



R2R UPDATES, November 2020

Steve Finds a New Home

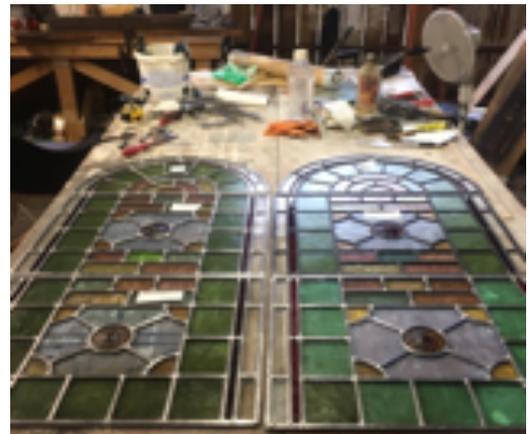


At our supported three-bed maisonette for former rough sleepers, Amos House, resident Steve moved out at the end of October into local authority housing. We were able to help him furnish and equip what was an empty shell with £500 from a Daisy Fund grant awarded through the Dorset Community Foundation. BCP Council rough sleeper team, St Mungo's, is working with us to fill all empty rooms as part of their exit plans for rough sleepers still in emergency accommodation.



Hill Street Project on Target

Work is progressing on plan. Our pro-bono Lighting Engineer, John Bullock, has sourced free light fixtures for us from many different companies and these are now being installed, starting with the main hall ceiling. One of the large stained glass windows is completed and in place. Panels from another are in the workshop. Now that the ceiling is replaced, the lights are installed and the coving painted, we can take our scaffolding down to the next lift (about 2 metres), so that it is in the right position for the main hall windows to be fitted. After that, we can take it down altogether and begin work at the ground level.



Preserving Our Heritage - Memorial Stones



Our latest pro bono professional is stonemason Sarah Klopper, who works at Salisbury Cathedral. As part of our Listed Building consent we are required to safeguard features of special architectural and historic interest, and Sarah will repair and relocate the memorial stones and carved stone signage currently located in the alleyway. Sarah says: "I'm looking forward to working on this project. There are so many buildings like this in the UK that are just crying out to be lovingly restored and what better way to do that than to support the homeless community."

Preserving Our Heritage - the Organ Casing



On learning of our purchase of the former Hill Street Baptist Church, Geoffrey Morgan, a local organist and Organs Adviser to the United Reformed Church, contacted us to express interest in salvaging some of the pipework and electric blower for use in other organs. We were delighted to accommodate his request, since the organ had been unusable for many years following a fire. Geoffrey also informed us that the organ case dates from the nineteenth century, had previously been installed in the former St. Paul's Church in Poole, and hence is of historic interest to the Borough of Poole. Geoffrey offered his time to help with the dismantling of the organ and cleaned the console and brass plaque – we could not have managed such a successful dismantling without his help. We are keeping the front of the organ case, which is now at the back of the organ loft, fixed to the wall, so it can be appreciated by everyone who visits the building.

Fundraising Continues

During October we received £5000 from AllChurches and £20,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation towards the refurbishment. We anticipate we still need to raise £25-30,000 to complete phase 1, which will allow us to move into the building - possibly by March 2021.

Drop-ins

On 5 November we were forced to stop our indoor meal provision but are continuing to offer take-away lunches on the five week days. We are grateful to URC Skinner Street who are happy for us to do this.

Please Share Our Newsletter

We want to get the word out about all the good things we do here at Routes to Roots, so we would be grateful if you could share this sign-up link to our newsletter with anyone that might be interested: <http://bitly.ws/9xCb>

Routes to Roots is founded on Christian principles and seeks to help all homeless, newly homed and vulnerably housed adults in Poole regardless of their faith. At drop-ins, we provide basic necessities, such as hot food, clothing and sleeping bags; we assist clients to engage with agencies such as the addictions team, health workers and Job Centre; we organise motivational activities; and we assist those who are placed in accommodation to remain in their tenancy. Since acquiring our three-bed 'Amos House' in 2015, we provide supported housing for former rough sleepers. We aim to achieve long-term outcomes for our clients through participation in motivational and well-being projects which boost self-confidence and self-worth, expand and develop skills, promote a sense of belonging and encourage integration into the local community. We are currently renovating 104 Hill Street as a one-stop centre for all help available to our clients in Poole.