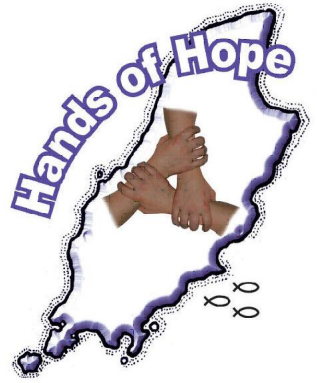


Hands of Hope Newsletter Spring 2026

Thank you
for all the things you do that makes this work possible
for encouraging us with messages
for reading this newsletter
for supporting us



Spring is a season of preparation, and that's been true for us this year.

At the centre, decorating is now complete, creating a fresh and welcoming space. Eduard has been working in the orchards—pruning trees, repairing fences, and preparing for the months ahead. While the timing of the last frost is uncertain, good preparation now will help ensure a better harvest later.



Above: Repaired water container - Outside gym equipment delivered - Orchards pruned and tidied

We are excited about new outdoor gym equipment, which will be installed soon. It's designed for adults and older children, including those with limited mobility, and we look forward to seeing it in use.



With the new school year underway, we were especially glad to help a newer member of the Cobila Community access local government support and resources. Small steps like these open big doors for our young people

Ukraine

In February, we travelled to Ukraine with David to the mountains in the west, where we spent time with families from the Autism Support Group. They greatly appreciated a few days of peace away from drones, missiles, and air raid warnings.



We then travelled to Ivankiv, near the Chernobyl exclusion zone, where we were invited to speak at a small church. It was a humbling visit—one elderly lady told us we were the first Western visitors they had seen in four years. We are often given this message: "Please thank the people who have not forgotten us."

The signpost in the background of this monument to hope following the Chernobyl disaster reads

Trust God

Psalm 27 verse 3 "Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident."

We also spent a night in Kyiv. Although there were no air raids, the city was in darkness due to power cuts. Many people only have electricity for a few hours each day. One man living on the 18th floor, without power or a lift, told us with a smile that at least it keeps him fit.

We left Kyiv in temperatures of -26°C and made the ten-hour journey back to Romania. On each visit, we bring practical aid—such as power banks, lights, clothing, medication, toys, and craft supplies. But after nearly four years and around fifty trips, we've learned that the most important things we bring are time and friendship. Ruth and Chris will be returning soon, and we look forward to working together in Romania and Ukraine.



Thank You - Your generosity keeps classrooms open, gardens growing, and families supported across borders. Please help us to continue this work—whether through giving, volunteering, or prayer.

Together, we're cultivating places where people can learn, heal, and belong.

www.handsofhope.org.im

Bank details if you wish to set up a standing order or make a BACS payment are:

Hands of Hope Account no: 12629251 Sort Code: 55 91 00

Cheques can be sent to "Hands of Hope",
c/o C & R Baker, 14 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS
or donations can be made via the Pay Pal link on our web site

