

Lent Donations to Holy Trinity Night Shelter and Community Outreach

This year the Charity Giving Group has decided that half of the funds the church receives in our Lent appeal will go to our local charity, the Holy Trinity Night Shelter and Community Outreach, based in the old school room behind Holy Trinity church.

Many of you will know that this was the brainchild of the former vicar of Holy Trinity, the Revd Canon Mandy Brown. The shelter provides safe and warm sleeping accommodation over the coldest months of the year for up to 10 people who may be sleeping rough or in imminent danger of so doing. During the whole year the Community Outreach team tries to help guests and day clients find a route out of homelessness. Users are supported with all sorts of issues, including addictions, mental health problems, financial guidance and more. It also supports clients who are moving on and have reached a settled status. This is done by working closely with the Council's Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator.

Currently the shelter is staffed by a manager, and his assistant as well as an administrative assistant, all supported by a group of Trustees, but it could not function without the many volunteers who give up time to befriend the guests, to cook meals and spend the night sleeping on site to ensure that all is well. We are coming to the end of the winter period when the shelter is open overnight. Volunteers have been thin on the ground at times this winter so please also consider signing up as a volunteer next winter. It's very rewarding and varied. The guests are appreciative of the support and a friendly chat. The outreach continues all year and volunteering to help at lunchtimes throughout the year is also an option.

Keeping this shelter going is expensive – just think of the cost of your own winter fuel bill – but many other local organisations work together to make sure that it keeps going. St. Michael's has contributed to the Shelter regularly, but the committee felt that after this cold, wet winter, our Lent donations would be well spent here. So..... please be generous.

Thank you.

Angela Weeks and Val Ashwood