



At Last We're Routes to Roofs!

Dear friends, no it's not a typo! For the homeless in Poole, R2R is at last a route to having a roof over their heads. As I revealed in our last newsletter, and as you may have already read in the local press, thanks to the national homeless charity Green Pastures, we are able to take three people who are currently sleeping in a car park in Poole and house them in our three-bedroom maisonette, which we have named AMOS House.

At the moment we are busy overseeing the renovations needed and making sure that we conform to making the property safe and sound. We are also committed to providing our new residents with the pastoral support and befriending they may need to help them make the transition from the streets to having a home. I am very grateful that we will be assisted in providing that support by Rev Iain Scott, pastor of Vineyard Church and Rev Chris Hayward, curate of St James.

Routes to Roots remains committed to being an organisation which exists by Churches working Together in Poole, to put an end to Homelessness in our town and with the help of Green Pastures, this is no longer an impossible dream!

Membership Renewal Reminder: membership numbers do support our applications for funding so please don't forget to renew your membership, or consider taking one out.



Please will YOU help us NOW?

By far the most important thing you can do for R2R at the moment is to pray: for those who will soon be moving into Amos House, and for all those not so fortunate who will spend another winter, sleeping outdoors.

As you read this newsletter, you will see that there are many new initiatives taking place that are a real benefit to our homeless friends. But one of the threats we face is not having the financial sustainability we need to maintain all that we are now doing.

Please pray that we will be successful in obtaining the donations we desperately need to ensure that this winter, we can go on providing for those who will wake up on the streets cold and hungry.

I appeal to you all, CHURCHES, BUSINESSES and PEOPLE OF POOLE, please support us by giving what you can and please pray that, with God's help, we can make Homelessness in Poole, a thing of the past.

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-poolecio>

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



TRUSTEES: APPLICATIONS INVITED

In October we welcomed Marilyn Latcham onto the Board as Hon Sec and the Trustees agreed to appoint Marilyn as a new Trustee to Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO. We would like to hear from others able to offer practical support in any of the following areas:

- * Fundraising
- * Property management
- * Health & safety
- * Legal expertise
- * Human resources
- * Social media

The Board meets four to six times a year in the evening on dates to suit Trustees. In addition, Trustees are expected to participate in activities and contribute to the management of the charity.

Please contact: Gabi Sanger-Stevens at gabi@routestoroots.org or on 07825 173 644.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR & TRUSTEE	Revd Pat Southgate
HON TREASURER	Dean Whale
HON SEC & TRUSTEE	Marilyn Latcham
TRUSTEE	Gabi Sanger-Stevens
TRUSTEE	Susan Gittins
TRUSTEE	Kate Mellor

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION	Caroline Foy
MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Germann Keeling Ltd

Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO
R2R Office, Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1RQ
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office@routestoroots.org
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Patron: The Right Reverend Dr Graham Kings, Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion

Founded on Christian principles, Routes to Roots seeks to help all homeless and vulnerably housed people in Poole regardless of their faith. At four drop-ins R2R provides basic necessities, such as hot food, clothing and sleeping bags, and offers indoor and outdoor motivational activities, which aim to boost self-confidence and develop skills. In addition, internet and telephone facilities, 'care of address' and one-to-one support, guidance and information are provided. From November 2015 Routes to Roots will be providing supported accommodation to three of Poole's homeless.

OUR SUPPORTERS



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



MANAGEMENT REPORT

ALL R2R DROP-INS, JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2015

Evening Drop-Ins Hot Meals Served	Afternoon Drop-Ins Lunches Served	Total No. of Individuals Served	Max No. of Individuals in any One Month (Jan)
1648 12% less than in the same period 2014	1066 14% less than in the same period 2014	214 Equal to the same period 2014	76 January

