



R2R UPDATES, June 2021



Progress at Genesis Centre

Despite encountering serious problems with the flooring in the main hall, which cost us both time and money, you can see from the photos that we are making progress. Already we have completed an amazing amount:

- Planning permission and listed building consent
- New ceiling and lighting in the main hall
- Permanent scaffolding installed in the rafters of the main hall, to provide access
- Double-glazed windows in both halls
- Preservation and relocation of the historic organ case
- Repair of the stained glass



windows at the front of the building

- Removal of gravestones and installation in the main courtyard
- Installation of bird netting over the little alley
- Repair of several areas of the roof
- Removal of a large Victorian Screen to prepare it for re-installation
- Replacement/creation of sleeper walls, ventilation and joists
- Installation of underfloor heating in the main hall
- Completion of new shower area walls
- Flooring for a new mezzanine storage area in the small hall
- Glazing to replace the plastic roof over the new showers/laundry areas
- Purchase of carpet tiles ready for installation
- Start on the electrical installation
- Start of work on the new main entrance (new wall and new roof)



All our contractors are exceptionally busy with lots of work on and each task has to be completed in order for the next to take place, so we have no date yet for our move-in. You will all know as soon as we do!

About Our Building

The Baptist Church was built around 1815 replacing a previous chapel of 1735. The chapel was demolished but the burial ground subsequently served a second Baptist community, Hill Street, founded in 1804, until their own church was built. It was substantially extended and refitted in 1879 and listed Grade II in 1980. Hill Street lies within the Poole Town Centre Conservation Area designated in 1986. In the associated documents the frontage is identified as a positive, notable and distinguished feature within the town centre.



Support Continues



Sean Cooper, owner of Weyfish, Hatch on the Harbour and Catch, all based at Weymouth's historic old fish market, has donated all the panelling we need to reinstate the dado panelling around the main hall. Sean commented:

"Homelessness is an issue very close to my heart. My mum with 4 young children found herself homeless when I was an infant, and I remember distinctly the kindness and goodwill of friends in providing a roof over our head. I have had the pleasure to know and work with Ken Morgan, the

architect who is giving his time to this project, for a number of years and when an opportunity arose to be able to help Ken and Routes to Roots I was only too happy to do so."

At the Drop-ins

We are continuing to run indoor drop-ins on weekday lunchtimes and are seeing anything from 8 to 16 clients each day. This month EDAS (Essential Drugs and Alcohol Services) have re-started their outreach operation with us and we are looking forward to the re-start of more services in the coming weeks. St Mungo's reports that they have 184 people in emergency accommodation in the BCP area and that thankfully the Council has no plans to end this provision. During this current crisis they have been able to move literally hundreds into long-term accommodation.

Amazing Volunteer Opportunities

Have you ever considered volunteering for us? We need kitchen staff in our current location on Skinner Street and would also love off-site support on various aspects of publicity and fundraising, such as the website, social media, design and grant applications. We will also need many more volunteers for different types of on-site support when we open Genesis Centre. If you would like to leave your contact details with us now, with an idea of how you could help, then we can contact you later in the year when we start to plan our opening and the activities we will offer. Please email our office on: office@routestoroots.org

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.