

JUSTICE AND GRACE

Watford Joggers have been absolutely amazing over the last couple of years – they have raised hundreds of pounds to help people who are sleeping rough in Watford. A sleepout at the end of September was one of their fantastic events and I popped along to say thank you. After eating a simple meal, we gathered to watch Skid Row Marathon – a documentary set in LA featuring a criminal court judge who starts a running club for people who are experiencing homelessness and addiction.

I only meant to stay for ten minutes but I couldn't take my eyes away off the screen.

Judge Craig Mitchell is a combination of justice and grace. The law is his profession. He sits in a court room and passes judgement. But he desires more – he longs to make a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of the people who stand in front of him for sentencing. So he starts a running club and then raises money so the residents of the Midnight Mission can take part in international marathons. As the film unfolds, we see lives completely transformed.

I was struck by how Judge Mitchell calls his fellow runners 'friends' – he imparts dignity and respect to those with little self-worth. He doesn't see people by the labels society gives them: addict, murderer, alcoholic, homeless. He sees the person – a person worthy of friendship, love and a second chance (and a third chance, and a fourth chance...)

I am not embarrassed to say that tears were rolling down my cheeks by the end of the film.

Justice but yet grace.
What a picture of God.

Please pray for transformation in the lives of the people at New Hope. May they learn how precious they are in God's sight. May they listen to His voice and hear His offer of friendship. Please pray for a deep experience of God's love and faithfulness.

**Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each
other.** Psalm 85:10



Rebecca Palmer
Fundraising and
Communications Manager

Mon

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

Praise God for the recent food donations which have been a real blessing.

Give thanks for the adult learning opportunities residents are currently engaging with.

Thank God for the ways in which residents have been able to use their practical skills across New Hope.

Please pray for suitable next step accommodation for Alpha Court residents.

Ask God to resolve some of the current challenges with Alpha Court.

Tues

Community Home – a six-bed home for those with substance misuse problems

Give thanks for the new kitchen and please pray that it will be finished soon! Praise God for the way different residents have got involved with the refurbishment.

Thank God for the volunteers who help in the Community Home.

Please pray for the residents as Christmas approaches. The Christmas season can be very difficult for those who are apart from their loved ones. Please pray for a sense of God's peace and love.

Ask God to provide new staff for the evening and night shift.

Weds

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

Give thanks to God for the large number of donations received during Harvest. (RSPS)

Praise God for the regular donations of fresh food which are given to the Rough Sleeping Prevention Service. (RSPS)

Please pray for the staff and volunteers' good health and for protection from winter bugs and colds. (RSPS)

Give thanks for the warm and safe places people can go during the day. (RSPS)

Please pray for the SOS team as they prepare for the Winter Shelter which begins on 1 December. (SOS)

Pray the details of the Winter Shelter will be communicated effectively to all those who are currently sleeping rough. (SOS)

Please pray for enough volunteers for the shelter and for the training evenings which take place at the end of this month. (SOS)

Thank God for the fantastic work our dual diagnosis worker does in the area of mental health. Please pray for those who are currently suffering with mental ill health. (IT)

Please pray for freedom from addiction for those who are engaged in substance misuse, alcohol misuse and gambling. (IT)

Please pray for people who are moving into their own homes this month. (TST)

Please pray for individuals who need help with their bills. (TST)

Pray for people who need basic household items and furniture for their

accommodation. (TST)

Ask God to provide larger premises for the team. (TST)

Pray for a job for a resident who is looking for work. (HH)

Give thanks both HopeHomes are full. (HH)

Thurs

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

As the days become shorter and plant growth slows we are reminded of the balanced and perfect rhythms of nature. Following the abundance of the growing season, a period of restoration must follow. The trees must shed their leaves and become dormant, the perennials retreat to their rest in the soil and the annuals give up their short lives, scattering their seeds, the next generation, to sleep and arise with the coming of spring. (CMG)

