



News from Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project

Summer 2024

There are several ways to raise much-needed funds to support homeless people this Summer – can you help?

The year so far

2024 has continued to see heavy demand for our services. Reflecting rising homelessness across London, the Drop-in has regularly welcomed around 50 homeless and vulnerably housed people every session. Meanwhile, demand for our Winter Night Shelter beds remained high throughout the winter months to mid-March. And thanks to additional funding from the Mayor of London, our night shelter guests were offered further respite from the cold and wet in hotel accommodation for several further weeks into April.



But these unprecedented levels of demand continue to place pressures on our finances. Consequently, we need to increase our income to ensure we can continue to fund the level of professional services we now offer, further impacted by the increased cost of our accommodation, energy, food, and other ancillary costs. This year we have been successful in bidding for grants from the National Lottery and the London Borough of Merton. However, these alone will not bridge the financial gap, so we need to increase our income from both regular giving and one-off sponsored events.

Please help us by supporting one or more of these summer events:

- **Carol's Pilgrimage to 'The End of the Earth' - 1-14 June**

Please sponsor Faith in Action Trustee and Drop-in volunteer Carol Graves as she walks from Santiago de Compostela to Finisterre. [Sign up online here.](#)

- **Saturday 15 June at 6pm - St John's Church Spencer Hill, Wimbledon SW19 4NZ.**

Summer Concert:

Bar open from 5.30pm Suggested donation on door £5/adult £3/child.

- **Saturday 22 June at 8pm - Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill Wimbledon SW19 4LU.**

Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra:

Beethoven Piano Concerto No3 in C Minor

Puccini Messa di Gloria Motteto per San Paulino. [Book tickets online here.](#)

- **Tuesday 27 August at 7.30pm - St Mary's Church Hall, Church Path, Merton Park, SW19 3HJ.**

'Let You Entertain Us':

An impromptu benefit concert. Six-minute performances welcomed, all ages and styles. Music, drama, poetry, sketches, comedy, dance, puppetry etc.

Performers and audience just turn up on the night. Entry by donation. Please bring a plate of food to share on the buffet table. Cash/card bar.

To register an interest to perform, please email vicar@stmarysmerton.org.uk.

Monthly Giving with Gift Aid

Please consider making a regular donation or, if you are currently supporting us, increasing the monthly amount.

You can also increase your donation by 25% at no cost to you by signing up for Gift Aid.

- Full details on how to set up a new standing order and sign up for Gift Aid are on our **new donor leaflet** – [follow this link to download](#).
- To increase an existing standing order, please email us at news@mertonfaithinaction.org.

And finally...

With grateful thanks to our Drop-in landlords **Wimbledon Salvation Army**, on 29 May we moved back into our accommodation in Kingston Road, Wimbledon, now beautifully refurbished with a brand new, high-quality kitchen (below) and showers, together with a smart new hall space.



We are also hugely grateful to the **Seventh-day Adventist Church** in Stanley Road Wimbledon, who so generously provided us with a temporary home for two months while the refurbishment work was carried out. Thank you so much!