



Charity No. 1155945

www.routestoroots.org

AN APPEAL FOR PRAYER

Over the last 12 years we have been more than grateful for the many ways in which you have responded to our appeal to you for money, clothing, food and also for volunteers to come and work alongside us. Without you Routes to Roots would not have been able to respond to the needs of the homeless here in Poole, and we do still need all your generous donations to enable us to continue.

Today however, I am appealing to all of you for something, which is even more important. Today I appeal to you for Prayer. If you believe in God, if you believe in Routes to Roots and believe that God has called us to be his body, reaching out to the homeless, with compassion and non-judgmental kindness, then please pray for us!

Pray too for the homeless and for those we call vulnerably housed. Their needs are many and diverse and winter is coming. There are many in our town who are still sleeping rough. They need to be housed and they

want to be housed but often there is simply nowhere to house them, even though a recent newspaper report suggested otherwise.

St Paul said: '*Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God*'. If you belong to a church or prayer group, please ask them to include us in their weekly intercessions and, from today onwards, I suggest we all begin to **STOP AND PRAY AT MIDDAY!**

PRAY for the homeless, PRAY for Routes to Roots and PRAY that together, and with the power of God's Holy Spirit within us, we really will be able to do immeasurably more than we have ever hoped or imagined. Thanks be to God!

The Revd Pat Southgate, Chair of Routes to Roots and Chaplain to the Homeless in Poole

Calling All Online Shoppers

Buy online and raise money for R2R *at absolutely no cost to you* by visiting your favourite retailers through 'Easy Fund Raising'. Log on to the site, register yourself and the charity, Routes to Roots, that you would like to support and start shopping. Every time you buy from one of the businesses on their list, R2R will receive a percentage of what you spend.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/routestoroots>

To donate to Routes to Roots, text **RTOR42 £2** (£5 / £10 / £££) to **70070**

or donate online at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/routestoroots-poole>

Like Routes to Roots on FaceBook at: <http://www.facebook.com/RoutestorootsHomeless>





FROM THE COMMITTEE: JOIN THE TEAM



We are looking to expand our team of volunteers so that we can keep the office open for at least a couple of hours each weekday for clients to access mail, telephones, computer facilities, clothing, and to find out about other projects that Routes to Roots can offer them. We aim to have a team of volunteers who could give a few hours each week: it doesn't need to be every day. You would always be working with someone else and you would be given guidance and training.

Further details are on our website www.routestoroots.org/

Want to have a chat about this, contact Gabi on 07825 173 644 or Neil on 07803 724 250.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR & TRUSTEE

TREASURER & TRUSTEE

HON SECRETARY

TRUSTEE

TRUSTEE

TRUSTEE

Revd Pat Southgate

Sarah Percy

Lynn Foster

Gabi Sanger-Stevens

Susan Gittins

Kate Mellor

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES *plus*

VOLUNTEER REP

Jenny Elson

CLIENT REP

TBA

PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR

Neil Robertson *

ADMINISTRATOR

Caroline Foy *

Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO

R2R Office, Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1RQ

Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643

office@routestoroots.org

www.routestoroots.org

* ex officio members of Stakeholder Committee

OUR SUPPORTERS



...and many Churches, Christian groups and Businesses in Poole and the surrounding area.

Patron: The Right Reverend Dr Graham Kings, Bishop of Sherborne



MANAGEMENT REPORT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wine Buff or Bluff: 15 November - see p5

Carol Singing: December

Saturday 13 December, 10.30am-11.30am at Sainsburys, Poole

Saturday 20 December, 10.30am-11.30am at Waitrose Parkstone

The Routes to Roots carolers will be raising their voices and collection tins outside these two supermarkets. Don't forget to bring along your spare change to support us while you're doing your Christmas shopping.

Homelessness Sunday: 18 January 2015

Poole Vineyard Church is where feeding the homeless in Poole started, and to celebrate Homelessness Sunday 2015, the new pastor at Poole Vineyard, Iain Scott and Routes to Roots are planning a service under the Arches in Vanguard Road. We expect to gather at about 7.45pm on 18 January for a simple time of worship. All are welcome, so do please come and join us.

Keep an eye on our website or like our FaceBook page to keep up-to-date with what is happening. Download our new App by scanning this code (right) for easy access to news.



Donations Needed Now

- Tinned food (meat, fish, veg, potatoes, baked beans)
- Men's Jeans (waist 32" to 34")
- Men's T-Shirts
- Men's Boxers (small, medium)
- Ladies' underwear (10-12)

ALL R2R DROP-INS, JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2014

Evening Drop-Ins Hot Meals Served	Afternoon Drop-Ins Lunches Served	Total No. of Individuals Served	Max No. of Individuals in any One Month (Sep)
1868 14% more than in the same period 2013	1239 5% more than in the same period 2013	213 6% less than in the same period 2013	82

Whilst overall numbers are slightly down over the same period last year, the number of meals taken is up on this same period, i.e. fewer people may be attending but they are attending more often. About 20% of those attending are known rough sleepers, the remainder are vulnerably housed and at risk of repeated homelessness.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

At time of writing, Routes to Roots believes there to be 25 people sleeping on the streets of Poole. Christmas can be really tough for homeless people. Homelessness has many causes but it does often go back to, or result in, a breakdown of relationships. Christmas, however commercial it has become, is still a time when families and friends gather together and we try to share some of that warmth and goodwill at our Christmas Lunch – a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings.



