

Charity No 1155945



Routes to Roots

Christian action on homelessness

Newsletter - January 2024

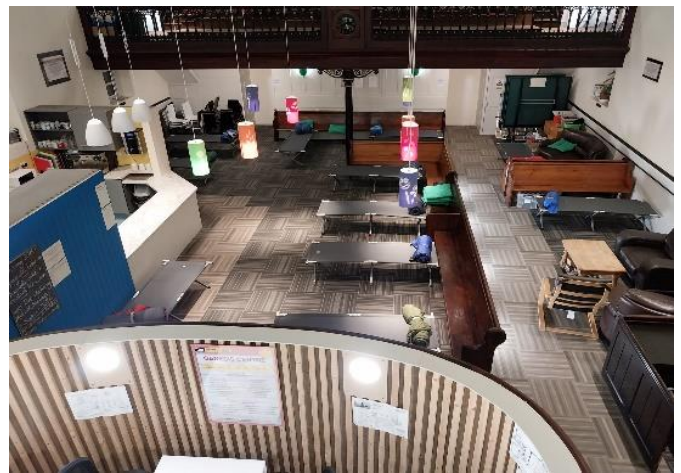
R2R was founded 20 years ago and is funded completely by grants and the incredible generosity of our local community. In March 2022, thanks to the generous donations from people, churches and local businesses, alongside tireless fund-raising, we were able to buy the Genesis Centre, giving a permanent address and fabulous space allowing us to offer homeless and rough sleepers hot meals throughout the week, showering facilities, washing machines and access to Support Services.

In November, due to period of severe cold weather The Genesis Centre was used as somewhere safe and warm that rough sleepers were able to stay overnight.

This was a significant landmark for the Centre and one we always hoped to achieve.

Over 4 nights, working in collaboration with BCP Council and St Mungo's, twelve men and women were able to bed down for the night whilst receiving teas, coffees, and breakfast from our great bunch of volunteers.

The Genesis Centre proved an effective site with all attendees being in great spirits and delighted to be somewhere warm and welcoming during the harshest of nights.



SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) is a local authority's temporary response to the risks from severe weather. The protocol is accessible to anyone who needs help, this includes people who do not have need for homeless help.

Christmas 2023 R2R was once again able to host a wonderful **Christmas lunch** for those in Poole who are in need.

A group of our wonderful volunteers all pulled together to prepare, cook and serve a roast dinner with all the trimmings as well some handmade desserts. On the day over thirty-five lunches were served, and everyone received wrapped gifts. Those using the Genesis Centre on **Boxing Day**, also received a traditional 'cold meats with bubble and squeak' meal. At what is a particularly difficult time of year for so many, the generosity of our volunteers giving their time, allowed us to hopefully spread a small amount of joy at Christmas.



A sample of some fund-raising activities recently undertaken by our amazing local community:



On 7 November, the **Church of Transfiguration** organised a money- raising coffee morning at **Rick Steins** Restaurant in Sandbanks Poole. People generously spent money on raffle tickets. Tea and cake were supplied by the restaurant and **£1000** was raised. The event was attended by our Patron and Bishop of Sherborne Karen Gorham, Bishop of Salisbury Stephen Lake, Bishop of Ramsbury Andrew Rumsey, Revd Pam Wise and Revd Pat Southgate.



In December, **The Custom House** in Poole put on a fabulous evening with patrons paying for an incredible meal with all profits donated to Routes to Roots. Guests also kindly donated money on the evening and the gifts under the tree (as seen in picture on left). The event was attended by our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kate Mellor and Revd Canon Lucy Holt.

We thank all those who have contributed to the charity over the last year.

If you would like to raise money, plan an event or make a donation you can find details on our website or you can

Take Overs!

This year has seen us host some 'Take Overs' where local organisations commit their time to coming into the Genesis Centre and preparing / cooking and serving lunch whilst also helping with some of our regular chores!

This year we were joined by staff from **Bagette and Company Wealth Management, Platinum Skies** and the family run business **Dorset Pizza Company**. This has been a great way for local businesses to show their support for the local community giving their employees an insight into some of the challenges people are facing.

We have thoroughly enjoyed having different people getting involved. They all worked so hard and were incredibly generous with their time.

If your business or community group would like to get involved in a 'hands on' fashion at the Genesis Centre, please email us at office@routestoroots.com

Volunteer Celebration - We were delighted to be able to celebrate our volunteers and supporters at our annual Christmas get together, here at the Genesis Centre.

It was amazing to see so many of the people who have contributed to our success over not only the last 12 months but many years. This year it was also an opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to **Elaine Mellers** who had been working for Routes to Roots for 7 years in a variety of roles, most recently as Chairs assistant and Administrator. We were able to celebrate with a beautiful cake and flowers to give thanks and wish her a long and well-deserved retirement.

This seems an opportune moment to introduce you to **Tracy Hayman** who took over the role of **Charity Support and Administrator** on 1 November, working three days a week. Welcome Tracy - Glad to have you onboard!



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