



CARDIFF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

WINTER SHELTER 2015/16

DATES: 18TH DECEMBER - MID-MARCH

(Depending on the weather)

Dear Church Leaders, Pastors and Elders,

As we are approaching our lovely Welsh winter, we are gathering Churches to help the Lord's vision to cater for the Homeless Winter Shelter 2015/16. The goal is to ensure there are no deaths on the streets from hyperthermia during the worst of the winter months.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

The Charity **Crisis** produced a homelessness Wales 2015 report recently identifying at least 24 people regularly on the streets sleeping rough in Cardiff. Since that report was prepared we know that Cardiff Local Authority have withdrawn funding for at least another 24 emergency Nightshelter beds. Welsh Governments own figures - produced in Sept 15 shows that only 69% of unintentionally homeless households were found permanent accommodation. The remaining 31% (150 households) were offered no or only temporary accommodation.

This winter, not only are we expecting a greater number of rough sleepers in Cardiff from the local population, we are expecting greater numbers of asylum seekers from Syria & Afghanistan.

Over the past 4 years we have struggled for Church venues within walking distance of the City Centre and for Volunteers in place for more than a few nights of the week leaving a few to shoulder the burden of 2 and 3 nights per week. Even so we have averaged 10-12 homeless guests for 7 nights per week and for around 15 weeks. To date we have put around 4 thousand heads on pillows, over 404 nights, which is about 3250 hours of night-help, love, counsel and care. During this time, gallons of tea and soup has been drunk, encouraging conversations and times of prayer have been enjoyed with several hundred men and women of many nationalities.

This is a fantastic opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to many people. In the words of our Lord from Matthew 25:40 'What you've done for the least of these, you've done for ME.'

If more Churches can get involved in this amazing ministry, the load will be lighter and more fruitful for everyone. Ideally we need at least 14 Churches to take one night a week for a few weeks each between late December and March. Working together we can train people and help to provide a really good quality shelter for homeless people to experience the love of Jesus.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. OFFER YOUR CHURCH BUILDING

- 1 night a week for a 4 week block. **OR** 1 night a week from December to mid-March

2. ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS TO GET INVOLVED

- Volunteers can cook or provide food, make tea & coffee, fellowship with guests
- Volunteers can blow up mattresses, make beds and wash up, play chess, help clean up

3. WHEN CAN PEOPLE HELP?

- An evening shift 6-10 pm, a night shift 10 pm – 6.30 am or breakfast 6-9 am
- 1 night a week at your own Church or at any of the other Churches

4. FUNDRAISE FOR NIGHTSHELTER

- £100- £200 from each church in the city would help provide food, bedding, laundry costs, heating, insurance, clothing and support.
- Donations to : Meet Jesus Here Ministries – Mark donation “Homeless”
Account Number: 00203832 Sort Code: 30-92-07

5. PRAY

- For Gods provision, breaking ground and watering the crop this year
- For people’s hearts to be stirred to come and help
- For protection and blessing every night of the week 18 Dec- Mid March
- For the harvest of salvation and healing of our guests.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

1. One or two of our team can come and explain this Ministry to you and your congregation at a time and date to suit you.
2. There will be training sessions available where potential Churches and Volunteers can find out what is involved with no obligation. This will cover what people need to do and know. (Contact us for dates)
3. Give me a ring 07976 515 627 or send a text and we can meet for coffee to answer your questions.

Contacts:	
Dave Pritchard – 07976 515 627	Antonio (City Temple) – 07792 062 868
Helen and Neil Phillips (Rhiwbina Baptist) – 07950 005 228/ 07957 802 505	

IN SUMMARY

This is the Lords work and provision in the City of Cardiff. The harvest is ripe and the workers are few. Anything you and your church can do to support this amazing ministry would be so gratefully received. We **know** you will be amazingly blessed by getting involved.

PRAY: COOK: FUNDRAISE: VOLUNTEER: OPEN YOUR DOORS

Big God Bless You,
Love

Dave

Dave Pritchard and Team

TO THIS.....