In past years we have been blessed with donations of gifts from the general public, local supermarkets and from our local partner church Skinner Street URC where we hold our Drop-Ins. So we pray that again you will all help to make this day special so that, like everyone else, the guys will have a Christmas tree with presents underneath.

Big Breakfast Appeal

Aside from Christmas, the winter months can be very difficult for those on the streets. There are provisions for overnight accommodation if severe weather conditions come into force but this doesn't cover those periods of relentless rain and low temperatures that are not quite low enough to trigger the emergency provision. Routes to Roots aims to assist rough sleepers to at least start their day with some hot food. Hence the continuance of our appeal to offer rough sleepers a good hot start to their day in the cold.

For the fifth year, The Fisherman Café on Poole Quay has agreed to provide the guys and girls who are sleeping rough with a

cooked breakfast during the winter months. This will cost £3.50 per breakfast. If R2R are to continue our support to meet demand at



the same level as in past years, we need to raise £2,718 (inclusive of all overheads) and we hope that people will continue to show their support for this vital service.

Kingsbere Kitchen Treat

Jodi and Sarah, who run a mobile catering business in and around the Blandford area, have kindly offered their burger van to provide hot dogs, burgers and a hot soup (probably vegetarian) for the homeless and those in need at a Drop-In before Christmas. They will also be offering mince pies, teas, coffees and hot chocolate.

Established for about two years, Kingsbere Kitchen originally traded as a burger van but has recently expanded by purchasing a well-established fish and chip round in the local area. Despite being incredibly busy, they still felt they would like to spare a day to help others.

Jodi says: "We felt we would like to give something back this Christmas and so offered our burger van to the homeless."

Kingsbere Kitchen: 07825 304953

R2R FUNDRAISER

Wine Buff or Bluff?



Know your Sauvignon Blanc from your Chardonnay, your Merlot from your Shiraz? We challenge you to pit your wits against our panel of Buff or Bluff experts. Join us for this light-hearted wine tasting competition while raising money for Routes to Roots:

- ✓ Welcome glass of wine or juice
- ✓ Eight wines to sample
- ✓ Cheese Ploughman's
- ✓ Prizes for winning table
- ✓ Raffle
- ✓ Prize for winner of ticket draw

Saturday 15 November, 7.00pm-10.00pm
St Michael's Church Hall, Blandford Road, Hamworthy BH15 4HR

Our panelists will provide a highly convincing description including name, country of origin, vintage, price and tasting notes of each wine. However, only one description will be correct. Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to decide who is the Buff and who the Bluff.

Tickets are £10 each

Individuals and teams are welcome: we will make up tables of 8-10.

Buy Your Ticket(s) Now at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wine-buff-or-bluff-tickets-13503165331>

or contact the R2R office on 01202 667880

Routes to Roots seeks to help all homeless and vulnerably housed adults in Poole



Christian action on homelessness

Charity No. 1155945



THANKS TO OUR FUNDRAISERS

Hearts for the Homeless

Branksome Heath Junior School has certainly shown their heart for the homeless and vulnerably housed. Routes to Roots received a wonderful quantity of tinned foods and dry goods – and some of the tins had these brilliant heart stickers with good wishes from the children.



Leading up to their harvest collection at school, the staff had already been in contact with Routes to Roots as an outlet for the excess packed lunches that they had.

Sylvan Infants School has also been extremely generous in calling us in to collect their excess

packed lunches – all of which have been very well received by our guests at the drop-ins

Cuddles Day Nursery, which provides an environment filled with developmental learning and fun for all ages between 6 weeks and 14 years, collected food for us as part of their harvest celebrations.

Our generous support, **Rotary Club of Poole Bay** has made another donation, of £650, to Routes to Roots.

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Bournemouth Marathons

We did it again!! Got up at a ridiculous time on a Sunday morning and did the Bournemouth Marathons. Thank goodness it was bright and sunny if still rather cold. And no, we did not run the half or full marathon but we did collect discarded clothing after each event.

We had a great group of volunteers: Tracey, Shiny, Lisa, Julie and Arran from Oxjam, and from R2R Neil, Dave and Gabi, plus the wonderful Jack, our four footed volunteer



seen here sporting his own volunteer badge and carrying a bag ready for filling with clothes.

