

Charton Manor

A Care Home not providing medicines or medical treatment
is a Christian Science nursing facility (Christian Science House).

Statement of Purpose

June 2021

Hawthorne Trust Limited
operates Charton Manor, a care home registered with the Care Quality Commission.
Registration No. 1-101643210.
A Company Limited by Guarantee: Registered in England No. 293710.
Registered Office as above. Registered Charity No. 209230

CHARTON MANOR – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Registered Provider

HAWTHORNE TRUST LIMITED
Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT.

A Brief History

In 1927 a Bill was introduced to Parliament, which required the registration and medical supervision of all nursing homes in England and Wales. Christian Scientists won an amendment exempting their nursing homes from registration and the Bill became law as the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927. The exemption from registration of Christian Science Houses (as the exemption required them to be called) was carried over in subsequent revisions of the Act up to the Registered Homes Act 1984.

In the early 1930s, a number of Christian Scientists in London formed themselves into a committee to collect money for the establishment of a nursing home for Christian Scientists, run on a non-profit basis. While money was still being collected, in 1935, a property known as Tudor House on Hampstead Heath was donated to the newly formed Hawthorne Trust to operate as a nursing home. The house, which was the first Christian Science House in the United Kingdom, opened in 1937, and was renamed Hawthorne House. The property was sold in November 1987 and seven months later the Trust relocated to their purpose-built facility **Charton Manor** near Sevenoaks in Kent.

Aims and Objectives

Charton Manor, primarily a Christian Science nursing facility classified as a 'personal care' home due to the fact Christian Science nursing is non-medical and the distinction between medical and non-medical nursing has determined the Government's designations.

Charton Manor provides 24 hour short-term Christian Science nursing care and some long term residential care to men and women aged 18 and over who have chosen to rely solely upon the Bible-based method of spiritual healing, **Christian Science**. This is set out in **Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures** by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science.

The reliance of Christian Scientists on prayer alone for healing is an integral part of their worship of God and the practice of their religion. Patients engage their own **Christian Science practitioner** listed in the current issue of **The Christian Science Journal**¹ who works with them through prayer, to bring about the healing.

Mary Baker Eddy made provision for the ministry of the Christian Science nurse in a By-law (Article VIII, Section 31) of the Church's governing document, the **Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist (The Mother Church)** for those requiring Christian Science nursing care consistent with the theology of Christian Science. Christian Science nurses are required to

¹ Official organ of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA
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possess "a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice" in addition to thoroughly understanding "the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room", and being able to "take proper care of the sick".²

Charton Manor accepts patients who wish to rely on Christian Science treatment rather than medical treatment for their healing. Christian Science nursing services at Charton Manor also include out-patient facilities. No medical processes, remedies or interventions are undertaken at Charton Manor. As there are no consultations with doctors or associated medical professionals, there is no diagnosis or prognosis of a patient's affliction or injury. All Christian Science nursing care, including *intensive care*, is rendered by qualified Christian Science nurses whose cards³ appear in **The Christian Science Journal** and by trainee Christian Science nurses acting under their supervision.

At any time, a patient has the right to choose another method of health care, although this would not be provided in Charton Manor. Every effort would be expended by Charton Manor to assist patients to gain access to the care of their choice.

Theology of Christian Science Nursing Care

Christian Science treatment is given through the prayer that identifies man with his perfect, inviolate, innate spiritual identity as the image and likeness of God. As the patient becomes conscious of this fact, through the prayerful support of his Christian Science practitioner, the patient responds and healing takes place. Mary Baker Eddy encapsulates the *modus operandi* of healing in Christian Science thus: "*The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus' time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and sin to reformation.*" (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures xi: 9-14). The application of material and medical therapies interferes with this natural process of restoration. Sometimes healing is a gradual process and the physical needs of the patient need to be properly taken care of in the interim, so our theology of care considers the needs of the whole person and is geared to maintaining the highest relevant degree of normality as patients progress towards their healing. Each patient is assigned a key worker, known as the *Assigned CS Nurse*, who has special responsibility for working with the patient to identify his or her particular needs and requirements. These are recorded on our own customised 'care plans' which are reviewed weekly to ensure that each patient receives the appropriate level of care and attention.

Christian Science nurses do not administer medical first aid but do administer practical emergency care consistent with the theology of Christian Science.

² **Christian Science Nurse.** SECT. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.

The cards of such persons may be inserted in *The Christian Science Journal* under rules established by the publishers. (Church Manual Article VIII SECT 31)

³ The Church Manual By-law for the nurse provides for a qualified Christian Science nurse to apply to advertise in The Christian Science Journal.

