

Charity No. 1093689

Routes to Roots - A Way in the Wilderness, A Stream in the Desert



By the time you receive this newsletter we will be well into the New Year, nevertheless all of us in R2R, wish all of you, a Happy and Healthy year ahead.

We are already in the season of Lent and our thoughts turn to Jesus in the wilderness and maybe also the prophet Isaiah, through whom God said "I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert." Jesus was the Way, Jesus provided the Stream. I believe those words are very appropriate for us in R2R.

In 2013 we plan to make significant changes and improvements in the way we operate, which include releasing our Outreach Worker, Liz Bailey, from being part of the POST team for two days a week. This will enable Liz to take over the co-ordination of our Afternoon Drop-Ins and motivational projects, including our partnership working with Holton Lee, appropriately named 'Flourish' (*see page 6*). And we look forward to welcoming Scott, our new part-time Outreach Worker, at the beginning of March (*see page 3*).

As our 10th Anniversary Year comes to an end, and as we look forward to our next decade, please will you pray for us that in all we do, we can provide a Way through the Wilderness and be a Stream of life-giving water to all those we serve in the name of Jesus, who is Our Way, Our Truth and Our Life.

The Revd Pat Southgate

Chair of Routes to Roots and Chaplain to the Homeless in Poole

Christmas Day Dinner



Our Christmas Day Stars

- ★ All the food for our Christmas Day dinner from ASDA Poole
- ★ Christmas Day dinner gift boxes from members of Skinner St URC
- ★ Christmas Day dinner quiz prizes from Poole Park Run runners
- ★ Christmas Day dinner shoebox presents from the staff at Poole Contact Centre

Many thanks to our volunteers and supporters who worked so hard to make this year's Christmas Day lunchtime such a fun affair at Skinner Street URC. 18 of our guys joined us for dinner at 1pm followed by games and quizzes.



FROM THE COMMITTEE

R2R Website: Check out our website which has recently been updated and re-designed to offer more easily accessible information about our activities and the churches, organisations and people who support us. On the right-hand sidebar to every page is a link to download an information package, which will provide you with information about Routes to Roots and how we can work together to make a difference to the homeless in Poole. You can download the information pack from the website or contact the R2R Office (*details below*) if you would like us to send you a copy.

Mobile Library: We are fortunate to have plenty of books but still need volunteers and somewhere to park the Bedford van at night and times when it is not travelling around. If you can help or for information on volunteering with the library, visit: www.QHA.org.uk or phone: 07880 807718.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR & TRUSTEE	Revd Pat Southgate
TREASURER & TRUSTEE	Sarah Percy
HON SECRETARY	Ann Tyson
TRUSTEE	Kate Mellor
MEMBER	Susan Gittins
MEMBER	Jenny Elson

OUTREACH & SUPPORT

CO-ORDINATOR	Liz Bailey *
OUTREACH WORKER	Scott Jones *
ADMINISTRATOR	Caroline Foy *
MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Gabi Sanger-Stevens *

Routes to Roots Office
Skinner Street URC, Skinner Street, Poole,
BH15 1RQ
Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643
office@routestoroots.org
www.routestoroots.org

Committee & Trustees elected at R2R AGM on 21 June 2012
* ex officio members of committee

Founded on Christian principles, and registered as a charity in 2002, Routes to Roots seeks to help all homeless people in Poole regardless of their faith. We hold drop-in sessions to provide immediate social and spiritual support as well as the basic necessities for life: food, clothing, a place to wash and a place to rest. We help to house rough sleepers and follow up to identify what each person needs to move forward and to maintain their housing and independent living.

OUR SUPPORTERS



...and many Church and Christian groups in Poole and the surrounding area.

