



Joel Community Services



Newsletter Spring/Summer 2017

food friendship shelter



The Night Shelter has expanded from 10 to 14 beds and now includes a dedicated, overnight volunteer room plus new offices for our staff.

Guests from the Night Shelter prepared and served up a fantastic buffet lunch, showcasing their talents as well as the Joel spirit of hospitality and community. Peter Holmes said, "We had such an amazing turn-out to the launch that we had to split the event into two, to accommodate everyone!"

Celebrating Our Official Launch!

More than 140 guests were shown around the Joel Night Shelter and brand new KCAH office space on Saturday 18th March to celebrate the official completion of 'Phase 2' building works.

MP James Berry, Bishop Paul Hendricks and Deputy Mayoress Rowena Bass were among supporters who explored the new, permanent KCAH office space, right next door to the recently improved Night Shelter .

He added, "We were so proud to demonstrate how Joel, in partnership with KCAH, can provide a safe place where people can literally gather around a shared table and feel valued, often for the first time. Our close relationship with KCAH is instrumental in helping people find a pathway out of homelessness. This approach can truly transform lives"

Anyone wishing to look around the Joel Centre/KCAH offices please contact us.

A Word From Peter Holmes



Genesis 18 describes a fascinating encounter in which Abraham, our father in faith, entertains three complete strangers. In the heat of the day Abraham had hurried out of his tent, reverently bowing low before his guests, insisting they stay and rest while he washes their weary feet and gets them something to eat. He brings them the very best; a choice, tender calf and enough bread to feed a hundred people. Abraham slowly realises that his meeting is actually with God, come as a stranger. As a result of his kindness and generosity Abraham receives the great blessing that his descendants would be as the number of stars in the universe, he would become a great nation and all the nations of earth would be blessed through his offspring.

Abraham is our father in faith and a great example to us. We too need to learn how to reverentially bow down and generously lavish the very best in hospitality upon 'strangers.' Please could I encourage you to deepen your participation in the JOEL community. Gather with strangers around the meal table by becoming a volunteer at the night shelter and give generously and lavishly, so that we might overflow in abundance to our guests. In so doing, we must not be surprised when we receive a Godly blessing and are called to pray more deeply for all of God's special children.

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."
Hebrews 13:2

~ Latest News ~

We are excited to announce that preparations are underway for a 3 bedroom addition to our Night Shelter, allowing the Joel community to support 17 people in total. We hope that this will be fully occupied by the end of May. More news to follow in the coming months.

If you would like to support this latest addition to the shelter, please get in touch with the shelter team.

Joel Guest Book

It's often a bitter-sweet moment when people 'move on' out of the Joel Community. They are encouraged to write in the Guest Book to celebrate their success and reflect on their time. Here is what former guest Alan wrote, "When I first came to the Joel I was a hurt and unhappy man, very shy and

scared (...) But in the Joel everyone will talk to you and make you more welcome than you think. The Joel has changed my life and now I can live my life with not much hurt and pain - just happiness. It hurts to say goodbye but I know I'll be welcome back with open arms if I need the Joel's help again in the future. Love you all, Alan xxx"

How You Can Help

We are in need of volunteers—The next training date is Saturday 15th July 9.30am-3.30pm You are only required to do one shift per month (more if possible). A shift involves preparing and serving a meal to guests and spending an evening with new friends. Let us know if you can make it to the training day.

Join our Fundraising Team to get involved in hosting a coffee morning or a social event at your church, home or community group.

We are currently in need of items for **Guest Emergency Packs**, which include Oyster Cards with a max £5 Oyster Top-up, new men's socks, underwear and slippers, new or used men's belts and mobile phones.

*If you are pressed for time and wish to support us here are ways to **donate**:*

Fill in the Standing Order mandate and post to us or you can find us online at Local Giving and give.net

Rota Kids Club at King Athelstan Primary School chose Homelessness as their topic for discussion and response this Term. Jhoana met with John Cannon who facilitates the Rota Kids Club, for children aged 6—11, is the only offshoot to the Rota Club in the borough. "Always wanting to help make a positive difference to people's lives one of them suggested, and they all agreed, to focus on homeless people for the spring term." By the end of term they had created their own play, an awareness raising assembly and led discussions in their community. They also raised an incredible £152 which they presented to us at a special Q&A assembly where children got to ask Jhoana questions around homelessness.

"A homeless person living in a cardboard box, is befriended by a street pastor who takes them to the Joel Centre for a bed and food. From there they are introduced to selling the Big Issue and finding a way out of their homelessness" This is the synopsis of a play devised and put on in assembly by the Rota Kids who hope to visit the Joel Night Shelter in the near future.

The photo above shows members of the Rota Kids Club performing their play during their assembly.



Standing Order Mandate

Please pay: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Maling
Kent ME19 4JQ

For the credit of: The Joel Community

Bank details: Account No.: 00025841
Sort Code: 40-52-40

Commencing on ___/___/___ and thereafter on the: ___ day of the month until further notice and debit my account accordingly:

The sum of: In words also:

Your bank address:

Name of Account to be debited

Account number: _____

Sort Code _____

Signature _____

Date: ___/___/___

This standing order Mandate supersedes all previous standing orders to Joel Community Services, Reg. Charity No. 1163741

Please return this form to Jhoana Serna-Nalton, Joel Community Services, St Peter's Church, London Rd, Kingston, Surrey KT2 6QL.

We are transitioning from Joel Community Trust to **Joel Community Services**. If you are a Gideon or a regular donor please get in touch to discuss ways in which you can transfer your donation to Joel Community Services, or please return a completed Standing Order Mandate, above, with a note to say that you wish to transfer your regular

Contact Us

Email Jhoana@Joelcommunityservices.org.uk or leave a message on 07393 873355

Did you know that we are on Twitter, Facebook and have a website?

 [@JoelComServ](https://twitter.com/JoelComServ)

 [Fb.com/JoelComServ](https://www.facebook.com/JoelComServ)

 [JoelCommunityServices.org.uk](https://www.JoelCommunityServices.org.uk)