

The Crossings' news *for Waterside churches*

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 the summer edition. As we share our stories, we seek to grow stronger relationships with you, the Waterside churches whom we represent. In turn, we can together demonstrate the love of Christ to those facing uncertainty in their housing situation in our area. This year, we have continued our visits to churches to share what we are doing and how lives have been impacted. It's been really encouraging to have your support and to meet you, thank you for your warm welcome! Do get in touch if you'd like us to share at your church.

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. 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 attend our drop-in and are available to help.



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! 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!

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! 25% of this will go towards Rotary's causes and 75% for our work. If you'd like to do something similar why not go to our [Just Giving](#) page and get involved?



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!

