

R2R UPDATES, January 2022

Welcome to the New Bishop of Salisbury



We were delighted to have a very special visitor in January at Genesis Centre. Routes to Roots was privileged to be one of the first stops on a visit to Poole for the Very Reverend Stephen Lake, following the announcement that morning that he will be the next Bishop of Salisbury. The Bishop Designate, who grew up in Poole, said: "It is such a privilege and a joy to be called back to the Diocese of Salisbury as Bishop. To be able to serve in the places that formed me will be something rare and special. I will enjoy visiting Dorset and Wiltshire today and look forward to meeting as many people as possible on this announcement day." He

was accompanied by our patron the Right Reverend Karen Gorman, Bishop of Sherborne.

... And Welcome to Ben

Ben Sargent joined us at the beginning of this month in the new role of Genesis Centre Manager. Ben says: "I am delighted to have been appointed as the Day Centre Manager for Routes to Roots. Having worked for many years in housing and addiction services across Bournemouth and Poole, I have always been impressed by the fantastic work that R2R do and the care shown to those in need. With the upcoming move to Genesis Centre, I am truly excited by the opportunities it will enable us to provide to those people who access our service. I look forward to creating a community where people will feel supported, feel heard and have access to the support services they require."

Among other duties, Ben will be managing our volunteer network and is very interested to hear from anyone who might have some hours to help us. In addition to the usual drop-in food preparation work, we have many new opportunities arising from our move, in such areas as office and administrative, writing and fundraising, website and social media. He can be contacted at: Ben.Sargent@routestoroots.org



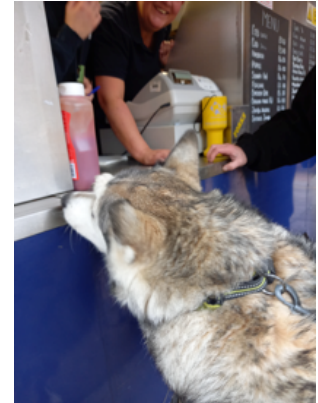
A Double Celebration on 20 March

With work on phase 1 nearing completion at the Centre, we have set a date of 20 March for the formal opening, although we hope to be moving in gradually in the weeks leading up to that date. We will announce more of our plans in the weeks ahead. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support. This date is also the 20th anniversary of the formation of Routes to Roots.



At the Drop-Ins

We served a Christmas dinner to 17 clients this year with gifts donated by Rock Choir. Yet again we welcomed Sarah and Joe of Kingsbere Kitchen, who have brought their van to give out burgers, fish & chips and hot and cold drinks since 2014. Our clients' dogs are also made welcome at the feast. Our lowest daily turnout was 8 clients during December and the highest 19; the average is 14. In November, those numbers were 9, 20 and 14 respectively. We have made a change to our Drop-in schedule. We Are With You, who provide addiction support, will now be attending our Drop-In on Thursdays from 1.00p to 2.00pm, having previously attended on Tuesdays. Throughout this current cold period, we continue to make sure service users have access daily to donated gloves, hats, scarves and blankets that we have gratefully received.



Winter Appeal

We are now embarking on fundraising for phase 2 of Genesis Centre which will focus on the second hall, which we intend as the hub for healthcare activities, possibly a winter shelter and also other activities to help our clients' wellbeing and employment prospects. Click here to make a donation for Routes to Roots, making a difference to the lives of Poole's homeless and vulnerably housed: <https://www.routestoroots.org/charity/donations>

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 developing a one-stop centre in Hill Street for all help available to our clients in Poole.