

Charity No. 1093689

www.routestoroots.org

2012 – 'A Year of the Lord's Favour.' (Luke 4:18)



This year we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary as a registered Charity and to mark this important achievement we are planning to hold

A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at St Peter's Church, Parkstone, on Sunday 25th March at 3.30 pm.

We are delighted that we will have The Bishop of Sherborne, Dr Graham Kings with us for that service. We do hope you will also join us as we gather to give thanks and praise to God for the many ways in which he has enabled us over the last 10 years, to bring his love and compassion to the homeless poor, here in Poole. We pray that with your continued help and support, together we can make 2012, another 'Year of the Lord's favour'.

We know that we would not be able to do any of this without our volunteers. One such volunteer, who had been alongside us since we first began, was Dorothy Cuff (pictured on her 80th birthday). We were all sad to hear that Dot passed away at the end of last year. She was a friend to us all but to the guys and girls on the street she was a much loved Gran, with a big smile and an even bigger heart.

God Bless You Dot, Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.



The Revd Pat Southgate

Chair of Routes to Roots and Chaplain to the Homeless in Poole



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE DROP-IN



☀ Staff at Liverpool Victoria, Westbourne dug out their small change and donated £50 as well as clothes, toiletries and treats for Christmas.

☀ The congregation at Skinner Street URC gave Christmas goodie bags.

☀ A kind supporter from Swanage donated hats, scarves & gloves and torches as well as supplies for the Christmas meal (mince pies, balloons, crackers, party poppers and much more).





NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to our new Hon Secretary: Ann Tyson

I am originally from Essex, although I have strong family connections with Poole and have been living in Lower Parkstone for over 15 years. I have had a variety of jobs over the years, but these have mostly involved office work and dealing with people, so I hope the skills I have picked up along the way will come in useful in my role as Honorary Secretary.

I have attended both St Luke's Church and St Peter's Church whilst living in Parkstone. For some years I worked as a part-time administrator in the office at St Luke's; whilst at St Peter's I have recently joined the choir and am very much enjoying that.

Although I have always been aware of the existence of Routes to Roots, I have never been actively involved. Last year I attended the Open Day at Skinner Street and was very impressed and moved by the different exhibits and displays. I look forward to being involved with this organisation that seeks to help, at a local level, some of the most vulnerable.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| CHAIR | Revd Pat Southgate |
| TREASURER | Sarah Percy |
| HON SECRETARY | Ann Tyson * |
| CO-OPTED MEMBER | Richard McLester |
| CO-OPTED MEMBER | Susan Gittins |
| OUTREACH WORKER | Liz Bailey |
| ADMINISTRATOR | Caroline Foy |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pat Southgate
Dick Dyke
Jennifer Harrison
Kate Mellor
Sarah Percy
Paul Richards

Routes to Roots Office
Skinner Street URC, Skinner Street, Poole, BH15 1QR
Tel: 01202 667880
office@routestoroots.org
www.routestoroots.org

Committee and Trustees elected at R2R AGM on 25 June 2011 (except *)



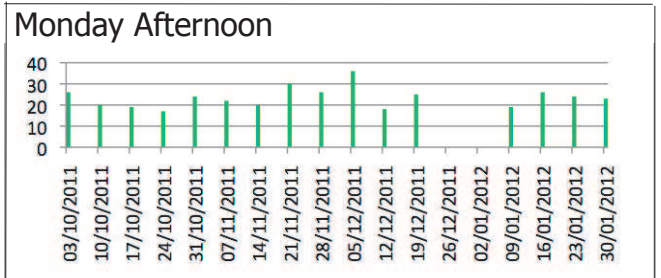
Founded on Christian principles, and registered as a charity in 2002, Routes to Roots seeks to help all homeless people in Poole regardless of their faith. We hold drop-in sessions to provide immediate social and spiritual support as well as the basic necessities for life: food, clothing, a place to wash and a place to rest. We help to house rough sleepers and follow up to identify what each person needs to move forward and to maintain their housing and independent living.

Routes to Roots is supported by Big Yellow Storage, Conical Sphere Web Design & Group UK, RGL Displays Ltd and The Fisherman Café, as well as by many Church and Christian groups in Poole and the surrounding area.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

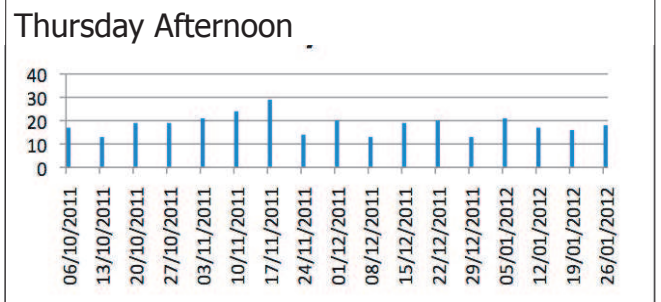


**R2R and BCHA Poole
Outreach Support Team
Individuals Housed
2010 – 38
2011 – 27
2012 (just the first 5 weeks) - 5**



**Start December 2011 to
End January 2012
189 Breakfasts Served**

The Breakfast Vouchers provide a very real lifeline to those who are rough sleeping and we are grateful to **The Fisherman Café** for making it possible to provide this hot meal at the start of the day.

