

# *in*Hope.

*For those who need us most*



## Information and Update Letter

inHope is a Christian charity working in the heart of Bristol, to support the most vulnerable and marginalised people within our city. Our vision is of communities where everybody can reach their God-given potential, free from injustice and insecurity. We exist to help people overcome insecurities such as homelessness, hunger, addiction, and poor mental health. These insecurities are often caused by injustices such as insufficient housing, limited access to food, poor employment, discrimination, and abuse.

Based in Easton, inHope offers a place of love and acceptance, supporting people through practical provision, shelter and housing whilst helping people develop life skills and employability. All of this is done whilst offering people the opportunity to encounter Jesus and to discover the love and hope that he offers.

## News

Following the refurbishment last year, the Wild Goose homeless drop-in has been able to serve hot meals and drinks from Carpenter House again, although most of the year this has been a takeaway service at the door. Recently, the Wild Goose has opened the drop-in area for limited numbers to sit and eat their meal, which has been lovely. This has required a strict cleaning regime and extra training on Covid-secure ways of working. In October, 1,643 meals were served.

Spring of Hope women's night shelter has remained closed under government guidance for communal night shelters, but has continued to stay in touch with vulnerable women by phone, virtual meetings and in person. Several women were supported to move into their own accommodation.

The Life Recovery project has run Life Courses throughout the year. It has been amazing to be able to equip and support people in person this year, whilst maintaining social distancing etc. It has been so encouraging to have peer volunteers (people in recovery who have previously done the course) help run the Life Course and follow-on peer support groups.

The Foodbank has continued to experience a rise in people in need. April – October, our six Foodbank outlets have provided emergency food parcels to 6,633 people (In 2019-2020, pre-pandemic, 6,052 people were fed in the whole year.)



Wild Goose drop-in.



Life Course participant social.



Sorting food at Foodbank

## Future Plans

With the removal of the uplift of Universal Credit, the end of the furlough scheme, increased inflation rates causing a rise in the cost of living, we expect to see more people becoming homeless and in need of food and support. Here are some of our future plans that will help people in need.

- Continuing our part in the Trussell Trust Pathfinders project, where different paths are being explored to reduce the need for Foodbanks nationally, which includes the work of our Foodbank support workers and seconded Citizens Advice Benefits Advice Workers.
- Opening up the Wild Goose for evening services of hot meals and drinks, which will require re-training evening volunteers who haven't been in the refurbished building, nor worked following the new Covid-secure procedures.
- The franchise of the Life Course and its training materials, so that churches, charities, and other recovery groups can run the course.
- Ongoing work of Homes *not* Houses; creating homes for people who have been homeless or are vulnerably housed. Church communities have a vital role to play alongside inHope, investors and other organisations in Bristol, whether through re-imagining how church buildings are used or partnering with us through our Hope into Action Bristol network to build loving Christian communities around a safe and secure home.
- Continuing work into how to open Spring of Hope as a 24/7 provision for women.

## How can St Michael's pray for inHope?

Please pray for:

- Individuals and families who will be homeless or facing an uncertain future this winter.
- The amazing team of volunteers that continue to faithfully serve God and our clients/service users.
- The Wild Goose as it reopens for some evening sessions in the New Year.
- Plans around opening Spring of Hope as a 24/7 model.



The Wild Goose

We thank God for the generous provision of food, practical, and financial donations from churches across the city. We couldn't do any of what we do without churches like St Michael's - thank you for your support and prayers!



St Michael's appointed link person: Rachel Mason

**The  
Wild Goose**

**Spring of  
Hope**

**Life  
Recovery**

South & East  
Bristol  
**foodbank**

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