

# **BCAN Homeless Forum Meeting Notes 10 May 2012 CCM, Carpenter House**

## **Introduction**

### *Present*

Paul Hazelden (CCM), Val Moore (Christ Church, Clifton; St John; Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland), Debs Perkins (Christ Church Breakfast Run) and Ian Webb (Bristol Methodist Centre).

### *Apologies*

Alan Goddard (CCM, Wild Goose), Richard Drake (Julian Trust).

### *Previous Notes*

Correction: the Seminar in September ('What I Wish I Had Known', plus 'Planning for the Future') will be on Wednesday 12 September, not Friday 7 as previously stated.

Otherwise, the notes from the previous meeting were agreed to be accurate.

## **Information share**

### *Bristol Methodist Centre*

Ian reported that the usual things are carrying on. The open access drop in centre is feeding an average 65-70 people a day for the first serving of lunch; in addition, an estimated 20-40 people come each day for a self-service breakfast; so they probably see around 80-100 people a day in the centre.

They have support workers present, not to deal with food but to make people feel welcome and try to help them move on. But they don't spend a lot of time measuring the results; they would rather get on with the work than spend their time counting and recording.

There are a lot of other activities taking place, such as the sewing group, led by two ex-homeless people, Graham and Richard.

The Lord Mayor visited in March, which generated some good publicity.

Some of Ian's time has been spent with a social work student who is on placement with them. This has been a good experience. The student initially disagreed with a lot of what they do, but is now very supportive of the work.

They now have a visiting team to support people who are in prison or hospital or ill. They have trained up some volunteers for this work, but now the Methodist Church says the volunteers need to have enhanced CRB checks before they can undertake this role.

It was noted that the Matthew Tree Project is doing something similar. Outreach Support Care, in partnership with ISR; the Methodist Centre may join their training program.

Ian is working with Kevin from the City Mission on the St Judes church plant, aiming to establish something that will be accessible for the folk who use our services. Every Wednesday at 11 am, a worker and a volunteer will go to the City Mission for prayers, followed by a time of deeper discipleship if appropriate. Also, on the second Sunday of each month at 6 pm, there is a time of worship in the City Mission. In addition, over the past few months there have been a few special services: Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; there have had encouraging numbers attending. Ian will circulate posters for display.

It was noted that Logos House has also started to hold a service on Friday evenings.

### *Breakfast Run*

Debs reported that the numbers for the Breakfast Run are fairly consistent at around 35 people each week

Last Saturday there was a bit of an issue as the church they meet outside has started meeting on a Saturday morning and parking cars in Cannon Street where they normally serve the food; also, someone has posted parking restriction notices in that space. The Lunch Run serves from the back of cars in the same place without problems. In the past, the Breakfast Run used to use the Bear Pit, so if the this might be a possibility for the future.

The church is Jesus Kingdom City Church, led by Pastor Edson Maburutse. It meets in St James Hall, Cannon Street, BS1 3LP.

### *Val*

Christ Church have a few more homeless people hanging around the church at weekends, Val and others try to deter members of the congregation from giving money. Val offers help instead, but this is rejected.

The Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland Lunch Run is serving 60-70 people each Saturday.

St John Ambulance continue providing a clinic at the Julian Trust each Wednesday night. They are always busy, non-stop. Not sure how many people are getting help through the clinic at Compass Health: some people don't like visiting the place, and some just don't like going to see a doctor. A lot of the need is related to mental health. Lots of people need help with their feet, which gives opportunity to talk for a while.

## *Crisis Centre Ministries*

### The Wild Goose

The breaking news is that Chris and Jess, who both work in the Wild Goose, are both planning to move on in the next month or so. It seems like this is good news for them as individuals, but it will involve a lot of work to replace them.

Paul will be recruiting for their jobs, plus a new Office Manager and an Assistant LITE Course Manager.

### Spring of Hope Ladies' Night Shelter

The Night Shelter is going well. The plan is to open on more nights, but they need to recruit more volunteers for this to happen.

### City Road

Redevelopment of 12 City Road is going well, with no more than the usual level of problems and hold ups you expect with building work. The big issue here is that the original application for planning permission has been turned down, despite the guidance and advice that had been received in advance. A new application will probably be submitted shortly, but this will inevitably delay the project.

CCM are still looking for a tenant for the ground floor and basement; if anyone knows of someone who would want to make use of this space, they should contact Paul or the CCM office as soon as possible.

## Business

### *Homeless Survey*

Paul is planning to recruit a new Office Manager, who will have BHF admin as part of their job description; this new person should be able to help do a significant part of the homeless survey admin.

The provisional date for the survey is Monday 5 November for a week, through to Sunday 11 November. If anyone becomes aware of any reason why these dates would not be suitable, please let us know as soon as possible.

Paul will put the survey documents which were updated for the missed survey last year onto the web site for everyone to read and check if they need further modifications.

### *Open Space*

A reminder and update about the three lunchtime events we have planned.

- Thursday 15 March **Seminar - Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults**, Bristol City Mission, Great George Street (11.00 am - 1.00 pm)

This went very well, and the content was very helpful and relevant, but the number

attending was very disappointing.

- Wednesday 6 June **Seminar - Working with Volunteers**, Bristol City Mission, Great George Street (11.00 am - 1.00 pm)
- Wednesday 12 September **Seminar - What I Wish I Had Known, plus Planning for the Future**, Bristol City Mission, Great George Street (11.00 am - 1.00 pm)

### *Summer Closures*

The Julian Trust will be closed from Monday 20 August, and re-open on Monday 3 September this year.

What are other places doing?

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be at Carpenter House again, on Thursday 12 July, starting at 7.30 pm.

---

Copyright © 2012 Crisis Centre Ministries  
Web site: <http://www.crisis-centre.org.uk>  
Author: Paul Hazelden  
Last updated: 11:17 on 14 May 2012  
Location: /home/paul/Dropbox/BHF/BHF\_Meeting\_120510\_Notes.odt