



Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

A letter from our CEO

Dear Supporter,

It is with real sadness that we bring you the news that the Joel Stabilisation Centre will close at the end of June.

The Joel Stabilisation Centre has been running since March last year – the first centre of its kind in London. Over the past year we've been offering a home in a caring community, as well as intensive 1:1 support, to people who've experienced rough sleeping and face significant issues around drugs and alcohol.

In that time, the Joel team has achieved some incredible things. One resident developed his love of cooking at Joel. He completed a Food Hygiene Level 3 Certificate for his future career progression as a chef. When he completed his recovery journey he was ready to make a new start in Bristol and was able to secure a full time job and accommodation with the help of his new qualification and new found self-belief. Four other residents have made a home at Joel and made fantastic progress on their own recovery journeys. As one resident said recently: *"I've been in supported accommodation before, but this... feels different, I feel part of a community, a family"*.

However, providing the kind of support needed to these vulnerable people 24/7, 365 days a year requires a large staff team, and we can't be confident of securing sufficient funding to run the Centre safely for the whole of the coming financial year.

The KCAH Board has therefore taken the very difficult decision to close the Centre at the end of June. This will give us the time to support each of our residents to find the right accommodation. Helping them to find their next home will be our priority between now and then. The decision obviously also impacts our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to make Joel the dynamic, innovative and life-changing space it has become – KCAH wants to give them the time and support to find their next step too.

We want to say a massive thank you. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported Joel. It was a ground-breaking new venture. Without your help, we would never have been able to get it off the ground, and provide a caring home for our residents over the past year.

We also want to reassure you that KCAH remain as passionate as ever about supporting people in the Borough to secure and keep a safe and stable home. We now plan to explore other ways to support those facing homelessness in Kingston, alongside our other vital existing services – our Housing Crisis Intervention Service, and our support to more than 70 residents in KCAH and Council-let houses to rebuild their lives and find lasting solutions out of homelessness.

Yours sincerely

Aileen Almond

CEO, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness
aileen.a@kcah.org.uk

THE LONDON WALK

We Walk for Homelessness

On Saturday 19th March, a team from KCAH are taking part in the 10K London Walk to raise funds and awareness about homelessness. The walk is organised by The London Homelessness Collective and we are excited to take part in the evening walk with so many fantastic homelessness charities.

We walk at night to highlight that many people who are sleeping rough on our streets, walk throughout the night to stay as safe and warm as possible. It's a poignant reminder of the dangers of rough sleeping.

To sponsor the Team from KCAH, please visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/kcahlondonwalk or scan the QR-code with the camera of your smartphone. All funds donated through this link, will go towards the work of KCAH. We recognise that we live in very challenging times and many households are under severe financial pressure. Every donation to KCAH, however small, really does make a difference. Thank you to those who have donated already.

We wish Aileen, Georgie, Beth, Meghan, Camilla, Pete, David and Krisztina all the very best for Saturday. Go Team KCAH!



Scan here!



Our Local Hero



Our inspirational Housing Advisor, Ailsa Oakes, has been announced as one of seven Local Heroes recognised by the community organisations The Community Brain for her contribution to our community. She will have her portrait painted by a student at Surbiton High School and this will be displayed at Tolworth Station together with the other heroes. Ailsa is a compassionate, committed and caring colleague and we couldn't be prouder of her.

"I feel so privileged and humbled to have been nominated as a Local Hero. I love my job very much and to receive such a lovely compliment about the work that I do was overwhelming", she said.

Please Pray For

- The guests and staff impacted by the Joel Stabilisation Centre closing in June
- Continued funding for the services KCAH provides
- The households in our borough facing uncertainty in regards to the cost of living
- Those whose lives have been devastated by the war in Ukraine, and for peace

Thank You

Thank you to All Saints Church for inviting Sue and Andreea to come and talk about what KCAH do. Thank you to St John Ambulance for inviting Camilla to do the same. We enjoyed meeting you all.

Another huge thank you to The CornerHOUSE Arts Centre for inviting our Fundraiser, Pete, to an exhibit by artist Rod Pearson. Thank you to Rod for donating part of the profits from the exhibit to KCAH.



KCAH, St Peter's Church Hall, London Road, Kingston, KT2 6QL Phone: 0208 255 7400

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