



Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness

August 2016
Out and about

Bringing hope and support to homeless people in Kingston

Your prayers are asked for:

- People willing to become KCAH board members
- Our Music Extravaganza on 17 November
- Our new staff and preparations for our move to Norbiton
- Preparations for a 2017 Winter Night Shelter

News Round Up

The building work at **St Peter's Church Norbiton** is almost complete. Once everything is ready, KCAH will be giving 3 months' notice on its current offices in Fife Road in readiness for the move to St Peter's.



KCAH is looking to win a commissioned contract from **Royal Borough of Kingston** to help finance our services from April 2017. Our current grant aid funding is only safe until March 2017.

A list of **material items needed** by KCAH is being regularly updated on our website—or call 020 8255 2439 for details. One urgent need is for more **shower gel**. Please call before delivering to make sure you don't have a wasted trip.

New Staff Members

A big welcome to our two new staff members, Sarah Cheetham (Housing Support Officer, Access Project) and Irek Chmielewski (Housing Adviser)



Thanks to our donors

A big thank you to all the individuals and churches that are supporting us on a regular basis with financial and/or material donations.

Churches that have already made financial donations in 2016/17 are: Our Lady Immaculate, Surbiton Community, Surbiton New Life Baptist, St Andrew's and St Mark's, St Matthew's Surbiton, Kingston Methodist, New Malden Methodist, Emmanuel, Kingston Korean Central Methodist, Kingston United Reformed Church, St George's Tolworth and St Andrew's Ham.

Some other organisations which have given financial donations to KCAH since the last newsletter are pictured on the right.



Richmond Park Academy School



The Islamic, Afghan and Somali Societies at Kingston University supported by the Faith Adviser



Sweetland Studio



ASDA Kingston

Adam's Story

Adam first came to KCAH in Spring 2015 because he had lost both his job and his accommodation. KCAH staff tried to help him but initially he was too drunk to be able to consider how he might be helped. Once he had stabilised, KCAH referred him to the Joel Community Services 10-bed night shelter but this did not work out. Adam became a rough sleeper.

In February 2016, he came to the pilot Winter Night Shelter, organised by KCAH in collaboration with local churches. But, by this time, drink and drug use had taken control of his life and he was shoplifting and thieving to meet his needs.

In early spring, Adam took the brave step of telling Georgie (KCAH's Senior Housing Adviser) that he would do "whatever it took" to move on in his life.

So Georgie began searching for out-of-borough services that would meet his needs (there being no such services in Kingston) that KCAH can refer to. She identified a Community Detox Hostel that offered not just 6-9 months rehab but also the guarantee of move-on accommodation. This sounded ideal but Georgie knew that Kingston Council would have to agree to pay the costs.

Happily, the Council agreed, creating a new pathway out of homelessness for local people with alcohol problems.

Adam has now been in the hostel for two months and we are delighted to report that he is making good progress.



Two KCAH tenants, Gary Morgan and Paul Taylor receiving certificates from James Berry MP for their successful completion of a construction work experience course .



Staff from British Land working with clients and staff to re-decorate two of our houses.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fundraising Gig

Three local punk and rock bands will be raising money for KCAH at a gig in The Cricketers Pub, 20 Fairfield South, Kingston, KT1 2UL, on **Friday 23 September**. We thank them for their support.

KCAH Annual Meeting

Please put **Thursday 20 October** starting 7.30pm in your diary for the date of our AGM. Invitations, including the venue, will be sent out in September.

Music Extravaganza

5 choirs, one opera singer, a band and a trio—over 120 people—will be performing in aid of KCAH on **Thursday 17 November** in All Saints Parish Church, Kingston. Tickets £12.

See separate flyer enclosed, your church noticeboard or our website for details.

Board Members urgently needed!

Do you have HR, legal, finance, IT, governance, admin and/or volunteer deployment experience? If yes, would you consider becoming a member of KCAH's Board?

Contact Matt Hatton 020 8255 2439 matt.h@kcah.org.uk for further details.

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