



## Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter

I was a stranger and you invited me in... *MATTHEW 25:35*

Dear reader,

We hope you have a few minutes in the busy run-up to Christmas to read a quick update of how things are going at the Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter and with the Kingdom Way Trust Supported Accommodation.



### Winter Night Shelter

We've started with low numbers of guests. This is partially due to some unseasonably mild weather and the fact that some rough sleepers have moved into more permanent accommodation. But we are also conscious of the fact there are some people we're unable to help because their needs are too complex for us to manage at this time. Please pray for them, that they will be provided with suitable help during these months.

We fully expect the numbers of guests to increase, and we are so thankful that this year the night shelter is operating in **8 venues**, with an amazing **249 active volunteers from 25 churches**. Holy Trinity Church has joined us this year as a venue and will be hosting several Thursday nights in January and February.

We're thankful too for the businesses who support the Night Shelter. For those who knew there was a difficulty with collecting supplies donated by Greggs the bakery, this has also now been covered for us by another local business.

Please continue to pray for the Shelter each night, for continued peaceful nights (there have been no difficult incidents so far), that guests will experience the love of God through a warm welcome, practical care and good conversations, and that many of them will be helped in significant ways to break out of the cycle of homelessness they find themselves in.

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## Supported Accommodation Update

As most of you know, KWT has a vision to open some Supported Accommodation for homeless or near-homeless men who really have a desire to turn their lives around but need support for a while in doing so. This vision is coming closer to being a reality and we hope to open in the Spring of 2014. Our negotiations on a property are going well and we hope to be able to tell you about this in our next newsletter.

We've formed an Advisory Group who met for the first time in November. This group of people have experience and expertise which is invaluable for us as we establish this new venture. You can find out who they are on the website.

### Staff

The big news is that we're pleased to announce that we have decided to appoint Mr. **Stephen Jordan** (right) as our full time manager, and Mr. **Kim Aspindale** (below right) as half time Deputy Manager for the Supported Accommodation. Both Stephen and Kim are excited at the prospect of working together in shaping a new project. They have complementary qualities and skills and we are pleased that we will have two experienced people working with us. Stephen will be moving down from London and will initially live in the Supported Accommodation. Kim already lives in Eastbourne.



### The name...

Thank you to all the people who made suggestions. After much deliberation we've decided to call the accommodation '**The Bridge**'. We pray that it will provide a bridge from homelessness to independent living, from an old to a new life, from hopelessness to hope.

We'll tell you more about The Bridge in a future letter, but if any of you have suggestions or introductions for companies who may consider donating carpets, curtains, furniture and kitchen equipment (or perhaps sponsoring a room) could you please let us know? We'll be needing these as we seek to provide good quality accommodation for our residents, that they experience the blessing of a comfortable home, perhaps for the first time for a long time.



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Greetings



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who knew what it was like to be homeless, and enter 2014, we pray that you will find Him in unexpected places.

Every blessing,

David, Stephen and the KWT team

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