



Dear friends,

We trust this finds you well and in anticipation of enjoying some long awaited sunshine! We realise it has been a while since we sent out a newsletter, and quite a lot has happened, so our apologies that this is a bit long. We hope you find it informative and fuel for prayer!

The Bridge

For a part of last month, and for the first time, we saw The Bridge at full occupancy with five residents all settling in well together. However, one long term resident has now moved back with his children having been given custody of them since their mother began a new relationship without them. Another resident recently left so we are currently interviewing for two new people, and we have several applicants from whom to decide.

We appear to be getting known by more referral agencies and we are regularly being asked to consider potential people, which I suppose is both good and not so good! It's pleasing that we haven't experienced any major setbacks with neighbours at this property and we enjoy friendly relations with all around us.

New Property

We have now received the necessary permissions for the new property which we purchased last October. We are very excited with the potential this will give us for the long term work of The Bridge. Our builders started the renovation works on 1st June and this is planned to be completed in approximately 16 weeks. When we are completely ready we plan to move out of the current rented premises and into the new house. The configuration of the new house will provide us with six bedrooms and still give plenty of good usable living space and room for keyworking with the residents.

New Project – Hope Into Action

Over the last year we have been in discussion with a Christian organisation from Peterborough called 'Hope Into Action' who provide a very good housing model for people who are ready to leave The Bridge. This will also be suitable for many others who are looking for long term housing but need a "light touch" support and supervision to help them live independently. We have just signed a franchise agreement for the Eastbourne area and this project will become part of KWT.

Essentially, the framework for this is to encourage and support investors to purchase properties, either individually or with others, and lease them to KWT:Hope into Action for 5 years at a time. Investors receive a financial return, plus any capital increase in the property should it be sold. The property will be administered by KWT, and the residents will pay rent either from their wages or via housing benefit. The most important component is that each property will be connected with a local church who agree to provide mentoring

and befriending, to ensure the residents are part of a community and are able to keep up with their responsibilities. This help will often be provided by a home group, for instance. The model is well tried and tested and has been very successful in Peterborough where it started and now Nottingham, Swindon, Wolverhampton, and Suffolk.

If this is of interest to you, either as a potential investor, or as part of a church group who could potentially take on befriending and mentoring (with training provided), then please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. We'll be sending out more detailed information in due course.

Hope Woodwork

Hope Woodwork (<http://hopewoodwork.co.uk/>) has been running for a year now. Hope Woodwork is part of Kingdom Way Trust and was established to help provide a non-threatening environment that equips people for work, teaches some new skills, and helps them re-build confidence so that they can re-enter the workplace. We also recycle waste timber, making beautiful things from scrap!

At the moment we have **vacancies for 'trainees'**. If you know anyone over 18 who has been unemployed for a while and might benefit from spending time making things in our workshop with the help of skilled volunteers, please get in touch, or ask them to get in touch. We're flexible on how many days a week they attend as long as they can commit to the same days each week. The best way to contact us is by email: info@hopewoodwork.co.uk or use the contact form on the website.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

This is a project supported by Kingdom Way Trust and run entirely by volunteers at the St John Ambulance station in Eastbourne. It provides soup and sandwiches on Sundays at a time when there is really nothing else available for homeless and vulnerable people. It is urgently seeking new volunteers to supplement its small team and so if you would like to help between 4pm and 6pm on Sundays please contact us and we will put you in touch.

In conclusion

We have much to be thankful for and are mindful that God has provided for all our needs and we give Him all the praise for what has been accomplished. We are also in need of continued prayer for what lies ahead. Especially, we ask God for peaceful and good relations to be formed with our neighbours at the new property, and for the love of Jesus to be made known to them. Pray for the builders as several of them are Christians, that they may have a positive impact when they interact with the neighbours.

Please also pray especially for Glyn and Kim as they work with our residents at The Bridge, and as they plan to move in the next few months.

Thank you for standing with us.

Blessings,

David and Stephen

