

## R2R UPDATES, January 2021



### Fox Goes into Lockdown

Share a smile during these grey days: Brer Fox found himself locked down for the night after sneaking into our Hill Street building while builders were at work. Our architect Ken found him the next day patiently waiting to be let out. After some refreshments he went on his way.

After all the internal demolition, we have reached the stage of reconfiguring the internal layout.



The scaffolding has been taken down and ceiling and lights finished with one more stained glass window to be re-installed. We have decided on an air source heat pump to provide underfloor heating and gas-fired boiler for hot water and are in the process of selecting contractors.

### Volunteers Bow Out



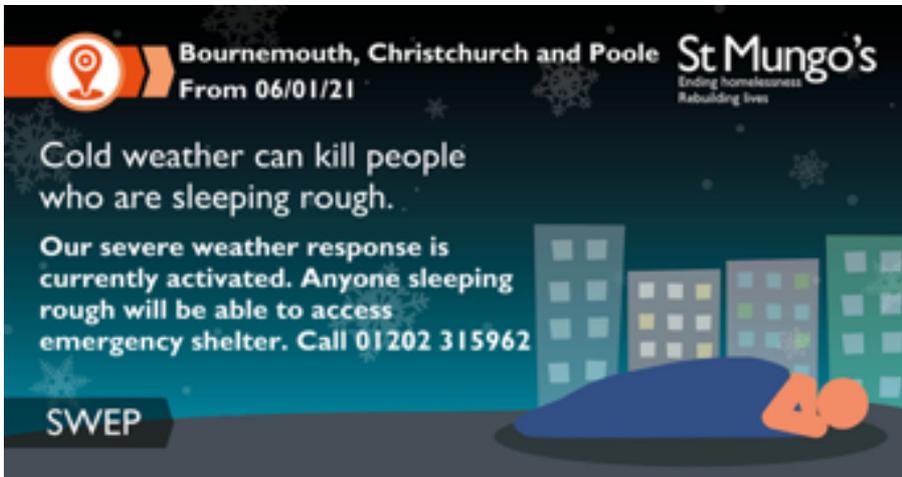
After 20 years of volunteering, since the start of our drop-ins, Maureen and Michael finally hung up their oven gloves at Christmas. Our clients will miss their friendly faces and we wish them all the best for the future.

Although the drop-ins have again had to be suspended, we welcome interest from those wishing to volunteer. At present we are looking for people to help with the preparation of food at Skinner Street URC but, after we move into Hill Street, there will be a wide range of interesting and rewarding opportunities.

Keep an eye on our website or contact our Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Andy: [andy.mason@routestoroots.org](mailto:andy.mason@routestoroots.org)

Many thanks to the employees at JP Morgan in Bournemouth who have visited their Amazon wish list for worthy causes and sent us many useful items including deodorants, razors, facemasks, wetwipes and rain coats.

## Drop-Ins Close Again



The BCP Council rough sleeper team, St Mungo's, activated SWEP on 6 January because of the cold weather.

On 8 January we decided to suspend our lunchtime takeaway service, which had been seeing an average of 15 clients a day. This is to encourage clients to take up the offers of accommodation

at Poole's Holiday Inn, which has been arranged for them by St Mungo's.

As the vaccination programme rolls out, all our clients will be contacted by their GP or the homeless health service in order of vulnerability, in line with the general public. Bringing the rough sleepers into hotel accommodation at this time will make it easier to ensure they are contacted.

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## Winter Appeal

Our Winter Appeal to raise money specifically for the new heating installation at Hill Street has brought in £12,226 through our website donation button. In addition many churches are continuing to support us and St Michaels' Middle School, Wimborne, song appeal has raised over £1552 and can still be heard at : [https://youtu.be/Gw87rz\\_bVfl](https://youtu.be/Gw87rz_bVfl)

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## 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>

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*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.*