-3 PM  
Where: Zoom



**Quiz Night!**

When: 6th July 2023  
Time: 7.30-8.30 PM  
Where: Zoom



**Online Conference**

When: 8th September 2023  
Time: 2-3.30 PM  
Where: Zoom



**Online Conference**

When: 15th December 2023  
Time: 2-3 PM  
Where: Zoom



**\*\*Provisional date for 50th anniversary celebration, 15 June 2024.\*\***

To sign up and to get the Zoom link, please contact us at  
[info@openears.org.uk](mailto:info@openears.org.uk)

Our online events are fully accessible with Speech to Text.



The Diocese of Chester Disability Forum has organised a Celebration of Different Abilities Service to take place on **Saturday, July 15 at 2.30pm**. Bishop Mark Tanner will lead the service, there will be a signing choir, guest speakers, braille readings, sensory stations and a lot more.

Organisations will have opportunity to showcase their charities in the marketplace, and Open Ears will be there. Please pray that this will be a great opportunity to showcase all that Open Ears does.

If you would like to share in the service, you would be most welcome.

**Location: St Mary's Church, Sale, Cheshire. M33 6GD**



## **MISSION STATEMENT - OPEN EARS**

Open Ears is a non-denominational Christian charity (Registered charity 1181896) for people who have varying degrees of hearing impairment, mainly, but not exclusively, those who communicate orally, assisted by hearing aids or cochlear implants and lip-reading. It aims to provide accessible fellowship, Bible teaching, prayer support and pastoral care, to produce informative literature and a quarterly magazine, 'Hearing Eye'. Open Ears may give a proportion of its donated income to specified Christian charities and other organisations involved in supporting people with hearing loss.



## **Hearing Eye is published by Open Ears**

Open Ears is led by a Committee formed of Trustees and Committee Members who meet together quarterly.

Chairperson: Anthea Owen : [anthea@openears.org.uk](mailto:anthea@openears.org.uk)

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