



## **Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter**

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

Dear reader,

### **Winter Night Shelter**

Well, the night shelter closed its doors on Tuesday 1st March and we can all be thankful that it provided a safe and warm environment for our guests and volunteers too for the last 12 weeks.

As we write this note to you the sun is shining with blue skies but the temperature is still deceptively cold. Many of you have asked if we could extend the night shelter into March and it would be good to say "yes let's just do it." However, wisdom tells us that this would create many issues such as the availability of the venues and volunteers, fatigue, and the impact on volunteers returning next year. We have given thought to this idea but concluded we should open and close when we say we will so everyone knows what to expect. There has to be an end date at some point and it could easily still be cold through March and April. We hope you will all understand this.

Although our numbers can help to tell the story about the impact of the shelter on our guests, the real success is about your commitment to bring your compassion and servant hearts to our friends who would be sleeping on the streets if not for you.

Some brief facts will help put this into context:

- 69 individuals applied and were interviewed
- 59 were given access to come in
- 6 were refused and 4 found alternative accommodation before coming in
- 999 bed nights were given
- 9 individuals were excluded over the 3 months
- 91 days x 3 = 273 shifts covered by an average of 4 volunteers per shift giving a total of over 6000 volunteer hours to the local community

### **Reminder**

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to this year's Tea and Cakes Party and we



hope you will be able to join us. Just a reminder about the date and time:

**Friday 11th March 7pm at Holy Trinity Church Halls on Trinity Trees, Eastbourne.**

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## The Bridge - news in brief

Just as the night shelter has closed we are in the process of moving The Bridge to our new premises that are now all ready for occupation.

Like most building projects it has been a challenge for those of us involved in getting the new property to the standard we wanted and within the timeframe and budget set. We are really pleased and excited about this new opportunity.

One of our current residents came to us via the night shelter and with one extra bedroom at the new property we will soon be inviting another resident to come and live at The Bridge.

We are pleased to announce Angela Watkins will be joining us on 1st April as part time key support worker. Angela will bring her invaluable experience and knowledge of the processes involved with this work, together with her considerable administration skills, and we look forward to having Angela on board at The Bridge.

If you pray, please pray for the men in The Bridge during this time of transition that they will settle quickly, and for the staff and volunteers working with them. Continue to pray that The Bridge will provide a bridge from homelessness to independent living, from an old to a new life, from hopelessness to hope.



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Thank you for all your support in so many different ways. Again, a special "thank you" to all our volunteers in the Winter Night Shelter this season, and we look forward to seeing you on 11th March at 7pm.

David and Stephen on behalf of the KWT team.

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