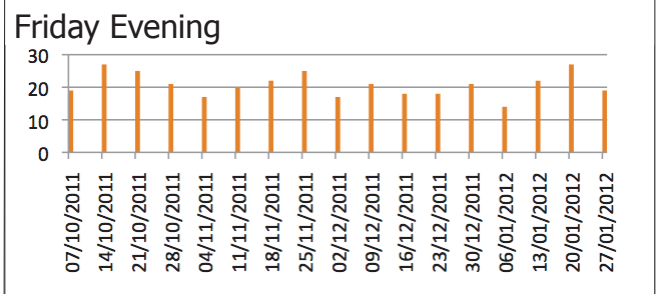
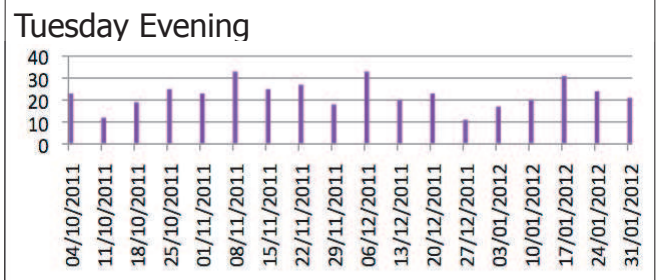


**Afternoon Drop-Ins
688 Lunches Served
October 2011 to January 2012
plus 17 Christmas Lunches on Christmas Day**

40% rough sleepers – 40% sofa surfers –
20% others recently housed

Skinner Street URC Church Hall

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Average Attendance Mondays | 24 |
| Average Attendance Thursdays | 19 |



**Evening Drop Ins
758 Hot Meals Served
October 2011 to January 2012**

40% rough sleepers – 40% sofa surfers –
20% others recently housed

*Hill Street Baptist Church Hall and
Skinner Street URC Church Hall*

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Average Attendance Tuesdays | 23 |
| Average Attendance Fridays | 21 |

VOLUNTEERS

We send a BIG thank you to Jennifer Harrison, who remains a Trustee but has now retired from being a Team leader on a Tuesday night - a job she has done, and done it well, for over 10 years.



Gabi Sanger-Stevens

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Jenny Donovan, Chiropodist

Sore feet are inevitable in our clients' way of life and treatment a luxury that none could ever contemplate before Jenny Donovan joined our team of volunteers.

Most have very damp or wet feet because their shoes are on all the time, and often they walk all day. Now, everyone's feet are washed in lovely warm soapy water: this in itself is comforting. Their corns and hard skin are treated. They receive advice on how to continue to look after their feet as and when they can. The treatment is finished with the same cream that Jenny uses at her surgery.

Jenny is a self-employed Chiropodist and has been in business for almost 30 years now, the last 20 years at 30 Lacey Crescent, Poole. Born and bred in Poole and loving it, she was previously nursing for 17 years.

As a Christian and worshipper at St. Mary's Longfleet church, Jenny wanted to use her Chiropody skills for good. Through a friend Bob Jacobs, R2R became aware of her offer and for the last two years Jenny has been treating people at evening drop-ins on the last Friday in every month.

"Folk were shy at first and embarrassed", Jenny says, "but they have got used to me now. There have been one or two that I have continued to treat at my surgery because I wanted to see them more frequently. This has made a real difference. For some, it has meant the difference between being in pain and unable to walk properly and practically skipping out, unable to believe that they are now pain-free. Some can't believe that I don't mind their smelly feet and that I really have seen it all before.

"One particular man, I noticed, was hiding his finger. He reluctantly showed me his deformed finger and nail saying that

someone that he owed money to had cut it off. The nail was very thick and curled right over digging into his finger. Not only could he



**Got Shoes? You can contact
Jenny on 01202 741718**

not use this finger but also it was extremely painful. I said that I could help and gently cut the very painful nail back. He then looked in disbelief, because not only was it now not painful, he could use his finger and he wasn't embarrassed by it, so didn't need to hide it.

"Another man said that through me and others, he is climbing his way back to normality again. This man has five degrees!

