

Time of Growth

Known by the Anglo-Saxons as Weed Month, because weeds and other plants grow most rapidly, August traditionally marks the start of harvest. August 1st is Lammas Day, from the Anglo-Saxon loaf-mass, which celebrated the first corn to be cut, and which became the Christian harvest festival.

As individuals, we all have times of faster growth, physically, emotionally and spiritually. New Hope's service users often speak of their own personal growth as they experience support. But this is

often for a season. In due course, it needs to be processed and consolidated.

Thank God for his ongoing provision for our needs. Then please think of those currently in New Hope accommodation or receiving our help. Pray that this will be a time of growth for them. Also pray that, at the right time, the next steps for them will become clear, be that move-on housing, opportunities to volunteer or work, or assistance from other organisations.

'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.' 2 Peter 3:18

Mon

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

Thank God that both the Manse and New Hope House are currently running at full capacity.

Thank God for a positive move on for an Alpha Court resident last month.

Pray for the managers and teams working with service users to resolve often complex needs, to give targeted help for those needing a higher degree of support.

Pray for the wisdom required to resolve challenging issues.

Tues

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

Continue to thank God for the Haven building, for the welcoming environment created through purpose built facilities and modern décor. (RSPS)

Praise Him for the individuals who have accessed the services at the Haven, for their willingness to seek support and their expressions of thankfulness. (RSPS)

Pray that relationships with our partner organisations and local officials will continue to be strong and that their understanding of what the service offers will deepen further. (RSPS)

Praise God for the positive way service users have been engaging with the Intervention Team and accessing the various support available. (IT)

Thank God for the way the Intervention Team has gelled together and that each partner has a better understanding of each other and the parent organisations involved. (IT)

Ask God for favour with other organisations within Watford, that good relationships can present greater opportunities for those in need. (IT)

Praise God that all five new referrals in July have moved into their new places and have been visited by the team. (TST)

Thank God for the service users who are being taken to appointments for Employment and Support Allowance and Personal Independence Payment. Pray those meetings go well. (TST)

Pray that TST service users may enjoy the simple pleasures of having a secure home and enjoying an outing to the park. (TST)

Weds

Head Office (HO) and Charity Shops [Watford (WCS), Croxley Green (CGS)]

Praise God for His provision of gifted senior leaders and who work so effectively together. (HO)

Thank God for experience and wisdom of our senior managers as they work through challenging and demanding responsibilities. (HO)

Pray for those responsible for appointing new staff as they interview and select. Ask God to guide them, and that He would lead the right people to apply. (HO)
Praise God for the faithful witness of volunteers in our Watford shop and for the positive relationships they build with customers. (WCS)

Thank God for the emotional and moral support our shop volunteers are able to offer to customers as well as the provision of goods. Pray that God will use them to bring comfort and encouragement. (WCS)

Pray for the shop manager as she looks to present New Hope to customers in various ways. Pray she will keep finding fresh inspiration. (CGS)

Pray that the right sort of donations will continue to come in, that will be easily saleable and suited to the needs of customers. (WCS/CGS)

Pray for a volunteer van driver for the shops, to enable collection and delivery to go smoothly. (WCS/CGS)

Thurs

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

Praise God for the warm conditions that have drawn wonderful growth from the soil and for the nourishing rain that has watered the thirsty plants. (CMG)

Thank God for the progress of a service user who was able to face up to anxiety issues and was able to accept a certificate from our partner group SMILE to the encouraging applause of the garden team. (CMG)

Thank God for the Groundwork cooking sessions during which delicious recipes are being cooked using open fires and a clay oven. Pray that the cookery book we are working towards will be something that helps build confidence and brings out the best in all involved. (CMG)

Thank God for the recent school visits from local schools. Pray that this leads to reflection about homelessness and the many reasons someone might become homeless. (CMG)

Pray for inspiration, wisdom and energy as the team continues through the busy main season and makes plans for the autumn open day.(CMG)

Thank God that there are so many courses and materials available, to which we can direct our service users. (HC)

Pray that the funding sought to enable people to attend training would be awarded. (HC)

Dates for your diary

Connect evening

St Mary's Church, Upper Room

Monday 11th September

7.30pm - 9pm

Garden Open day

Community Market Garden

Saturday 30th September

10.30am - 3pm

More information about all of our events can be seen at newhope.org.uk/events

Fri

Community Home

Praise God for the work at the Community Home, for its dedicated team of manager, workers and volunteers, and for the testimony of residents who feel so supported and encouraged by them.

Thank God that the occasional times in which staff and residents spend time away together have been so helpful. Pray this would continue.

Pray that residents would respond well to the courses and therapy provided to aid their recovery from substance misuse.

Sat

Sanctuary: Assessment Beds, Emergency Accommodation and Cluster Flats

Praise God for the ongoing work at the Sanctuary, and for residents who are willing to engage with the team and accept the support which is offered.

Thank God for the period of general stability and calm recently, in which staff and residents can feel at greater ease.

Pray for a service user, requiring a wheelchair, and who has been recently hospitalised – to make a good recovery.

Sun

The Big Picture: Homelessness across the UK

The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) has put a new focus on work to prevent homelessness, instead of dealing with it after it has happened. The Act stresses that an advisory service should be designed to meet the needs of certain at risk groups, citing examples such as care leavers and people leaving prison.

A personalised plan is required, identifying specific vulnerability such as substance misuse problems or mental illness. Individualised, preventative support through effective multi-agency partnerships is seen as key. Teams with specialist expertise, including front line workers, are to be formed.

New Hope is already working in local partnership (with Change Grow Live (Spectrum), Citizens Advice Bureau and Herts Young Homeless) through its Rough Sleeping Intervention Team. Please pray that this is well coordinated and effective. Pray too that the team's expertise would be recognised and sought by other local organisations also concerned with alleviating homelessness.



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