

Charity No. 1155945

www.routestoroots.org

HOMELESS SUNDAY MARKED BY THE PEOPLE OF POOLE

Our celebration on Homeless Sunday was a great success with a good attendance of generous people who donated £351.85 at the end of the service.



Pastor Pete from Green Pastures spoke about the work being done to house the homeless which he described as "some of the most important, if not most important, work being done in the nation today." He said: "This is all about lives being changed and it will get tough but most are not bad people just people who have something gone wrong in their lives. They lose their families, start to drink, lose their jobs and then end up on the

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.

streets. We take them in."

Others spoke from their own experiences of how easy it is to become homeless and how anyone can become homeless.

The point was also very strongly made that local authorities cannot be relied on to help. Without organisations such as Green Pastures and now Routes to Roots, people would be left under Southport Pier or frozen into their sleeping bags in Poole Park.



Many thanks to Madeleine who served coffee and cookies courtesy of Starbucks on Poole High Street, to Pete and Lisa from the Vineyard who led the hymn singing and to Skinner Street URC who provide office and drop-in space and without whom R2R would be homeless.

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-poolocio>

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



INVITATION TO BREAKFAST

Calling all lovers of the Great British Breakfast, or croissants and pastries if you prefer.

Make a date with your friends this winter! Invite them round for breakfast in January or February. Ask them for a small contribution and donate the money you raise, no matter how large or small, to Routes to Roots' annual Big Breakfast appeal.

For the sixth year, we have again joined forces with the Fisherman's Café on Poole Quay to provide rough sleepers with a hot breakfast. Last year this service cost us £3,398 to help 47 individuals on the streets of Poole. This year it could easily amount to £4000-5000, depending on the severity of the weather. Although the official Poole street count in November 2015 found just ten rough sleepers in the town, Routes to Roots has records on 20 people who were rough sleeping at that time – and they were only the people who came to us for help.

It costs £4.50 to provide a hot breakfast for a rough sleeper. Could you buy just one guy a breakfast for one day, or a whole week?



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

ADMINISTRATION	Caroline Foy
PUBLICITY	Susan Gittins
PROJECT SERVICES	Germann Keeling Ltd

Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO
R2R Office, Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1RQ
Tel: 01202 667880
office@routestoroots.org
www.routestoroots.org

Patrons: The Right Reverend Dr Graham Kings, Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion, The Ven. Karen Gorham, Bishop Designate of Sherborne

OUR SUPPORTERS



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.

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



KEY SERVICES: STATISTICS

ALL R2R DROP-INS, JANUARY - DECEMBER 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)
2136	1488	246	76

BIG BREAKFAST <i>With thanks to The Fisherman's Café</i>	December 2015 (4 weeks)	January 2016 (2 weeks)
Number of breakfasts claimed	205	77

NEW PATRON and MEMBER



Routes to Roots' Trustees, volunteers and clients were delighted to welcome the Ven. Karen Gorham, Bishop Designate of Sherborne, at our Drop-in in November last year. Karen came to Poole specifically to meet us on the very day her appointment was announced by Number 10. This was a tremendous honour.

At the Drop-in, among others, she met Steve, who spent five years sleeping on the streets before being helped into living independently by R2R – he has now lived in his own home for three years. She also met Eddie and Susan, volunteers who have cooked Christmas lunch for the clients every year for the past eight years.

Karen was also taken to Amos House, our new supported accommodation for three rough sleepers. She blessed the house, which welcomed its first three occupants in December.

Revd. Pat Southgate, chairman of Routes to Roots, said: "This was a wonderful day for all of us

and we were really happy to be able to keep our Drop-in open all afternoon for the clients. Before she left, Karen gave me an envelope, which I was delighted to find contained her completed Routes to Roots' membership form and fee. She has also agreed to become a Patron. We look forward to seeing more of her as she settles into her new responsibilities."

Karen's consecration will take place on 24 February 2016 at Westminster Abbey before she joins the Diocese formally in March.

Later message from Karen: "Many thanks, Pat, for all you do, and particularly for welcoming me on Thursday to the centre. It was great to see all that was going on and to hear individual stories of how the charity has impacted lives. Amos House is a great asset and my continued prayers are with those who settle in there. I look forward to getting to know you all better once I join the Diocese. With all good wishes."



SEASON OF GOODWILL



Eddie and Sue cooked Xmas Day lunch for the final time and 'retired' from team leading after many years of service. A huge thank you to them for all their support and kindness to our clients over the years.



Christmas Day lunch saw 21 homeless and vulnerably housed people come along to enjoy a Christmas meal and quiz. They also received presents and other goodies donated by local churches, schools and individual well-wishers - a real '12 Days of Christmas' round of gifts, though possibly more useful!