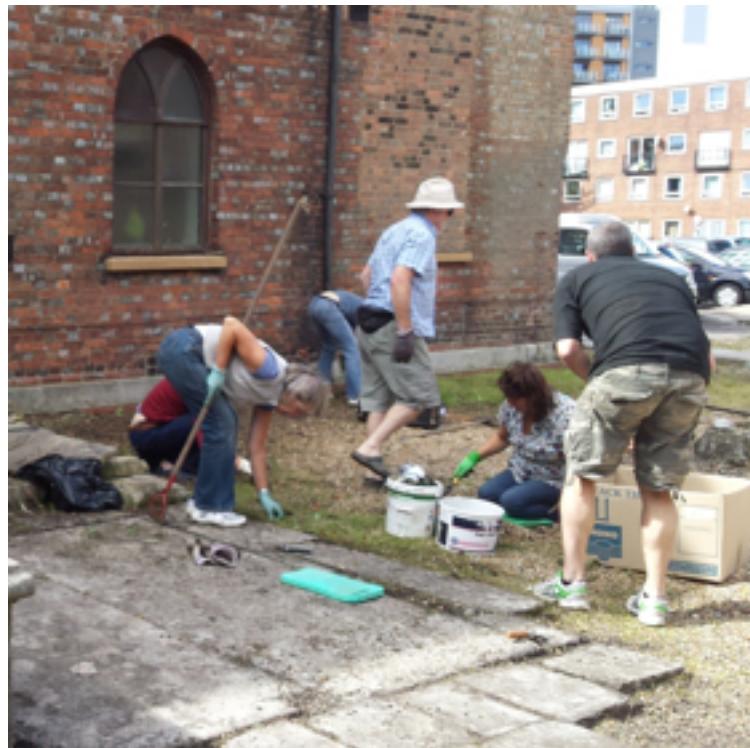
We are seeing a larger proportion of rough sleepers at our drop-ins so we are able to say with confidence that we currently have 22 people known to us who are in this situation. We are also aware of others who for whatever reason do not attend at Skinner Street.

Among many other new services (*see p8*), Routes to Roots is now a registered issuer for Food Bank Vouchers.

Last year we had a lot of fun carol singing at various locations around Poole – and raised a fair sum of money for R2R in the process. We are definitely booked at Waitrose, Ashley Road on Saturdays, 12th and 19th of December and we are working on some other locations. Please come and support us by joining us to sing or just saying hello. Look out for more information on our website and on FaceBook.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens

Routes to Roots Helps to Tidy the URC Grounds, Home for our Drop-Ins



Routes to Roots' volunteers joined forces with Skinner St URC and Gateway Church to start the clearing up of the garden around the church. The weather was kind to us and we all had a very enjoyable morning of chat, weeding and clearing – the results speak for themselves. Many thanks to all who took part.





THREE OF POOLE'S ROUGH SLEEPERS WILL SOON



Thanks to the support of a national Christian social enterprise, Routes to Roots is now able to offer supported accommodation to three of Poole's rough sleepers. Green Pastures has bought a maisonette, which will house three Routes to Roots' clients and we are now in the process of repairs, redecoration and furnishing to enable them to move in.



The three clients will each have their own bedroom and share bathroom, kitchen and living space. We are fortunate that the previous occupants left a few things behind

that will give us a good start on equipping the place after we have checked they comply with the appropriate fire regs.



This new venture has already won support in the community with Highworth Insurance employees undertaking a wide range of fundraising activities to be able to provide some of the white goods needed for the kitchen. A local professional builder has agreed to help with the renovations at minimal cost and we already have a number of donations to equip the house. We shall also be approaching other local groups for volunteer help and donations in cash and kind.



HAVE THEIR OWN HOME

We will work closely with the three clients to support them as they take this first step back into society.

R2R is conscious that, in order to maintain their accommodation once housed, many people require significant support if they are not to fall back into homelessness because they are unable to cope alone with paying their rent and bills, making benefits claims and job applications or are still struggling with alcohol or drug addictions.

Routes to Roots' numbers on homelessness are broadly in line with national statistics and housing shortages for our client group are particularly severe in Poole. Sadly, many of those who are on the streets are long-term rough sleepers or people who recycle into homelessness.

Although the official Poole street count in November 2014 found just seven rough sleepers in the town, Routes to Roots has records on 17 people who were either rough sleeping or sofa surfing at that time – and they were only the people who came to us for help. As we go to press we are aware of 22 on the streets of Poole!

Revd. Pat Southgate, Routes to Roots Chairman, says: "For Routes to Roots this is, of course, pastures new and we go into it with our eyes open and well aware of the challenges ahead.

