

LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER

Registered Charity No. 1153583

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MAY 2018

Dear Supporter

Greetings: Well, here we are again with another Newsletter! We will try and condense the news in two pages what has been happening over the past year. One of the things is that homelessness seems to be in the public eye more, especially during the very hard winter, we have found that the actual number of clients coming to us has increased by 17%, from the previous year, this figure is to the end of September 2017.

Two Special Dinners: Before Christmas one of our volunteers organised a special Christmas Dinner for our clients which was held at the Radford Road Church where we operate the Leamington Night Shelter. We had extra helpers that night and our thanks go to Jackie Grey for organising this. It was a proper Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings including serviettes and crackers. We had 41 clients that night and everyone enjoyed themselves. The other meal was a Fish and Chip supper, again organised by Jackie and this time it was for one of our volunteers who was expecting a baby. We are happy to announce that she had a lovely baby boy in April this year. That evening we had the most clients we have ever had on one night, which was 47 clients!

A picture of where we operate: We have printed a picture of where we operate the Night Shelter and this is shown opposite. Because of the increase in people staying overnight, during the last few months we have had to rearrange our sleeping arrangements so all the tables are set out in the middle of the room. You will see in the picture the table for clothes ready for our clients to take, and also shoes and a duvet ready for a needy person.



Where do we fit into the homeless problem? Where we fit into the jigsaw of helping the homeless and those in need are that we provide overnight sleeping arrangements, a good hot meal in the evening, food parcels to take away, a simple breakfast with sandwiches to take away if required. We not only serve the homeless people who stay overnight but also people who do have somewhere to live and need company and food, we do not ask questions when our clients arrive, and there is no referral system, people can just turn up. We recently asked our clients if they were happy with what we did and many clients commented on our food, in fact one person said that "we eat better here than some people who have a home" and another comment was that "we do not need to change anything" - about how we operate. In fact these two comments have been made in different ways quite a few times by many different people, clients and other organisations too.

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This is a Christian initiative arising from
Poverty and Homelessness Action Week 2008 and Hope Leamington