

The Crossings' news *for Waterside churches*

What? The Crossings has been The Waterside Churches' response to homelessness here since 2019.

How? With willing volunteers and a part-time Project Leader operating drop-ins across the Waterside.

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

Welcome to this, our first quarterly newsletter to the Waterside churches. Our prayer is that by sharing we build a stronger relationship and, in turn, help those facing uncertainty in their housing situation.

So what happens at our drop-ins? Held at Blackfield, Hythe & Marchwood.

Every session is different depending on who walks through the door. What's consistent is a warm welcome and a listening ear. We have rough sleepers visit and often referrals to the Foodbank or the Council's Homeless Team are made. Most often, people are facing eviction or are needing help applying to join the Council's housing list. 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 as they settle into their new accommodation.



Accommodation sought Do you have or know of a place to rent? We have found a number of people who are looking for a place to live, even just a room. There's a scarcity of properties in our area so we're inviting folks from our churches to get in touch. Our [flier](#) has more info and might bring the right people together.

Raising Awareness '23 Our display board has been up in various churches & other 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'll be at *Hythe Library* that week to raise the issues at play (in peoples' 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 needed as training is provided and support as you go; you may have IT skills, or none but have a listening ear & time to give to help a few hours a month.



Prayer points

- for the people we support, often at their lowest point.
- for wisdom for our volunteers as they seek to support them.
- for Andy, the Management & Trustees as they look at the big picture.

Thank you so much!



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