"Compared to the stone cold concrete of a town centre car park, where they are most likely to currently reside, this accommodation is a major step forward. We have been assured by Green Pastures that they intend that this property will be the first of many they are willing to obtain for us and we are grateful to them for their faith in us and commitment to the rough sleepers of Poole".

Despite having nearly 700 bed spaces throughout the UK this is Green Pastures' very first partnership in the region and one of only a handful on the South Coast where the need is so great.

"Meeting the team at Routes to Roots was

an amazing time" says Pastor Pete Cunningham, Director of Green Pastures. "Sitting round a table and discussing the needs of the homeless in the area with such an enthusiastic group, who were ready to launch out in the deep to meet the needs of those that are vulnerable. It was a truly inspiring afternoon. Now we have succeeded in purchasing the first of what I hope will be many homes to begin to end homelessness in Poole. I am praying that the blessing of God that makes rich and adds no sorrow will be their portion."



Rest In Peace, Friends

It is with great sadness that R2R has been advised of two recent deaths amongst our clients: Mark Wright who had only just moved into his new flat and was looking forward to being able to see his children more often and Jim Goss, always a character, who has been with us for so many, many years and sadly very unwell in recent times. Our condolences go to their families and friends.

Homelessness Sunday 2016

Looking forward in the calendar, please keep Sunday, 24th January free to join us in celebrating all the work that goes on for the homeless in Poole. We are planning an evening service of thanksgiving and remembrance followed by refreshments. More information will be posted on our website and FaceBook nearer the time.

Big Breakfast Appeal for Donations

We will again join forces with the Fisherman's Café on Poole Quay to provide rough sleepers with a hot breakfast. This will cost us £4.50 per meal, so this provision alone could easily amount to £4000-5000, depending on the severity of the weather. The media have been speculating that we may be in for a long, bitterly cold winter because an El Niño is underway in the tropical Pacific.



MANY THANKS FOR SUPPORTING US

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales

Routes to Roots has been awarded a £15,000 grant from Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales to fund the costs of volunteer training and a Client Assessment and Outcome Monitoring Database.

We already keep paper-based client records of all those attending our drop-ins and participating in the activities we offer, in order to monitor and evaluate our services. This grant will greatly strengthen our effectiveness in working with homeless and vulnerably housed people in Poole and in developing and enhancing the skills of our volunteer base.

In addition to grant funding R2R is able to take advantage of non-financial support through the Foundation's Enhance Programme - such as mentoring, consultancy and technical support - provided by a range of partners including Lloyds Banking Group.

Thanks to **St Michael's Church**, Blandford Road for raising £249.95 for R2R at a coffee morning and craft sale in July; **Poole Bay Rotary Club** for donating to us their £50 prize for collecting the most money in donation buckets at last year's Poole Carnival; **Broadstone Players** for £20 from their comedy double bill in May; **Our Lady Immaculate** for a donation of £350; and **Highworth Insurance** for £275 raised through various staff activities, including a bake sale, dress down Friday, bungee jump and raffle, to buy white goods for our supported accommodation.

LV employees Roger, Heather, Sarah and Clare organised a collection via the Bournemouth Airshow Raffle amongst their work colleagues on behalf of Routes to Roots. A total of £134.52 was raised, which is just amazing. This was then matched by LV, giving us a total donation of £269.04.

Bournemouth Marathon

You can still support Terence St John who yet again went to great lengths to raise money for Routes to Roots. He successfully completed the Bournemouth Marathon on 4 October. Over £225 has been raised to date, but you can make donations until the end of the year: mydonate.bt.com

Charity Table Top Sale

Longfleet Baptist Church Saturday 21st November, 10.30-12.30. Along with many other local charities Routes to Roots will be participating. We will be offering cards, bric a brac, pictures etc and all money raised goes directly to our funds.

Big Yellow Becomes a Donation Spot

You can leave donations of clothing and other items at Big Yellow Self Storage, Poole when it is open: from 8am to 6pm on weekdays, 9am to 6pm on Saturdays and 10am to 4pm on Sundays. The Reception will notify R2R that a donation has come in so we can sort it. Please label your donation with your name/organisation so we know whom to thank. Visit our website for the latest list of items we are looking for, or phone our Administrator, Caroline on 07901 387643.