MANAGEMENT REPORT



R2R and BCHA Poole Outreach Support Team			
Service Users	1st Qtr end 30/06/12	2nd Qtr end 30/09/12	3rd Qtr end 31/12/12
Rough Sleepers	26	24	21
Sofa Surfers	6	10	4
Outcomes			
Rough Sleepers	17	9	12
Planned Moves	12	16	10
Unplanned Moves	3	3	0
BREAKFAST VOUCHERS 79 Breakfasts Served in December 2012 169 Breakfasts Served in January 2013			
<p>With the onset of the shorter days and long nights, we have again arranged with The Fisherman Café in Poole Old Town, to provide a cooked breakfast to those rough sleeping. Starting from 1st December 2012 we have increased this provision to six days a week, Saturday to Thursday, and on Fridays there is breakfast available via The Salvation Army.</p>			
Evening Drop-Ins Oct-Dec 2012 545 Hot Meals Served		Afternoon Drop-Ins Oct-Dec 2012 437 Lunches Served	
40% rough sleepers - 40% sofa surfers - 20% others recently housed		40% rough sleepers - 40% sofa surfers - 20% others recently housed	
<i>Hill Street Baptist Church Hall and Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i>		<i>Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i>	
Average Attendance Tuesdays	21	Average Attendance Mondays	22
Average Attendance Fridays	23	Average Attendance Thursdays	21

Staff Changes

As a result of our increasing and expanding projects, the Trustees decided to change the role of Liz Bailey to incorporate more direct Routes to Roots support work with our clients. This in turn created an opportunity for the appointment of a part-time Outreach Worker to take over from Liz for two days a week and we were fortunate in having a strong group of candidates apply for the role.

We are very pleased to announce that Scott Jones has now been appointed as part of the Poole Outreach Support Team and joins Liz and Kat on 4 March. Scott has very valuable experience gained whilst working with BCHA and has covered absences in our office at Skinner Street so is already known to some of our clients.

POST is delivered in partnership with BCHA and aims to reduce the numbers rough sleeping in the Borough of Poole and work with partner agencies to provide sustainable housing and support packages for clients.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens



WINTER ON THE STREETS

Poole Winter Watch Opens As Temperatures Drop

Since 13 January temperatures in Poole have dropped to 0° or below on a number of occasions. As a result the Poole Outreach and Support Team (POST – Routes to Roots in partnership with Bournemouth Churches Housing Association) has triggered its Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP). SWEP provides rough sleepers with a hot meal, overnight accommodation and breakfast in a Poole church hall.

Three to eight people have taken advantage of the accommodation out of 12 known to be sleeping rough at this time. The hall can take a maximum of 10. When temperatures rise the accommodation closes but POST continues to monitor the situation and will re-open as necessary.

The POST team engages with all known rough sleepers within the Borough of Poole on a daily basis and encourages them to move away from rough sleeping and into safe accommodation.

Anyone who has concerns about someone who is either rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping can contact Poole Outreach Support Team (POST) on: 07966 808802 / 07985 998904 or at pooleoutreachtteam@bcha.org.uk

Alternatively, in the case of a housing emergency or if you are aware of a person who requires more information about their current tenancy, you can call Housing and Community Services: 01202 633804

In January Routes to Roots was able to fund emergency bed and breakfast for a homeless person who, on discharge from hospital, would have had nowhere to go and was preparing to spend the night in one of Poole's public toilets.



Annual Street Count, November 2012

At 1am on Wednesday 14 November, I joined a group of volunteers together with POST staff to help with the annual street count.

Having been warmed with hot drinks, we were given our instructions and routes, logged in with the Police, and eventually set off to various parts of the Borough of Poole to collect and log the required information. Five teams covered Poole Park, Baiter Park, Poole Town and the car parks, Lower and Upper Parkstone, Canford Cliffs and Branksome Chine areas, and various known tent locations.

A total of 16 rough sleepers were found on the night – an increase of 25% on last year's count. Nine of these people were known to POST and the Poole Rough Sleepers Core Group as 'active' rough sleepers. Two stated they were new to the area, two were unwilling to engage and three were known to have previously accessed homelessness services within Bournemouth and Poole.

It was particularly poignant how obviously frightened some of these people were when approached by a group of strangers in the middle of the night, however much effort we put into being friendly. Apart from the need to make these counts for the Borough, the night proved successful in that people were found and directed to the POST services at Skinner Street. The following day people did actually present at the office and several have now been housed.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens

MEET OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Donations For Christmas and the New Year 2013

In November 2012 we received a cheque for £2000 from Ellingham & Ringwood Agricultural Society who run a one-day agricultural show each year. The Honorary Treasurer Nick Love, a partner at Princecroft Willis, one of our corporate supporters, put forward a case to the Trustees for R2R to receive these funds.