Donations in Kind

* Sarah and Joe of Kingsbere Kitchen again provided a burger and hot dog lunch for the guys on Xmas Eve.

- * Waitrose donated a turkey for Christmas Day lunch.
- * Asda customers filled a shopping cart with food and goodies.
- * Poole Contact Centre gave us shoeboxes.
- * Skinner Street URC congregation and neighbours brought in parcels and presents.
- * Emmanuel Middle School Verwood Yr 7 sent us sleeping bags, gifts and packed bags.
- * Event Alchemy brought in filled rucksacks and biscuits.
- * Hayeswood First School, Wimborne, pupils gave a car boot full of harvest donations including toiletries, hats, scarves and socks.
- * Lisa knitted hats for the guys.
- * Poole Wellbeing Collaborative sent in cakes.
- * Princecroft Willis gave us teabags.
- * Two Saints donated useful items for the ladies.
- * The Rucksack project gave us filled rucksacks.
- * St Mary's Catholic Church donated clothes.
- * St John's, Ashley Road gave toiletries.
- * St Vincent de Paul Society sent us Cold Weather Packs for the guys.
- * Turlin Moor Community School PTA collected food for our Drop-ins.
- * Upton Methodists donated food and hats.
- * Fitness First gave sleeping bags, clothes and food.

Donations that Keep on Giving

- Skinner St URC has kindly agreed to keep the hall and office rental costs for R2R at the same level as for the last two years.
- Dan and his colleagues at Big Yellow Self Storage in Poole have confirmed their continued support of R2R by providing us with storage facilities, valued at £1981 a year. Big Yellow has a company discount scheme for R2R members, volunteers and church supporters. Mention R2RBY01 when discussing your storage requirements for a 10% discount off their current rates in addition to any other current offers e.g. first 8 weeks at 50% off.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- All Saints Wimborne Youth Group - £100 from cake sale
- BEST Training Collection - £54.73
- Broadstone Methodists and Women's Fellowship - £250
- Broadstone URC - £244.88 from November Communion
- Canford Magna Men's Bible Study Group - £50
- Canford Magna PCC - £200
- Church of Transfiguration - £500
- Event Alchemy - £700 instead of sending Christmas cards
- Holtwood Methodist Church - £153 instead of sending Christmas cards
- Holy Angels - £250
- LV - £500
- Poole Quakers - £100
- R2R stall at Longfleet Baptist Church craft sale - £62.47
- St Dunstan's - Half the Christmas offering
- St Michael's - £216.78 from their Nine Lessons and Carols
- St Paul's Oakdale - £133.59 from carol singing
- St Peter's - £450 from their Christmas collection
- St Peter's congregation - £58.42 from small change, matched by PCC
- St James' Church - £650
- St John's Ashley Road men's group - £100
- St John's Broadstone PCC - £820
- Ultra Electronics Sports & Social Club - £88 from fundraising
- Waitrose customers - £159.84 for R2R carol singers
- William Temple Association, Bournemouth - £50

In addition, many individuals who prefer to remain anonymous gave money, including £2,000 in memory of Madge, a kind-hearted lady from Yorkshire. A collection taken after our Homeless Sunday Service raised a very generous £351.84.

Grants For Amos House



Many thanks to Quaker Homeless Action for a grant of £3000, which was spent on the renovation work at Amos House, our supported accommodation for three of Poole's rough sleepers.

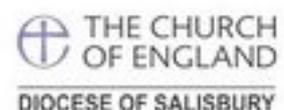
<http://www.qha.org.uk/>

We are also grateful to Starbucks, our newest corporate supporter, for £500 from their 2015 Red Cup Grant challenge. We were assisted in qualifying for this award by Oliver Park, Nicky Harman and The National Citizen Service group who helped to raise our profile on social media during this nationwide competition.

Grants For Breakfast



- Nationwide Building Society has donated £483 towards our Big Breakfast Appeal.
- The Salisbury Diocesan Social Welfare Fund, managed by the Dorset Community Foundation, has awarded Routes to Roots a grant of £800 for our winter breakfasts project.



FUNDRAISING IDEAS



KEY CAMPAIGN



Keys for Money

Poole Estate and Letting Agents, Carter Shaw have come up with a great idea to help the homeless. They have begun a campaign to collect old and unwanted keys to help the homeless in Poole. They have already had a good response and are hoping to roll this out as a continued campaign rather than just a Christmas idea. They have also contacted Routes to Roots to see what support they can give us.

Following the launch of the campaign, they had people wanting to make cash donations, so we have sent along a collection box.

