

OVERFLOWING WITH HOPE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

I do hope you will be able to join me on 24 April at St Luke's Church, Watford for New Hope's annual celebration event. This year the evening is called **'A Hope and a Future'**, and we are delighted that the Rev Tony Rindl from St Mary's Church, Watford will be sharing some thoughts on hope. We will also be sharing some answers to prayer, praying for The Hub, and worshipping together. There will also be a good time at the end to enjoy talking to people, new friends and old, over refreshments.

Last month, I quoted Dame Deborah James and I was delighted to find a frame of her words in the Cancer Research charity shop. It's now on my desk, inspiring me as I work and pray for New Hope.

"Rebellious hope is finding light in the darkness. It's choosing to remain hopeful, even when it might seem like there's nothing to be hopeful for. It's defying expectations. It's choosing to change the narrative. It's being the force to make the change."

Hope is at the centre of all we do here at New Hope. We always believe there is hope for every single person we meet, no matter how difficult the situation or what they have said or done in the past. We believe the narratives and trajectories of people's lives can change. Homelessness does not have to be a permanent state! We give thanks for the many lives which have been changed by our ministry.

This month, we are celebrating the fantastic news that four men, who we have helped for over seven years, will be moving on from sleeping rough into accommodation! Sadly, these men were unable to access benefits - and therefore accommodation - but a member of staff at the Haven, who focuses on helping people who have restricted eligibility, has worked tirelessly over recent months to complete the necessary paperwork and so these four men now have hope!

Our hope comes from our relationship with the living God of hope who fills us again and again. Please do pray for New Hope staff, volunteers and service users, using the verse above: **May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Please pray specifically for Sarah, New Hope's chaplain, for her ministry throughout New Hope's different services, as she brings the message of God's hope. Please pray for the people who attended the Alpha Course Holy Spirit Away day she ran, giving thanks for their trust in the God of hope and praying for them to grow in their faith.



Rebecca Palmer

Fundraising and Communications
Manager

Mon

Outreach Plus and the Haven

Providing support, advice and practical humanitarian aid for people who are street homeless, sofa-surfing or worried about evictions.

Give thanks for the Outreach team's recent positive engagements with service users.

Praise God for the hard work of the Haven staff members who have helped four long-term rough sleepers gain settled status and therefore eligibility for benefits and accommodation! Please pray for these men. Ask God to help them make the most of this fresh start. Please pray for the staff member who is upskilling in the area of working with people with restricted eligibility.

Thank God for people progressing throughout New Hope's accommodation services, which means there is more space for people to access emergency accommodation.

Give thanks for the donations we have received throughout the last financial year to fund the crucial work of the Haven.

Praise God for our new relationship with a charity called Haircuts for Homeless who are helping with haircuts at the Haven.

Please pray for the small number of people who are sleeping rough in Watford long-term and have limited engagement with our services. Please pray for hope for them and for persistence and perseverance for our teams as we seek to work with them.

Ask God to provide more volunteers to help regularly with street outreach.

Tues

The Sanctuary: Emergency Accommodation

Providing short-term accommodation and intensive support for 22 people who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness.

Give thanks for the new manager at the Emergency Accommodation. Please pray for her as she starts this month.

Please pray for the manager as she seeks to build a strong team. Please pray for the recruitment of new staff.

Praise God for the growing numbers in the Bible study group and the residents' hunger to read God's word.

Please pray people would be able to move on from the Emergency Accommodation to longer-term accommodation more swiftly.

Please pray for an end to anti-social behaviour outside the Sanctuary building – usually the main offenders are not residing in the Sanctuary but the behaviour is causing difficulties for us.

Weds

Recovery Services Accommodation (New Hope House and the Manse)

Two homes providing accommodation for up to 14 individuals who are in recovery from alcohol and substance misuse.

The former Recovery Services manager has moved to the Emergency Accommodation service! Please pray for the new acting manager at the Recovery Services and for the rest of the staff team.

Give thanks for the timely way the residents are paying their rent.

Please pray the residents would find positive ways to spend their time during the day.

Please continue to pray for freedom from addiction and the end of cycles of abstinence and relapse.

