



Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter

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

Dear reader,

First of all may we take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year and God's rich blessings throughout the coming year.

1. Update on Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter

The weeks and months seem to pass by so quickly and it only seems like yesterday since we opened this season's winter night shelter at the beginning of December.

The first few nights started quite slowly with only a handful of guests registered but we have gradually built up to around 12 guests on a regular nightly basis. Not surprisingly, we have individuals from all walks of life with a variety of reasons why they are in need of our service. As we try to offer them our support and hospitality, some of them choose to share some of their stories with us and others prefer their own confidentiality which we equally respect. What is clear is that the night shelter is a much needed respite from the harsh reality of life on the streets, and it's thanks to all of our volunteers that this continues to provide a safe haven for our guests.

The introduction of the camp beds has been a real success, not the least for offering our guests a more comfortable night's sleep. It's a real pleasure to arrive in the mornings without the fear of being confronted with complaints from guests about their beds deflating and waking up on hard floors! We are grateful to the Eastbourne Girl Guides for their very generous donation of them to the night shelter.

As we go around the different venues each night, some of you will be aware of the occasional difficulty with individuals and the need for appropriate responses, but this is no more than to be expected when dealing with vulnerable people who are living on the streets. On the whole we are pleased to be able to report that the night shelter is running peacefully and successfully, again thanks to our referral process at the Salvation Army, and the supervision of the individual Churches. It's also pleasing to report that quite a number of guests have already been found accommodation and are moving forward with their lives.

We will soon be circulating details of our "Volunteers Thank You Party" which we plan to organise again this year, so watch this space for more information.

2. Update from 'The Bridge'

For those of you who follow the events at The Bridge supported accommodation, quite a lot has been happening over the last few months, although this may not always have been apparent on the surface.



We are very pleased to advise you that Glyn Moreton has been appointed as the Manager. Glyn was formerly one of the Leaders of Old Town Community Church, together with his wife Emma, and both stepped down from that role in December.

Glyn took up his new role with us on 2nd January and we are really benefiting from the skills and enthusiasm that he is already sharing with us. We soon hope to have The Bridge up to full capacity of 5 residents as we seek to develop the ministry to its full potential and purpose. We are also very grateful to Kim who has given his full commitment to us during this difficult phase and now can combine his own particular gifts and expertise as we move forward in a positive way.

As we move towards our goal of 5 residents by the end of February, we anticipate the role for volunteers becoming active in assisting us in the life of The Bridge. Glyn and Kim will be preparing suggestions for volunteer roles based on individual needs and we will have more news for you about this soon. See below:

Dear Bridge Volunteers from the past!!!

Hi, It's Glyn here. Kim tells me that way back last year, (July he thinks), some of you met for some informal training and some of you even helped out a few times. For that we want to say a big thank you and another thank you is due for your patience during the months of quiet that have followed.

Kim and I are very pleased to say that we are in the process of revisiting the volunteer scheme and will be back in touch shortly with new Ideas and ways that your valuable input is needed.

so...watch this space!

God Bless

Glyn Moreton

Kim Aspindale

Thank you to all of you who read these newsletters and continue to support us in so many ways. We wish you God's continued favour in the year ahead.

Yours,

The Team at KWT and The Bridge
