

*in*Hope.

For those who need us most



Information and Update Letter

inHope is a Christian charity working in the heart of Bristol, supporting 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 help people overcome insecurities such as homelessness, hunger, addiction, and poor mental health, which 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, and helping them develop life and employment skills. All of this is done whilst offering people the opportunity to encounter the love and hope offered by Jesus.

As a church partner, St Michael's supports inHope through prayer, donations, financial giving and as volunteers. Without the support of Christians across Bristol, and churches like St Michaels, inHope would not be able to support those most in need in our city.

Some headlines from 2023

In May, **Spring of Hope's** night shelter fully reopened – as the sole female-only emergency night shelter in Bristol. Open 365 nights a year, the team of night staff and volunteers have helped 75 women since re-opening. Daytime activities include a schedule of weekly beauty and wellbeing sessions, support with health, and a weekly 'My Time' group with lunch, prayer and bible study.

The **Wild Goose** has seen the numbers of people using its services remain high, with an average of 132 people coming for a meal daily. The team have developed engagement activities, including haircuts, creative writing courses and art workshops, alongside support with issues like benefits and housing.

Life Recovery have continued to push ahead with producing training resources, to be published and used by organisations across the South West in supporting people to live well in recovery from addiction.

Five men, who had been homeless, have been provided with a home in the two **Hope into Action Bristol** (an inHope franchise) homes in Knowle West and Portishead. One of the men has become a Christian as a result of the input and support of befrienders from the partner church.



Lunch at the Wild Goose



Homeless woman helped at Spring of Hope



Life Course franchise increasing

Future Plans

Following another challenging year for people struggling with the rising costs of living, we have seen the number of people needing help steadily increase. Here are some of our future plans that will help people in need.

- Increase service user forums across all areas of our work. We will focus on service user engagement so that our services are shaped by the people who use our services, to best meet their needs and hopes for the future.
- Opening more Hope into Action Bristol homes. An offer has been accepted on a third house - a church partnership between New Life Church and Resound. It's exciting to see two churches working together. Supporting a home can feel daunting for an individual church, so we'd love to see more partnerships where churches can work together. A fourth home is rapidly coming over the horizon but we don't want to stop at four homes. We would love to talk to any other church communities who want to partner with us to help homeless people overcome the housing crisis.
- Complete and publish the Life Course workbook for leaders and participants, so that we can franchise the course and make it widely available to churches, charities and other organisations who are supporting people in recovery from addiction. Franchise partners are given 2 days in-depth training and ongoing support from our Life Recovery team.
- NHS Homeless Health to start regular drop-in sessions at Spring of Hope. Healthcare workers will be able to provide vulnerable women with potential lifesaving procedures, such as smear tests, in the safe environment of the room they have been staying in at Spring of Hope.

How can St Michael's pray for inHope?

Please pray for:

- Give thanks to God for his blessing and provision over so many years. Pray for his continued blessing through the cost of living crisis.
- For women who are experiencing domestic abuse, that they would be strengthened to seek help and find a safe place to stay at Spring of Hope women's emergency night shelter.
- For those who are stuck in addiction, that they would experience a moment of clarity, seek rehab and when sober, help from Life Recovery.
- For people and families trapped in short term accommodation, that the council would prioritise truly affordable homes in Bristol.

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: Jonathan Ford

**The
Wild Goose**

**Spring of
Hope**

**Life
Recovery**

South & East
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foodbank

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