



## Help for the homeless

You've probably seen people sleeping on the street in Merton, and there are many more living in temporary or insecure accommodation. In July 2015 Andy, our manager, estimated that there are 20 to 30 people sleeping rough. This number is increasing due to Benefit rule changes, and we are seeing more of them in the Drop-In. It is hard to find work, and when people do it is mostly short-term.

The Homeless Drop-In provides a warm welcome, nourishing food, and a range of other services such as English lessons (see photo).



**Bob** has lived for most of his life in Wimbledon, but he lost his job and with it his flat. He thought the Council would help him, but London councils can rarely do anything for anyone except women with children. Bob is now sleeping rough wherever he can. Bob has tried to dull his pain with alcohol, adding to his troubles. At the Homeless Drop-In Bob finds companionship, a hot lunch, help with reducing his alcohol consumption, and assistance with filling in online forms to get on the job-seekers and accommodation lists. He can get his laundry done too.

**André** is a 50-year-old man who ran his own business in Poland, but after his wife and daughter were killed in a road accident, he made the business over to his son and came to start again in England. He now lives in a shed and takes any work he can get – working nights over Christmas with the Post Office, labouring on building sites when extra help is needed. André is enterprising, intelligent and very hard-working, but the permanent, full-time job that would allow him to afford a flat is very hard to find. Faith in Action is supporting his attempts to get a qualification as a step on the way.

## Helping people to move on

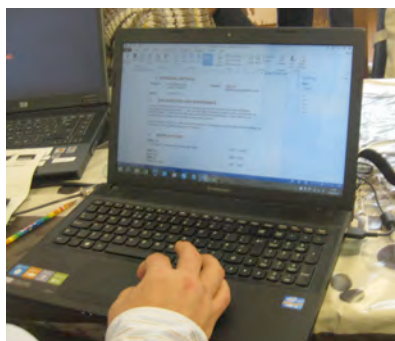
We are making every effort to help our service users get back on their feet, working with them on their CVs and job applications, helping with the search for affordable accommodation and putting them in touch with health workers. So much now has to be *online*, including registering with the government Universal Jobmatch.



With government cuts, those previously assisted by benefits may be finding themselves with no income and nowhere to live. It's a difficult jobs market, with possible work often low-paid and insecure. And Merton accommodation is expensive and hard to come by as we all know.

Faith in Action works with organisations which

help people move off the street such as Street Rescue, Fresh Start and Spear.



## Laundry, lunch, and a warm welcome



Our staff and volunteers work hard as you can see from these photos. We are very grateful for their help and welcome applications from those who would like to volunteer for this very valuable work.

### LUNCH MENU

Gammon in mushroom sauce  
with  
mashed potato & cabbage  
*or*  
Vegetable pie  
*followed by*  
Strawberries & cream



## Support from faith groups, schools and business

We are grateful to the many Wimbledon faith groups, schools and retailers supporting our work. These include Wimbledon Mosque, Wimbledon Synagogue, many local Churches including Christ the King in Wimbledon Park and Holy Trinity on the Broadway, local schools including Wimbledon High School, Ursuline High School and Wimbledon College, and Nandos for their regular supply of chicken.

Thank you to St Mark's Church in central Wimbledon for the proceeds from their summer concert. We hope that other groups holding local events will help us by raising money to support our work.

## Funding the work of the Drop-In

To ensure that we continue to provide and develop services for the homeless and vulnerably housed, we need more financial support from across the local community. With our costs rising and homelessness likely to increase, we appeal to our supporters for help in broadening our support.

We aim to increase the number of those who contribute to our Square Meal Appeal and are very grateful to those who already do so. A monthly donation of £5 can provide two square meals for our service users. For how to give please visit our website.

## Further Information

To learn more about the Drop-In and how you can help, contact Andy our project manager on 07843 280419 or email [faithinaction@wimbledonguild.co.uk](mailto:faithinaction@wimbledonguild.co.uk) or visit our website.

[www.mertonfaithinaction.org](http://www.mertonfaithinaction.org)