"My patients very kindly keep me well supplied with socks to take to the drop-in. Our clients make a beeline for these and they are well appreciated. My plea now is for people to give me any shoes that they don't want. Out there is many a wardrobe with unwanted, and even unworn, shoes in them. If anybody has any, I will gladly collect them.

"I used to be one of those people who are overwhelmed by so much need in the world or, indeed, just locally. However, if we all just use our God-given talents to the best of our ability, we really can make a difference - even with a smile. Truly, I believe that we are ALL given a gift to use. The majority of good goes on quietly by people just giving their time: the most precious thing in our rushing, form-filling, computerised climate.

"It has taken years for me not to be judgemental with homeless people. Having listened to some of their stories I'm just so very happy to contribute to a bit of caring and comfort. They really do appreciate it."

MEET OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

The Fisherman Café

Deborah Clooney (pictured below) and Debbie Jones have been joint owners of this traditional British café for almost seven years. The café is popular with locals and is famous for its generous Full English breakfast, which, thanks to the kindness of the owners, is being enjoyed once again by Poole's homeless.

The café is situated at 5 High Street, just off the Quay and opposite the museum. It has been a café for 10 years originally situated just around the corner. The café relocated into what at one point was the Fishing Tackle Shop, a much larger premises. Deborah and Debbie serve breakfast, lunch and light snacks, for eat-in or take-away, with well-priced dishes, from burgers and chips to omelettes, fish meals, salads and a children's menu. Most produce is sourced from local suppliers. They open seven days a week from 7.00am, closing around 2.30/3.00pm except for Tuesday Bikers' Night in the summer months when they stay open until 8.00pm.

The name, The Fisherman Café, derives from the café's popularity as a meeting place for people chartering boats in Poole to get a good breakfast before setting off on fishing or diving expeditions. Skippers operating from Poole harbour advertise their services on a wall picture gallery of over 20 charter boats, and lots of patrons drop by to get contact details so they can make bookings. Partly as a result of this activity, the café is particularly busy in the summer.

Both Deborah and Debbie have been living and working in the area for more than 20 years. Debbie, originally from Yorkshire, moved to the area to work with the homeless and subsequently took a position in the Art and Design Department of Bournemouth and Poole College. Deborah undertook research in the Department of Environment and moved into Social Care.

The ladies have been familiar with Routes to Roots for some time as R2R Outreach Worker Liz Bailey's son worked in the café at weekends and during school holidays for a number of years. Opening at such an early



hour, they sometimes spot people sleeping in doorways etc. and are able to point outreach workers in the right direction. Even before they became involved with the Big Breakfast project, they frequently had homeless people stop by for a hot drink and could suggest they pop into R2R.

In 2010-11 the café provided nearly 260 breakfasts to rough sleepers sent there by R2R. Deborah is delighted to offer breakfast again and says: "Last year we saw quite a few regular faces as well as several new ones including some women. It was also good when some that we had previously seen with their vouchers made a point of popping in to tell us that they had been accommodated and paid for their cup of tea."



THANKS TO OUR FUNDRAISERS

Over the last few months our supporters in the area have come up with a host of seasonal ways in which to raise money for R2R. We thank them all for their efforts.

☀ In the Dolphin Centre Christmas shopping was promoted at the online shopping village, ragtangle.com, which will donate 5% from all purchases to Routes to Roots.



- ☀ A quiz at Canford Heath Baptist Church raised £410 plus harvest goods.
- ☀ An evening of organ and vocal music at The Church of the Holy Angels, Lilliput raised £364.
- ☀ A collection at the centenary celebration performance of Handel's Messiah at The Church of the Transfiguration in Canford Cliffs raised £400.
- ☀ The TwoToo scarves website, <http://twotoo.co.uk>, has an ongoing promotion to support R2R. For every TwoToo scarf or T-shirt bought, TwoToo will give a warm fleece scarf to a homeless person.
- ☀ St Lukes donated £548.17 from its Christmas collection including £50 from funds.
- ☀ St Pauls, Canford Heath Baptist & Beacon Church raised £160 from carol singing.
- ☀ Broadstone URC donated £223.60.
- ☀ St Peters, Parkstone donated £200.
- ☀ Broadstone Methodists donated £50 plus £30 from its members.
- ☀ A supportive family donated their winter fuel payment of £100 as they thought we needed it more than them.
- ☀ St Mary's Longfleet made a Christmas offering of £1414.86.
- ☀ St Mark's Talbot Village donated £250.
- ☀ A kind individual supporter donated £300.
- ☀ The Lantern Church, Wimborne donated £121.13.
- ☀ Wimborne URC donated £120 from donations at the carol service and Christmas Day service, attended by friends from the Baptist Church, Methodist Church and Salvation Army.