Accountancy firm Princecroft Willis adopted Routes to Roots as its nominated charity for 2012. Money raised from a variety of activities between April 2012 and March 2013 will be donated to R2R after staff chose to support the charity in a democratic ballot. In December R2R was presented with a cheque for £1025, and the firm is hosting coffee mornings for business contacts and neighbours in March to raise more money. Accounts Senior Claire Bunting (*below centre*) presents the PcW cheque and boxes of food and clothing to Gabi and Pat.



In December Dorset County Council sent us a cheque for £3000 for our winter warmth appeal from their funding for people in need during bad weather.

As we approached Christmas, we received many donations from individuals and groups, which enabled us to make this period a truly special occasion for the homeless and recently housed who still rely on our help.

From individual supporters, some of whom did not give their names, we received over £1700.

Additions to our funds also came from generous organisations and churches:

- £250 from the Church of the Holy Angels, Lilliput
- £400 from Poole Vineyard Church
- £250 from the Church of the Transfiguration, Canford Cliffs
- £400 from St Paul's Church, Canford Heath

- £699.08 from church funds and the Christmas collection at St Luke's Church, Parkstone
- £400 from Brass Coins Ltd
- £70 from the staff at Poole Contact Centre
- £25 for sleeping bags from LV (Liverpool Victoria)
- £275 via Ragtangle Shopping Village website
- £205.62 from Broadstone URC November communion service
- £100 from Broadstone Methodist Church
- £75 from the Saturday Night Soup-Run team
- £450 for our Winter Warmth Appeal from Nationwide Building Society
- £180 for Evening Drop-Ins from Nationwide Building Society
- £250 from St George's Church, Oakdale
- £75 from Word of Life Church, Poole for Big Breakfasts
- £270 from Kings Church, Poole from their Christmas offering
- £160 from Lantern Church, Merley
- £41 from Cafe - No 34, Poole Missional Communities from Christmas cake raffle

Other contributions from donors include:

- A huge donation of very good quality clothes from St Mary's Catholic Church
- 40 scarves from TwoToo and its customers



MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITIES

OUTDOORS

Flourish at Holton Lee

Our outdoor activity at Holton Lee re-started in January with Project Flourish, which is being managed by Holton Lee staff, with a lottery grant, and includes people in need from other areas as well as our clients.

The guys go every Tuesday and start the day at 10am with a talk on wellbeing and discussion on what they will do during the day. They have two plots of land to work on – one of which they are thinking of turning into a relaxation area and one which has fruit trees and may become a vegetable garden with a greenhouse. Each day ends with a feedback session where the participants discuss how they are getting on and how they feel about the work.

As well as 6-8 people from R2R there are people from other areas so this project involves lots of teamwork. Our guys really seem to be enjoying this experience and one commented on his drive home: "What a great day we've had."

We do still need helpers and drivers, so please contact the R2R Office if you think you can help.



INDOORS

Outreach Drama Workshops

The Poole Passion (TPP) Outreach Drama Workshops started again in January at R2R's Monday Drop-Ins. It was hard work, but very well received by those participating! The sessions are led by Kevin Tapscott and Barbie Brinkman, both experienced drama workers, and mentored by Sharon Muiruri TPP. Volunteer workers are Garry, Mark and John.

The project aims to promote social engagement; foster self-confidence & raise self-esteem; and increase the participants' ability to work with others.

TPP began working with R2R in 2012, running informal drama workshops. Sometimes these workshops were more about talking and spending time with the guys. There was no real expectation except for the aims already mentioned. However, to our delight, two people, Mark and John, joined The Poole Passion and actually took part in the play in 2012. Mark took on the role of the soldier and John, who joined later, became an enthusiastic crowd member. Neither had acted before! It took real courage for them to take part and engage with an audience. This was a wonderful outcome. We hope to develop the R2R strand of the TPP project.

TPP is open to everyone and is not just about the Passion Play, as it also offers lots of workshops and events throughout the year. One of the key aspects of TPP is fellowship.

Sharon Muiruri, Artistic Director TPP

www.poolepassion.com/play/news/tpp-outreach-drama-workshops.html

MORE SUPPORT FOR THE GUYS

Christmas Spirit Shows at Waitrose



Michelle Taylor and Andy Hartstone from Waitrose Parkstone present Gabi (centre) with a cheque for £870 raised during their latest two-month Christmas Community Matters Appeal.

Every month for a number of years now Waitrose stores around the country have given charities, nominated by their customers and partners, money raised through their Community Matters 'green token' scheme – benefiting 1700 local charities. When customers shop online at Waitrose.com they can choose which good cause to support when they checkout their order. When shopping in branch customers pick a charity using the green token they're given at the checkout.

Last Christmas Waitrose decided that instead of making a fancy, festive TV advert, they would donate the money saved to good causes - donating an extra £1 million on top of the £600,000 normally given. Routes to Roots, as one of three charities chosen locally, was, therefore, presented with £870 from the original collection of £290 in tokens.

We very much appreciate the spirit of giving of Waitrose and its customers.

Creekmoor Hannah

Please meet Hannah the Homeless Blessing Bin introduced to Christ Church Creekmoor many years ago when the Christ Church Youth were inspired to help people in poverty through teaching they received at Soul Survivor. Hannah's sign reads:

Blessing the homeless in Poole: Please help us bless the homeless in Poole in a practical way, by donating sleeping bags, toiletries, tinned and packet food etc.



Hannah supports the work of Routes to Roots and the Poole Food Bank. This bin is constantly added to and overflowing weekly from gifts given by the congregation.

Can You Befriend Someone in Need?

It is often difficult for our clients to settle back into accommodation after living rough and we try to help with the day-to-day difficulties of dealing with officials, forms and general housekeeping on a budget.

We have people coming up now who would like some support and need to assemble a pool of people we can call upon who would be prepared to walk alongside them. If you would like to help, please contact our office (*contact details on page 2*).

We'd Like to Tell You a Story...

...the story of Routes to Roots.

We can come and speak on any day, to all ages, in all places. Please contact Caroline Foy, our Administrator, to arrange a visit.

Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643;
Email: office@routestoroots.org

YOU Can Help Us



● Please consider becoming a Volunteer

R2R relies heavily on our small army of volunteers. Opportunities exist in the following areas:

- * Morning Outreach, Afternoon Projects, Evening Drop-ins
- * Befriending Scheme - please contact the office
- * Mobile Library - driving, staffing, including preparing books
- * Outdoor activities - accompanying clients on organised events
- * Providing skills training for clients, health & personal care support to clients
- * Administrative support - helping with mail shots, preparing for events

For details of volunteering, please contact our Administrator on 01202 667880 or office@routestoroots.org

Volunteer application forms are also available at: www.routestoroots.org

● Please consider making a Donation

- * £3 buys a rough sleeper a cooked breakfast
- * £10 buys a pair of jeans
- * £25 buys a sleeping bag
- * £45 provides food for a Drop-In
- * £200 helps to make an empty flat a home

● Please consider becoming a Member

- * Annual membership costs only £10 for an individual or £25 for a Church, School or Business.

To make a Donation or become a Member, please complete the form below or visit the website to pay securely via the Internet or download a standing order: www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering-membership

Membership Application and Donations

I would like to become a Member for £10 / £25 (*circle as appropriate*)

I would like to make a Donation to Routes to Roots to the value of £_____

Name (*please print*): _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

*“When you did it to the
least of these - you did
it to me.”*
Matt 25:35

I would like to Gift Aid my donation. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

I enclose a cheque payable to 'Routes to Roots' to the value of £_____

OR Please debit my card to the value of £_____ : Mastercard / Visa / Solo / Visa Debit (*circle*)

Card No: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / 3-Digit Security Code: _ _ _

Valid from: _ _ / _ _ Expiry on: _ _ / _ _

Name (*as it appears on the card*): _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to: The Administrator, The R2R Office. Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1RQ