Carter Shaw, 446 Ashley Road
<http://www.cartershaw.co.uk>

Terence Keeps on Running

From Terence St John: "Thanks for the Autumn Newsletter and pleased to see my effort for fundraising reported. Only I should have let you know - I only managed 25 miles of the 26.2 and had to stop because of cramp and then got cold. I got to the finish by ambulance! I wasn't the only one. This year there were many more than in the past two years who did not finish. However, people donated for me and I am pleased that currently it stands at £276. I shall be aiming to complete another marathon next year, I was just too ambitious to beat my 2013 time, running a little too fast for the first 20 miles."

Youngsters Chill Out



St Dunstan's Church Youth Club members spent the night of Friday 13 November enduring a little of what our rough sleepers have to face every night.

Youth worker Chris Trent, who participated along with with Michael Tomlinson MP, says: "We survived albeit a bit cold. Slept well and woke late with parents waking us up."

R2R Trustee Gabi joined them to talk about the work of Routes to Roots and share some of the guys' stories. She says: "The young people were great, asking very sensible questions about what it was like to sleep out and how come people ended up in this situation. They were keen to hear the personal stories. It was a good evening, which the group hopes to promote to other churches and schools to get more people involved next year."

Any Ideas?

If you have any ideas on how to raise money for R2R and would like to discuss them with us or get some help, please contact the R2R Office:

Tel: 01202 667880
office@routestoroots.org

- • • • •
- 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'.
- • • • •

AMOS HOUSE TAKES THREE FROM THE STREETS



At the beginning of December, we were able to move three of our rough sleepers into Amos House. We will provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to them as they take this first step back into society, with the aim of eventually helping them to find independent housing.

Comments from D: "It's like magic. It's wonderful. I've been homeless for five years, longer off and on. I want to be able to move on after a while so someone else can enjoy this place."



Ongoing Financial Responsibility

Amos House will be an ongoing cost to Routes to Roots as we are responsible for upkeep, maintenance and other management expenses. Raising money to meet these commitments will be a major fundraising task and we would appreciate any funds offered towards this.

Rise in Rough Sleeper Numbers

R2R's ability to offer supported housing could not have come at a more timely moment.

The number of rough sleepers across England as a whole has risen. Statistics released by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2015 show that across the UK 2,744 people slept rough on any one night in 2014 - up 14% on the previous 12 months.

Homeless charity Crisis said the rise was caused by cuts to benefits, a chronic housing shortage and the "longstanding legal injustice" where many homeless people are not considered a priority for help.

According to Shelter, Poole is ranked as the fifth worst region in the South West, out of 36, for tenants facing eviction notices, with one in every 69 rented households put at risk of losing their home during the past year.

Although the official Poole street count in November 2015 found just ten rough sleepers in the town, Routes to Roots has records on 20 people who were rough sleeping at that time – and they were only the people who came to us for help.

.....
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 to bring along and now two new videos.

Please contact us to arrange a visit.

Tel: 01202 667880

Email: office@routestoroots.org

.....

AT THE DROP-INS

Thanks to HealthWatch Dorset, we were for the first time able to offer our clients access to health services at our afternoon Drop-ins at the end of last year.

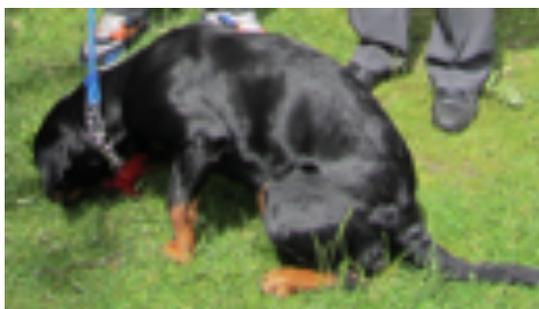


Firstly in November, they arranged for the Tooth Bus to drop in. The Tooth Bus mobile dental service provided free NHS check-ups throughout one afternoon with information on local dentists who would offer further treatment on the NHS. Over 10 of our guys took advantage of this service.

In December they arranged a flu clinic. It is great for us to

be able to offer our clients such convenient access to health services. R2R chairman Rev Pat Southgate bravely volunteered to be inoculated.

In addition, Poole Citizens Advice and Poole Addictions Community Team are now regularly providing advice, help and support during the afternoon Drop-ins.



Man's Best Friend on the Streets

At the suggestion of Hayley, sister to one of our volunteers Natalie Saunders, we will soon be able to offer care to the dogs of our clients through Companion Care Vets in Poole. Hayley recently met one of our clients and his dog in the town centre and got chatting about the problems of having a dog when you're homeless. Inspired by this, Hayley, who is a vet nurse, contacted a charity which runs a 'Hope' scheme for

homeless people's dogs, and they have offered to work with R2R providing free microchipping, defleaing, worming and vet care. There will be no charge to R2R or our clients.

www.companioncare.co.uk/poole

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>