Staff Training Provision

There is an on-going programme of regular in-service training and workshops on various aspects of Christian Science nursing care, which is open to all Christian Science nurses. Members of The Mother Church from all over the world are offered a structured classroom and on-the-job training course lasting up to three years where trainees acquire the necessary nursing skills to work as a Christian Science nurse in a Christian Science Nursing Facility. Christian Science nursing is recognised by UK Visas and Immigration as a religious ministry and Christian Science nurses from outside the European Economic Area come into the country under the T2 "Ministers of Religion" category.

Care Quality Commission Nominated Individual

Mrs. Ednah Lawal, Administrator

Hawthorne Trust Limited, Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT

Telephone: 01322 863116 Email: administrator@chartonmanor.org

Registered Manager

Ms Florence Mutambara, Christian Science Nursing Manager

Hawthorne Trust Limited, Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT

Telephone: 01322 863116 Email: csnmanager@chartonmanor.org

Rooms available to patients and residents

Bedrooms. There are up to 9 single Christian Science nursing bedrooms, and 10 residential rooms (3 of which have separate seating areas), each opening on to a patio or balcony. All Christian Science nursing rooms have electric nursing beds and all rooms and suites have two nurse-call points and direct-dial telephone. Each Christian Science nursing bathroom has a wheelchair access en-suite shower and toilet, with nurse-call pull-cord. The room sizes, excluding the en-suite shower and toilet for the single rooms are 12.90m². (There is an assisted bathroom, with bathtub on the Christian Science nursing floor.)

There is also a main lounge, an activities room, a study room, a sitting room for service users to meet with friends or relatives if they would rather not entertain in their rooms, and a dining room.

Additional copy documents to form part of the Statement of Purpose are:

Christian Science Nurse Scope of Services

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SCOPE OF SERVICES

Christian Science nursing is grounded in the Bible-based theology of Christian Science, which includes Christ Jesus' commandment to love one another (see John 15:12). This practical care is carried out with prayer, wisdom and skill, supporting the patient's decision to rely on Christian Science for healing, which includes treatment by prayer, generally from a *Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioner.

The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, established the authority and standard for the Christian Science nurse in 1908, in the *Manual of The Mother Church*. (Page 49, Article VIII, Section 31):

Christian Science Nurse. SECT. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.

The cards of such persons may be inserted in The Christian Science Journal under rules established by the publishers.

Individuals advertising in *The Christian Science Journal* and *The Herald of Christian Science* have presented satisfactory evidence that they fulfill the requirements in this By-Law.

This *Scope of Services* is intended to clarify for patients and other interested persons what they may expect when engaging the services of a Christian Science nurse. It touches briefly on the main aspects of, and ethical considerations related to, those services.

Continued on the other side

The care of the Christian Science nurse includes:

- Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and quick healing;
- Giving care that is consistent with the theology and ethics of Christian Science;
- Loving reassurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence; faithfully and consistently acknowledging each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Christian encouragement of a patient's appropriate expression of activity and vitality;
- Reading to or with an individual from the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy; also, additional literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society;
- Communication: maintaining an ethical, moral, and loving manner in all communications with the patient, family, friends, Christian Science practitioner, and others; observing ethical and legal requirements with regard to private information about the patient;
- Surroundings: maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual healing and supportive of harmonious care;
- Personal care and bathing: assisting with all necessary care to meet the needs of cleanliness and comfort;
- Mobility: assisting with mobility including assisting with standing, walking, moving and settling with or without mobility aids or comfort items;
- Nourishment: preparing and modifying food; assisting with feeding; giving appropriate encouragement to eat;
- Cleansing/bandaging: cleansing, covering and bandaging, to provide for cleanliness, protection, support, and comfort;
- Instructing the patient or others in providing care for meeting individual needs;
- Being obedient to the laws of the land.

The care of the Christian Science nurse does not include:

- Making a medical diagnosis or prognosis;
- Assuming responsibility for making health care decisions for the patient;
- Administering medication, drugs or using medicated, herbal, or vitamin-based products and remedies;
- Using and administering medically oriented techniques or technology, including, but not limited to, administering food or liquids with medical equipment, e.g.—intravenous feeding;
- Manipulation, massage, physical therapy;
- Assuming responsibility for a patient's financial or household business transactions;
- Intruding on the private relationship between the patient and the Christian Science practitioner, or between the patient and his or her family;
- Giving personal advice and counsel.

Fundamental to the ministry of a Christian Science nurse is active, prayerful affirmation of everyone's innate spirituality and responsiveness to God's harmonious government. This spiritual witnessing undergirds each aspect of the care a Christian Science nurse renders.