Steve Bamford of TwoToo hands over 30 scarves to Gabi before Xmas.

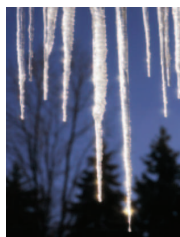
R2R OUTREACH

One of Our Clients in Work

We are delighted to tell you that Alan, a former chef and one of our clients, has started work for the Gurkha Bar and Oriental Restaurant, located alongside the Sandford Road on the way to Wareham. The restaurant is under the command of Captain QGO Asbahadur Gurung, formerly of the Brigade of Gurkhas, and is open year-round, seven days a week. Alan is responsible for introducing a breakfast menu to the Gurkha for the first time - £3.95 eat as much as you like. He both orders and cooks the food. Alan is also introducing an English Carvery to be served from 11.00am. Our former R2R Support Manager Rob Fish originally housed Alan and worked with him on the Brownsea Island project clearing rhododendron bushes where Alan kept up his skills by cooking for an R2R BBQ. Alan lost his housing just before getting his job but is now living in with the Nepalese chefs – they don't drink alcohol, which is a bonus.

Cold Weather Alert

Icicles may look beautiful in the sunshine but not when you're rough sleeping at night.



On Monday 30th January at 10.37pm a national severe cold weather alert between 10.00 on Monday and 10.00 on Friday of that week was issued. Milder conditions were likely to arrive during Saturday and Saturday night. For us in Poole this has meant that temperatures were forecast to be at or below freezing at night and to plummet to at least -3°C on the Thursday night, although some forecasts were predicting as low as -9°C.

Thankfully, Poole Council with BCHA and our own POST team have set up a Severe Weather Emergency Provision so that Rough Sleepers are able to access immediate shelter at the Gateway Church hall, Alder Hills, for these nights. Liz Bailey, our R2R POST outreach worker, and Kat Knight, the BCHA POST outreach worker, are part of the team operating this service. In previous years, provision has only been via B&Bs, sometimes well out of the area, making it very difficult for the guys to access the other services they need. We hope that this new provision is successful and that fewer of those rough sleeping are left out in the cold.

Want to Learn More About R2R?

"Since it started, so many people have been helped to get off the streets. They have helped me out financially. They sorted me a second-hand suit for my father's funeral. R2R is more than getting people off the streets. I have got friendship from it. I enjoy the activities that are organised." (R, aged 45)

"The service is good, gets the job done quickly... keeps me off the streets... I have been helped a lot with my drink and drugs problems." (D, aged 26)

Now that The Rev Pat Southgate, Chair of Routes to Roots, has entrusted the managerial work of R2R to our new GM she is looking forward to speaking to more of you about our work.

If your church, organisation or any other group would like to find out more about what we do, please contact Caroline Foy, our Administrator. Caroline will be pleased to organise a visit from Pat or others of our team. They will be able to give you first-hand information regarding the homeless here in Poole and the way that Routes to Roots works with them.

Tel: 01202 667880 or

Email: office@routestoroots.org

YOU Can Help Us



● **Please consider becoming a Volunteer**

R2R relies heavily on our small army of volunteers.
Volunteers are needed on Morning Outreach, 6-8 am
Volunteers are needed at Afternoon Drop-Ins, Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 pm
Volunteers are needed at Evening Drop-Ins, Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-9pm
Volunteers are needed to become Befrienders

For details of how you might volunteer, please contact our Administrator on 01202 667880 or at office@routestoroots.org

● **Please consider making a Donation**

£3 buys a rough sleeper a cooked breakfast
£4 buys a pair of jeans
£10 buys a sleeping bag
£40 provides food for an evening drop-in
£200 helps to make an empty flat a home

● **Please consider becoming a Member**

Annual membership costs only £10 for an individual or £25 for a Church, School or Business.

To make a Donation or become a Member, please complete the form below or visit the website to pay securely via the Internet or download a standing order: www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering-membership

Membership Application and Donations

- I would like to become a Member for £10 / £25 (*circle as appropriate*)
- I would like to make a Donation to Routes to Roots to the value of £_____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____



- I am a UK taxpayer and I would like to gift-aid my donation
- I enclose a cheque payable to 'Routes to Roots' to the value of £_____
- OR Please debit my card to the value of £_____: Mastercard / Visa / Solo / Visa Debit (*circle*)

"When you did it to the least of these - you did it to me."
Matt 25:35

Card No: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / 3-Digit Security Code: _ _ _

Valid from: _ _ / _ _ Expiry from: _ _ / _ _

Name (*as it appears on the card*): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return to: The Administrator, The R2R Office. Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1QR