We collected even more than last year and, thanks to some of our client helpers at Skinner Street, have managed to sort through all of this.

Storage might be an issue now but with the increasingly wet and unpleasant weather, we are already giving out lots of clothes.

Tough Mudder: 25-26 October

There is still time for you to support Tony and Phill who are tackling one of Europe's most grueling challenges to raise money for our clients. Designed by British Special Forces to challenge the toughest of the tough, Tough Mudder is a series of hardcore 10-12 mile obstacle race - mud run events. And, our brave guys will be entering possibly the muddiest of the lot - the London South event in October.

You can support Tony Ridgway by donating through his myDonate fundraising page. Donations will be accepted until 25 November.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/tonyridgway51>

You can support Phill Ricketts at:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/wwwroutestorootsorg>



- •
- Please do remember to mention R2R if you use any of the great local and national companies / organisations that sponsor us. You can find a full list on our website under 'Links'.
- •

AT WORK WITH OUR CLIENTS: OUTDOORS



Holton Lee Allotments

Just one year on and the R2R allotments are going great guns. Although reduced to two volunteer clients doing all the work, Sid and George, the two allotments have thrived this year producing crops of potatoes, carrots, peas, runner beans, radishes, white and red beetroot, lettuce, onions and cabbage for our Drop-Ins. Next year Sid has plans to make changes to the crop planting to ensure we have fresh veg all year round. Sid has really taken up the challenge of leading the allotment project despite also being a supervisor for Holton Lee's Project Flourish.

He says: "Everything has grown a lot better this year. I watch Gardener's World regularly for hints and like to experiment with how we lay things out and different types of support. We are also recycling materials and making use of what others have thrown away. Maybe next year we will have a third allotment." Sid is also finding time spent on the allotment and other activities personally rewarding, saying he is no longer grumpy and feels he has a lot more confidence.

October sees the start of some exciting new projects. Routes to Roots is working in partnership with Dorset Wildlife Trust to help clear areas of heath and woodland in Poole to improve biodiversity and restore natural habitats. Our service users have been helping to loop down gorse, cut down silver birch and remove rhododendron to help give the natural heathers some space to grow.

For more information on projects, to suggest a project, or to offer to help with a project, please contact Neil Robertson, Projects Co-Ordinator: neil@routestoroots.org



We'd Like to Tell You a Story...

...the story of Routes to Roots.

- We can come and speak on any day, to all ages, in all places. We have a new set of five banners donated by Quadrant2Design which we can bring along.
- Please contact Caroline Foy, our Administrator, to arrange a visit.

Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643

Email: office@routestoroots.org



AT WORK WITH OUR CLIENTS: INDOORS

Our Voice

You might have seen 'The Voice' on TV, a show that gives singers a chance to get their voice heard by a panel of experts and millions of TV viewers. At Routes to Roots we realise that homeless people often don't have the voice they deserve. We recognise disenfranchisement can result in our service users feeling isolated and afraid. This can in turn lead to anxiety, substance misuse and crime.

Our Voice is a new project that aims to give homeless people in Poole a voice that is heard. This new open discussion group for all our clients takes place fortnightly on Thursdays after our regular Drop-In. Experienced group work practitioners lead the sessions and our service users are encouraged to have their say on whatever topics affect them.

Our first session on 16 October covered issues ranging from the extent to which government influences the media, to stigmatisation of homeless people and the unfairness of the benefits systems. We were also joined by the Rev Chris Harwood, curate at St James Poole and Poole Missional Communities. As the project progresses, we will invite other experts to listen to our service users and answer their questions or respond to their comments.

Snippets from R2R Team Diary

An average of 4 clients are taking part every week in a cooking project started with No 34 Café – with 9 individuals in total having a go * Met the Footprints Project, which mentors people leaving prison or serving a community sentence, to discuss possible joint projects * Discussed the possibility of a Forest School for up to 10 of our clients in partnership with Footprints/Quay Foyer * Supported St Mary's Longfleet with a client who was sleeping in the churchyard * Assisted numerous clients in the office with phone calls, appointments and housing issues * Accompanied client to appointments with SMART and PACT * Received and sorted numerous donations of clothing and assorted household items for our clients' use or to go to Cash4Clothes * Assisted clients with doctor's appointments and telephone calls to doctors * Assisted clients with benefits issues including JSA and ESA claims, liaison with DWP, transfer to ESA and telephone calls to the Council * Liaised with a landlord, supported a client to a housing interview and assisted with a return to accommodation * Helped a client with a job interview * Liaised with CRI over the death of a client.

Follow the R2R Team Diary on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless>

You CAN Help Us

For information about becoming a member, volunteering or making a donation please visit the R2R website.

Annual membership, from April to March, costs only £10 for an individual or £25 for a Church, School or Business (pro rata if you join during the membership year).

Membership, donation, standing order and gift aid form: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering-membership>

Volunteer application form: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering>