

The Crossings' news

What? *The Crossings has been The Waterside Churches' response to homelessness in the area since 2019.*

How? *Volunteers and a part-time Project Leader run drop-ins & visits to homes across the Waterside.*

Why? *To show compassion to those struggling with their housing situations in our communities.*

Welcome to this, our first quarterly newsletter. Homelessness - on the Waterside you say? Rural homelessness is often a lot more hidden - rather than people sleeping on the streets, they will be sleeping in their car or on a friend's sofa. The effect on their lives is the same. We hope that as we share our stories we build a stronger relationship and, in turn, help those facing uncertainty in their housing situation.

So what is a drop-in? Held at halls in Blackfield, Hythe & Marchwood, these are places where any adult can visit with no appointment to get help with housing worries they may have. What's consistent is a warm welcome and a listening ear & no judgements. After all, anyone can find themselves in the situation.



What happens? Every session is different depending on who walks through the door. Most often, people are facing eviction or need help applying to join the Council's housing list. Some may be sofa surfing or rough sleeping. We help in various ways, such as making referrals to the Foodbank or the Council's Homeless Team. Over this year alone we have been privileged to help people with over 200 visits to our Drop-Ins, as well as supporting people with our Drop-in at Home scheme, designed to help them settle into their new accommodation.

Fundraising. We have a new [Just Giving](#) page. Our first fundraiser raised £890 from a sponsored cycle ride in Sept. It was a great success & they had fun doing it. Maybe you'd like to do something similar? If so, take a look. It'd be great to see more fundraising events happening. A win - win for all involved!

JustGiving

Raising Awareness '23 Our display board has been up in various venues in the area this year; our aim has been to get better known. This summer found us out and about in the community at Gang Warily recreation ground for Armed Forces Day in June. We met lots of the public, some funders & even previous visitors we'd helped. Good conversations were had and we sold some books and a few cakes along the way too! 10th October is World Homelessness Day; we were at Hythe Library that week to raise awareness of the issues at play (in people's minds) and show how we are part of the solution.



New Volunteers We're looking to grow our team of volunteers. If you have time to spare during the day and have a heart to help those with housing issues we'd love to hear from you. No experience is needed as training is provided and support as you go; you may have IT skills to offer, or not, but still have a listening ear & time to give for a few hours a month.



Thank you to those who support us, financially, or practically. We couldn't do it without you.



Help against
homelessness

Visit us at thecrossings.org.uk, on [Facebook](#) or call Andy Clarke for more information on 07486 551 272.