

## **ROMSEY MILL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021**

Welcome to the Romsey Mill Christmas Appeal for 2021.

This year we are asking people to partner with us and help raise funds to support and grow the vital work of Aspire.

Aspire currently supports 150 autistic young people (9 – 18 year olds) in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire who are in mainstream education, and their families. Aspire is the only provision of its type in Cambridgeshire, and so we also want to be able to help those who are not yet able to access any support.

Our weekly Aspire youth clubs create a safe and welcoming social space for autistic young people to interact at a level at which they are comfortable. We offer a high ratio of support from committed volunteers. Young people come to relax and be themselves, and to do things that they enjoy and talk with our experienced youth workers about anything, including their interests and any difficulties they have experienced that week.

Our Aspire youth workers also offer one-to-one support for young people attending the youth groups. We focus on issues identified by the young person and help them find and practice strategies to manage. These issues include support for participation and learning.

We also provide practical advice and support to parents with completing application forms for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP); and can assist and advocate for them at meetings with their child's school and other professionals.

### **How you can help**

Here are some simple ideas:

**Facebook and Instagram** – we will be sharing lots of information and links for people to donate to the appeal on our social media pages. Please share these so that your friends and family can see and also support the appeal. If you are on Facebook, then just search for Romsey Mill and you will find our page. If you like the page then our posts will appear on your news feed.

Again on Instagram search for Romsey Mill and start following us. You can share our posts to your story.

You can also create a Facebook fundraiser to help support our appeal. To do this, search for Fundraisers in the Facebook search bar and it will take you through how to set the fundraiser up. Alternatively you could set up a Just Giving page and share the link with your friends and family via your social media accounts.

**Just Giving Page** – you can create a Just Giving page very simply. Go to [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and create a page. You can link it to our Christmas Appeal or just set it up with Romsey Mill as the charity. The money will come direct to us, and you can share the link to your fundraising page by email, WhatsApp, text message, social media, email, or even carrier pigeon!

**Christmas Cards** – rather than sending cards to friends and family, many people choose to donate to charity instead. You could donate the money saved on cards and postage to Romsey Mill and encourage others to do the same.

#### Patrons:

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely  
Colin Greenhalgh CBE DL  
Lady Wilson of Dinton

Registered Charity (No: 1069905)  
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**Cake Sale** – hold a Christmas cake/bake sale – who doesn't love a mince pie at this time of year, and homemade ones, are even better. Hold a cake sale and let everyone sample each other's mince pies and Christmas bakes.

**Christmas Clothing Day** – do you have a child attending school that you could ask to host a non-uniform day or Christmas clothing day and all pupils

**Talk to your employers** – you could chat to your employers about whether they could support our appeal. We have an information sheet full of ideas for companies, with some very simple ones through to longer commitments. This can be found at [romseymill.org/lifechanginggift](http://romseymill.org/lifechanginggift)

For more information on how you can support the work of Aspire and Romsey Mill through fundraising please contact Rachel Thomas [development@romseymill.org](mailto:development@romseymill.org) .