

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 our summer edition. With the new government pledging to build more affordable housing we see this as a major issue to those who visit us at our drop-ins. As a longer-term but nonetheless welcome policy, we look forward to seeing the affects of it in our area. As we share our stories, we seek to build stronger community relationships and, in turn, help those facing uncertainty in their housing situation.



So what happens at our drop-ins? Every session is different depending on who walks through the door. What's consistent is a warm welcome and a listening ear. Most often, people are facing eviction or are sofa surfing & needing help approaching the Council. We have rough sleepers visit and are able to support practically including with Foodbank referrals. Over this year alone we have been privileged to help people with over 80 visits to our Drop-Ins.

We have a strong partnership with the Homeless and Housing team at New Forest District Council. Every 1st Thurs one of their team is available for support needs people have. Providing this direct contact enables faster answers and deeper support provision.



Homeless support: When we are made aware of someone rough sleeping a different side of our support kicks in. We recently were asked to offer support to a person who had come from out of the area and wanted to be near a family member. With no connection to the area and no access to money, we worked with the Waterside Community Fund & the Foodbank to help with food, clothing. Providing a place to wash and helping access UC the GP & a bank in Southampton. Being distraught, our drop-ins were a safe space to be heard and were equally important to process the past and look at options for the future.



Raising awareness. This was our 2nd year at Fawley's Armed Forces Day where we pitched our stand. Like bees to a honey pot, visitors took part in our tombola and we were all out of our prizes by lunchtime! Great conversations were had and leaflets were handed out. Thanks to all who came by - it was good to catch up with some familiar faces. Thanks to the organisers & the cadets who helped us set up. It was a great sense of community and the sun shone too! We'll be out and about in '25.

Fundraising. Our first ever sponsored walk saw us join the local Rotary Club for their event held in the woods of the Beaulieu Estate at the end of June. Many thanks to those who donated, especially those who took part. We raised just over £900 - an awesome figure! Of this, 25% will go towards Rotary's causes and 75% for our work. If you'd like to do something similar, do go to our [Just Giving](#) page and get involved!



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

If you'd like to volunteer or see how else you can help, just get in touch.



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