

***IN STRETFORD***



**For**

**Homeless Sunday**

**24th January 2016 6.30pm**

**All Saints’ Stretford**

**BOOTH CENTRE MANCHESTER**

## Rebuilding the lives of homeless people

The Booth Centre is a day centre that offers activities, advice and support to homeless people in Manchester.   
  
They provide education, training and advice to enable people to find new homes, improve their health, increase their skills and confidence and to successfully resettle in the community.

**GREENBANK PROJECT**

Greenbank is a residential/life skills centre for single homeless males and females between the ages of 16 and 19.

The scheme has 20 fully furnished bedrooms each with an en-suite shower room. Rooms are arranged into five suites. Each suite contains a communal kitchen. There is also a shared lounge and communal laundry facilities. Residents have the use of a fully furnished IT suite and free Wi-Fi access.

**Criteria**

To ensure a suitable placement applicants need to:

* Be male or female between the ages of 16 and 19
* Have links to Trafford
* Have support needs, and be able and willing, to develop their skills
* Be prepared and motivated to actively engage in the support process.

Greenbank supports homeless and vulnerable young people, empowering them to tackle the root cause of homeless. The support process aims to assist residents to make better life choices, re-build family relations and if appropriate, move-on to successfully manage their own home.

Alongside the structured support sessions the team at Greenbank work closely with other agencies including:  Connexions, Rathbones, Fairbridge, Princes Trust, YOS  and  colleges to ensure that residents engage with positive and meaningful activities.

**Welcome and Introduction**

1. **Hymn:**

**Reading:**

Let us hear the voice of our Lord in his word as he calls us to minister his compassion in this hurting world

**Isaiah 58: 6-12**

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
    to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressedgo free,  
    and to break every yoke?  
7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?  
8Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
9Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst,  
    the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,  
10if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.  
11And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.  
12And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

**Prayer / Reflection:**

Loving God, in your house there is room for everyone.

Help us as we strive for a world where everyone has a home that truly meets their needs.

Give us the grace to welcome strangers and refugees.

Give us the insight to see where inequality hurts.

Fill us with courage to do our part.

Save us from being overwhelmed by the scale of the housing crisis,

and show us, O Lord, where to begin.

***Amen***

***Silence***

1. **Hymn:**

**Reading:**

***Matthew 25:31-46***

31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.   
32Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.   
33And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.   
35For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,   
36I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?   
38And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?   
39And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-46&version=ESVUK" \l "fen-ESVUK-24045a" \o "See footnote a)] you did it to me.’

41“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.   
42For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,   
43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’   
44Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’   
45Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’   
46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

1. **Hymn:**

**Prayer / Reflection:**

We sit for prayers

God of compassion,  
your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,  
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable  
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:  
we hold before you those who are homeless and cold  
especially in this bitter weather.  
Draw near and comfort them in spirit  
and bless those who work to provide them  
with shelter, food and friendship.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

***Silence***

**Prayers of Penitence**

For the times when we have avoided the pain in another's eyes

For the times when it has been easier to hurry on by than to risk the vulnerability of stopping and talking

*Lord, have mercy*

***Lord, have mercy***

For the times when we have judged people by their circumstances

For the times when the clichés have obscured the people

*Lord, have mercy*

***Lord, have mercy***

For the times when we salve our consciences with a pound coin

For the times when we have resorted to stereotypes of people who are homeless, of people who are different, of people in our churches

*Lord, have mercy*

***Lord, have mercy***

For the times when we have accepted other people's situations as unchangeable

For the times when we assume that things or people are beyond the reach of your Spirit

*Lord, have mercy*

***Lord, have mercy***

For the times when we have forgotten that our relationship with God does not shut us inside, but sends us out

For the times when our worship becomes a place of safety and not where we are open to be disturbed by the Gospel

*Lord, have mercy*

***Lord, have mercy***

For the times when we want "the poor" or "the homeless" to be meek and mild

For the times when we talk of "us" and "them", and assume that homeless people are not in our churches

*Lord, have mercy*

***Lord, have mercy***

Forgive us for our words, actions and inactions which deny your love and care for all people.

Make us into your Church, where all have a home.

***Amen***

1. **Hymn:**

**ADDRESS - GREENBANK PROJECT**

1. **Hymn:**

***Psalm 71:1-6***

1 In you, O Lord, I take refuge;  
   let me never be put to shame.   
2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
   incline your ear to me and save me.   
3 Be to me a rock of refuge,  
   a strong fortress,[\*](javascript:void(0);) to save me,  
   for you are my rock and my fortress.

4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
   from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.   
5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
   my trust, O Lord, from my youth.   
6 Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
   it was you who took me from my mother’s womb.  
My praise is continually of you.

*At the end of this passage there will be a moments silence to reflect as a homeless person on the following;*

* *I am homeless* - I had to leave the family home after a beating;
* *I am homeless* - I moved out of care where all the decisions were made for me, and now I am faced with life on my own;
* *I am homeless* – I’ve lost my job and stable family and I turned to alcohol, now I’m sleeping rough.

*You will hear the Psalm again, do you hear the words differently?*

**Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Government and all people who take decisions which affect the lives of people who are homeless. Guide them to follow your will and make decisions for the common good.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Loving God, encourage all people who work for and with homeless people. Give them the gifts and skills they need. May they be a listening ear and a witness of your loving presence.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Spirit of God, protect all people who are homeless. Shelter them from all that is harmful, enable them to seek out your face and build their lives anew.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for architects, builders, and planners. May your creative vision be instilled into these people as they design and build the communities of our future.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, may your person be present in our communities, particularly those in most need. Enable us as people to live out your gospel message to one another.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Risen Lord, we pray for those services that support people who are homeless. Social services, health services, the benefits agency and the many voluntary groups and organisations. May they be professional, efficient and always have the needs of those they serve at the forefront of their work.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

1. **Hymn:**

**Final Blessing**

May the blessing of light be on you,

light without and light within.

May the blessed sunshine shine on you and

warm your heart till it glows like a great peat fire,

so that the stranger may come and warm himself at it,

and also a friend.

***Amen***

1. **Hymn:**

***A collection plate is placed at the back of church for your donations.***

***Music will be played so you may sit and pray then please join us for refreshments in the hall afterwards.***