Thurs

Tenancy Sustainment Team and HopeHomes

TST supports people who have recently moved into their own accommodation and our three HopeHomes provide long-term accommodation for 13 individuals.

Give thanks for the bravery of a HopeHomes resident to engage with addiction support.

Thank God for a HopeHomes resident taking significant steps forward towards addressing mental health issues and talking about her past in order to move forward.

Praise God for the connections the team made at the Hope into Action conference. There were lots of ideas and inspiration!

Please pray for the new HopeHome resident. Please pray he will settle in quickly and build good relationships with his housemates.

Please pray for the HopeHomes residents who are still struggling with addictions and mental health problems. Please pray for breakthrough.

Some of the service users in the Three Rivers Complex Needs accommodation are coming to the end of their supported programme and are in the process of applying for their own social housing. This can be a daunting and anxious time. Please pray for this transition and the team as they support them through this time.

Fri

Cultivate

Horticultural therapy and wellbeing

We give thanks for the spring time, the emerging growth of buds and leaves and for the welcome return of the growing season.

Praise God for the outing to Top Golf for TST residents, which gave us opportunity to connect with some residents who have been reluctant to leave their homes over winter.

Thank God for the Growing for Life horticultural therapy programmes that have commenced in the Recovery Services last month, and the accompanying creativity, planting and celebration of strengths.

Give thanks for the engagements at the Watford Winter Shelter consisting of music, art activities, films and lots of board games which have given openings to build trust and safety with residents.

Please pray for those who have found the winter difficult – may Cultivate be effective in connecting with and supporting them.

Pray for Cultivate as it continues to integrate into New Hope services.

Please pray for a man who is abstinent after many years of alcohol dependency. Give thanks for the awakening of his passion for plants, and for the hope that they symbolise for him.

Sat

The Hub (H) and Chaplain (C)

'The Hub' is our working title for a proposed new building which will incorporate both the current work of the Haven and the Sanctuary. New Hope's chaplain provides spiritual and emotional support to staff, volunteers and service users.

Please pray for the new fundraising committee for The Hub which will begin meeting shortly, chaired by one of our trustees. Please pray for the right people to say yes to joining this committee and that it would be fruitful in developing relationships with potential donors. (H)

Please pray for the negotiations, which are currently taking place, for us to buy our chosen location. Please pray for God's favour. (H)

Give thanks for the Alpha Holy Spirit away day. Thank the Lord for the generous provision of a room and the endless supply of hot drinks from the team at Wellspring Church. (C)

Praise God for the openness of the men who attended. Give thanks for their desire to receive from God and for their willingness to sign up to a Christian retreat to grow in their faith. (C)

Thank God for the two volunteer chaplains who assisted Sarah on the day. (C)

Sun

Watford Shop (W), Croxley Green shop (CG), and Head Office (HO)

Give thanks for the Lord's provision over the last financial year. It has been a difficult year with the cost of living and fundraising challenges but we have seen the Lord provide all that we need. (HO)

Praise God for the gifts of legacies we have received this year. (HO)

Please pray for the Leadership Team and the trustees as they seek to update New Hope's strategy. (HO)

Give thanks for the many opportunities the shop volunteers have to speak about God's love to customers, especially those who are going through difficult times. (W)

Praise God for the purchases of clothes and props made by a local film company! (W)

Thank God for the generous amount of garden items, such as sun umbrellas, that were donated. We also received a large collection of LPs which are very popular with customers! (W)

Give thanks for the new efficient tills and for the way the volunteers have adapted. (W)

Please continue to pray for several volunteers coping with the illness and loss of loved ones. (W)

Give thanks for the wonderful community spirit at the Croxley shop! (CG)

Please pray for the team as they manage many donations in a small space. (CG)

NewHope
RECOVERING HOMELESSNESS
TRANSFORMING LIVES



Hope
and a
future →

CELEBRATION SERVICE

Wednesday April 24th
7.30pm

St Luke's Church
Langley Way, Watford, WD17 3EG



New Hope

67 Queens Road, Watford,
Herts, WD17 2QN



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