Thank God for the activities of the garden last month, the hoeing of the beds and the planting out of winter crops like broad beans and kale. For the indoor projects, designing and putting up of a storage shelf, the making of a display board to mark the stages of a resident's recovery and for the caring of our hens by a resident who gets up early every morning to feed, clean and reassure them. (CMG)

Thank God for the sense of community that is becoming more and more apparent in the sharing of ideas and mutual encouragement. (CMG)

Thank God for our existing volunteers as they continue to attend whatever the weather and for a lady who, having been inspired at the autumn open day, has applied to volunteer here. (CMG)

Pray for everyone who spends time at the garden and especially for two men who are currently struggling with cravings and mental ill health. (CMG)

Please pray, as we go into winter, that those who would benefit from this therapeutic space will be drawn to the garden. (CMG)

Thank God residents are getting involved with a range of opportunities and activities. (HC)

Please keep praying for the Friday running group. Pray enthusiasm will be maintained in the wetter and colder months. (HC)

Fri

Sanctuary: Assessment Beds, Emergency Accommodation and Cluster Flats

Give thanks for the volunteers at the Sanctuary. Thank God for the Top Golf team who are visiting regularly to cook and play games with the residents.

Praise God for casual workers who are able to cover shifts when someone is away or ill.

Thank God for the regular donations of fresh food.

Ask God to heal the residents and staff who are currently not feeling very well.

Pray for the provision of the right support, particularly mental health, for residents.

Please pray for a softening of residents' hearts and openness to changing their lives.

Pray for families to be reconciled.

Please pray God would bring people out of addiction and dependence on alcohol and drugs.

Sat

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

Praise God for a successful Harvest. Thank God for our fantastic team of volunteer drivers and for the donations we have received from many local schools and churches. (HO)

Please pray for the Fundraising and Communications Team as they complete the Christmas Appeal and the newsletter. (HO)

Thank God for the opportunity to be involved with a fundraising event in intu next month. (HO)

Please pray for our volunteer co-ordinator as she recruits volunteers for the Winter Shelter and organises the rota. (HO)

Thank God for Watford Joggers and their fantastic fundraising. (HO)

Praise God for the faithful and hardworking volunteers who serve in the Queens Road shop. (WCS)

Please pray for all the final preparations for the Christmas Shop which opens Saturday 9 November. Ask God to bless the volunteers who are working on this big project. (WCS)

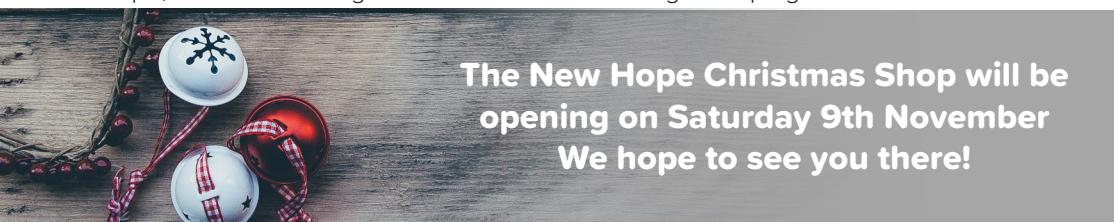
Pray for the volunteers who are on holiday at the moment and ask God to help the rest of the team as they cover the gaps. (WCS)

Please pray for the shop as the team prepare for Christmas. (CGS)

Sun

The Big Picture

Throughout the country, churches will be running winter shelters. Please pray for Housing Justice which provides support to community night shelters and for the volunteers who will be providing emergency shelter throughout the colder months. The Office for National Statistics recently released data on those who had died while homeless. In 2018, the average age of death for a homeless man was 45 and 43 for a woman. Please pray for charities across the UK, such as New Hope, who are working hard to see an end to rough sleeping.



**The New Hope Christmas Shop will be
opening on Saturday 9th November
We hope to see you there!**

New Hope

67 Queens Road, Watford,
Herts, WD17 2QN

Call

01923 210 680

Email

info@newhope.org.uk

Web

newhope.org.uk



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