



# Time for a break

**The summer season is well and truly here. For a few precious months we may enjoy the long hours of daylight, get out into the fresh air and feel the sun warm our backs. For some it's a time to complete all the outdoor jobs that they'd put off until now. Others simply choose to relax and make the most of the weather. Both are important, but not always so easy to achieve.**

Last month's diary spoke of the effects of working too hard, especially when we feel we have little choice, so God's command that Man should take rest may seem impossible to some. Even

those able to take a holiday may find adapting to a slower pace of life difficult.

The difficulties we experience changing our own lifestyle should help us appreciate the challenges our service users face in changing theirs. Pray that we will become more compassionate and understanding as we consider their situation. Pray for those who counsel and support those who are homeless, that they will be patient and empathetic as well as firm, if required. Pray too that they would get the rest and relaxation they themselves need.

**'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.'** **Romans 12:2**

# Prayer points

## **M** **Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA) accommodations: New Hope House, Alpha Court and the Manse**

Thank God for the positive atmosphere and generally peaceful environment in which the residents and staff live and work.

Pray that the managers and staff would use grace and wisdom to find suitable new residents to fill accommodation vacancies.

Pray for continued moving on options but also wisdom to manage the needs of long staying residents.

Pray that adequate support will be possible for those with high need.

## **T** **Community Home**

Praise God for the way a strong family atmosphere has developed at the Community Home, for the cooperation and mutual support residents enjoy.

Thank Him for the very successful Open Day held at the Community Market Garden and in which the home's residents were so involved.

Pray that a new resident would feel at home and fit in easily with the routines and ways that operate there.

## **W** **Haven Support Centre: Rough Sleeping Prevention Service (RSPS), Intervention Team (IT) and Tenancy Sustainment Team (TST) including HopeHomes (HH)**

Thank God for the life and peaceful death of a much-loved service user. Thank Him also for the staff and volunteers who cared for them so compassionately and pray for God's comfort to those who will be grieving their loss. (RSPS)

Thank God for protecting our most vulnerable during the recent heat wave and for the wisdom of staff, volunteers and members of the public in looking after them. (RSPS)

Give thanks for a new addition to the RSPS team and pray that they are guided and equipped as they start their new role. (RSPS)

Thank God for the ongoing provision of donations such as food and toiletries. Pray that all the required items will be forthcoming. (RSPS)

Pray that the team will continue to develop their understanding and expertise in how to support service users effectively. (RSPS)

Praise God that the Intervention Team has been successfully introduced and is working well. (IT)

Pray that the different charities, combining their expertise, will work together effectively.

Pray for their manager as they develop their leadership role. (IT)

Thank God that we have been able to appoint a new and experienced TST manager.

Pray that they will enjoy and flourish in this work. (TST)

Pray for a service user who is looking for the right property to move to. (TST)

Ask God to comfort and give peace to family and friends after the recent death of a service user. (TST)

Thank God that our HopeHome now has full accommodation again. Please pray that the new residents will quickly and easily settle in. (HH)

Pray for a HopeHome resident who has been struggling with depression. (HH)

## **T Sanctuary: Assessment Beds, Emergency Accommodation and Cluster Flats**

Thank God for the Emergency Beds which New Hope can offer. Pray for those who are seeking to provide a tailored package for service users, leading to more stable accommodation.

Pray for the team running our Assessment Beds focussed on helping those who are facing homelessness for the first time. Pray that the intensive support provided will successfully help them to avoid future homelessness.

Pray for residents in our Cluster Flats and looking to live independently. Pray that they will be able to take up meaningful occupation such as studying or volunteering, as they prepare for the future.

## **F Head Office (HO) and Charity Shops [Watford (WCS) and Croxley Green (CGS)]**

Pray for New Hope staff as we spend 2017 looking at our organisational values. Ask God to guide our thinking and understanding. (HO)

Pray for New Hope staff as they seek ways to adapt the physical and social environment of each service, to be more service user friendly. (HO)

Thank God that we have so many volunteer workers in our shops who have been recognised with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. (WCS/CGS)

Ask God to enable sufficient volunteers to cover gaps in the rotas during a busy holiday season. (WCS/CGS)

Pray that staff and volunteers would be well rested and refreshed by their holidays over the next few months. (WCS/CGS)

Praise God for the generosity of shoppers, many donating anonymously after money was stolen from the till. (WCS)

Praise God that, after encountering poor health, several volunteers can testify to positive answers to prayer. (WCS)

S

## Development: Community Market Garden (CMG) and HopeCollege (HC)

Thank God for the garden and the beneficial effect it has on all who use it. Thank Him for the glory of the changing seasons and the special character of each one. (CMG)

Praise God for the wonderful weather and commitment of staff, volunteers and friends which lead to a very successful Open Day (CMG)

Thank God for the many partners and volunteers who run and support courses and workshops throughout the year. Pray that these opportunities will continue to engage and motivate service users. (CMG)

Pray for the success of the Sprouting Out course, now underway. Pray that, as well as developing gardening and cooking skills, the confidence and self-esteem of service users will grow strongly. (CMG)

Thank God that, with New Hope's partners, training courses are available which will improve physical and mental health, build confidence and a sense of achievement. (HC)

Pray for service users who are seeking employment or employability courses. Ask that the right opportunities will present themselves. (HC)

Pray that service users will engage with the different opportunities available to them.

Pray that they will receive the most suitable advice leading to taking up courses, learning skills or volunteering. (HC)

## S The Big Picture: Homelessness across the UK

Homelessness seen in our urban areas often makes the news but homelessness in the countryside is rarely mentioned. Although often unseen, the number of rough sleepers outside London has increased by 20% since 2015. Cornwall has the third highest population of people sleeping rough in England. The beautiful views are unlikely to offer much compensation for sleeping in a farmyard shed, rural church, cliff top shelter or tent on a beach.

The same structural factors that contribute to urban homelessness — lack of affordable housing and inadequate income — also lead to rural homelessness. But rural areas often lack the infrastructure to provide quick, comprehensive care. And as homelessness is more hidden, it often attracts less financial support.

As some of us enjoy a holiday in our beautiful countryside, let us remember the hidden rural homeless. Pray that their needs will be met. Pray for those providing services for them and those seeking to bring about long term change for the better.



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