Recycle and Donate

R2R has a drop-off box for used ink cartridges and unwanted mobile phones at our office in Skinner Street URC. Items can be left during Drop-In open hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 1.30am-2.30am, and Tuesdays and Fridays, 7.30pm-9.00pm.



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- 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'.
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CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Homeless Link, National Membership Charity for Organisations Working Directly with People who Become Homeless in England

The single biggest cause of homelessness in England is the ending of a tenancy in the private rented sector. When a homeless household turns to their local council for help, the main reason for their homelessness is recorded.

For the past year, the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy (the main type of tenancy used in the private rented sector) has been the biggest single cause of homelessness. This has increased steadily, from 15% in 2011 to 29% today. In London it is even higher, with nearly 4 in 10 (39%) households stating loss of a shorthold tenancy as the primary reason they have approached the council for help.

More than 4 million people live in the private rented sector today, more than double the number in 2002. At the same time, private landlords offer some of the worst housing conditions, with 30% of properties failing to meet the Decent Homes Standard and 37% of private rented sector tenants living in poverty.

Figures taken from government statistics on statutory homelessness (DCLG), the English Housing Survey and Joseph Rowntree Foundation

More facts and figures: homeless.org.uk/facts

Crisis, National Charity for Single Homeless People

At Crisis we know only too well that the costs of homelessness to an individual are immense. The average age of death for a homeless person is just 47. Homeless people are more likely than the general public to have physical or mental health problems, and are 13 times more likely to be a victim of crime. And to put it bluntly, homelessness is also extremely costly to the public purse.

The government has estimated they spend £1 billion each year on services for homeless people. We blogged earlier this year about our research which showed preventing homelessness could save between £3000 and £18000 per year for each person helped.

Investing in homelessness prevention where possible, and taking early action to help people if they do become homeless, will help to reduce government spending overall.

For this reason, we are calling on the government to:

- Protect the Homelessness Prevention Grant for the next 5 years
 - Invest in affordable housing to provide places for people on low incomes to live and reduce the housing benefit bill
 - Integrate housing and employment support to help homeless people back into work

<http://blog.crisis.org.uk/investment-and-innovation-our-recommendations-for-the-spending-review/>





NEW SERVICES FOR CLIENTS AT THE DROP-INS

In September we introduced several important new outreach services to our clients through our regular afternoon drop-ins at Skinner Street URC.

From 7 September, **Poole Addictions Community Team** (PACT) have offered a service at the Monday afternoon drop-in. PACT is providing information on Blood Borne Viruses and offering testing, vaccinations and delivering a confidential Harm Minimisation service i.e. needle exchange and advice. PACT hopes to include visits from their specialist alcohol nurses in the near future. PACT is keen to support easier access into services for clients. Initially this will be on a fortnightly basis.

From 17 September **Poole Citizens Advice** will be at every R2R Thursday afternoon drop-in to engage with clients to inform them about the wide range of areas in which CAB may be able to help, such as benefit applications, housing, debt, family matters. Clients who need specific advice and help will be able to make an appointment to see a CAB Adviser in the R2R office.

We are also working together with **Healthwatch Dorset**, the local consumer champion for health and care, to improve health (particularly emergency) provision for homeless people, including free NHS check-ups through the Tooth Bus mobile dental service. Their first visit is set for Monday 9 November during the drop-in and throughout the afternoon. This will be combined with a flu injection clinic.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens, responsible for management services, comments: "We know our clients experience problems getting access to GP surgeries, making health appointments, contacting dentists etc. without a phone or easy access to the internet. Many GPs won't accept bookings face to face. So, we have found that people have had to wait for the Routes to Roots' office to open so they can use our phone - by which time that day's appointments are all booked up. It is also hard for someone who is homeless to build up the courage to go into a busy GP surgery, as they feel as if they are being judged: then to be sent away and told to make an appointment by phone can be very upsetting."



"We also know that engaging with services such as the CAB and PACT in their offices can be daunting – it is not easy to keep appointments when you have a chaotic life of rough sleeping or making ends meet. We really appreciate the support of these organisations in bringing these vital services to our clients at a place where they feel safe and can easily make use of them. It will positively affect their general wellbeing as well as contributing to their ability to move back into society."

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 £24 for an individual or £48 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 forms: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering>