

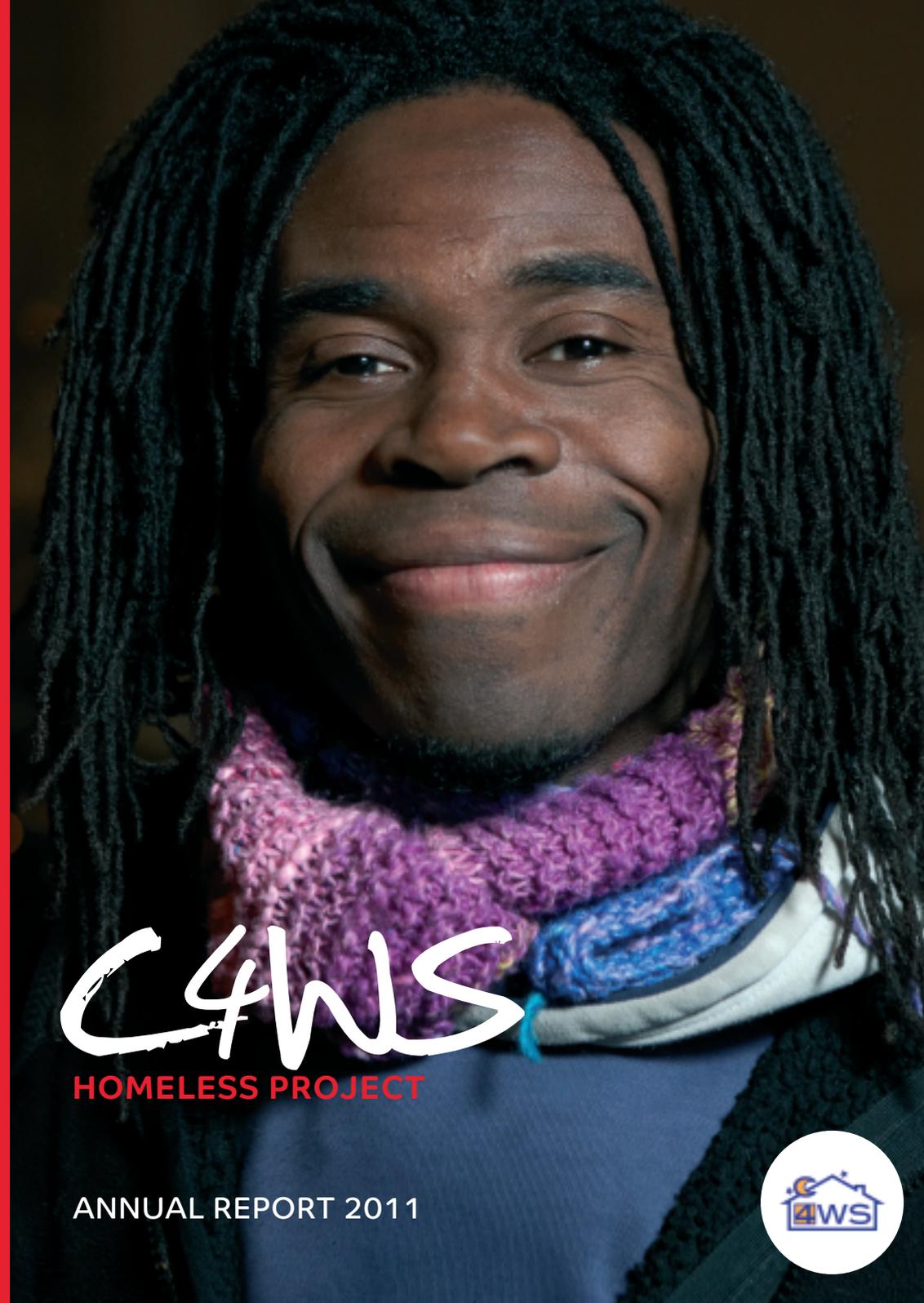


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C4WS
HOMELESS PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



C4WS

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GUESTS

David's Story

C4WS has been a very big help to me. Without it myself and others like me would be lost, addicted to some heavy drugs or alcohol and lose their self esteem. Coming at a certain time and leaving at a certain time is helpful with discipline and punctuality. Meeting other guests from other backgrounds and cultures is good. Everyone is really helpful and friendly. Before coming to the shelter I wouldn't have the will power or motivation to sort things out for myself like doctors, dentists, housing, everything! But with your guys' help it's made everything a lot easier and accessible. If only there were more organisations and people willing to help then life would be a lot better for people in my situation.

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C4WS DOES NOT JUDGE THE REASON FOR THE
NEED, BUT WILL ALWAYS RESPOND TO IT

A SMALLER SOCIETY

In 2010, 44,000 households were `accepted` as homeless in England. They were sharing with other families, occupying spaces in hostels or bed-and-breakfast hotels, squatting in empty houses, or in extreme cases sleeping in the streets. Their number had increased by 10% since the previous year. This increase, despite much political rhetoric, is indication enough that our society is not meeting the problem of homelessness. That will be solved only with a concerted, well-funded government effort to provide the right kind of housing, where it is needed, at appropriate levels of rent and suitable forms of tenure. At the moment, this seems very unlikely to happen. The economic downturn, the government's priorities for funding, and successive waves of disparate social legislation, all presently seem to combine to the disadvantage of those in most need.

Though very problematic now, this is not particularly new. The voluntary sector has a long history of attempting to deal with social issues which cannot be fully

addressed by the state or are not in the interests of the private sector. Even C4WS now has seven years of experience, considerably pre-dating the concept of the `Big Society`.

We cannot ourselves change overall housing policy - though much of our day-to-day experience is valuable in helping us to understand the problems. But what we can do, with our own limited resources and in our own local area, is to create a microcosm of care - in effect to replace the big society with our own small one.

In our early days, when we were the Camden and Clerkenwell Churches Cold Weather Shelter, we were just that - providing shelter and hospitality to a small group of homeless guests during the 13 coldest weeks of winter. We have grown; we now shelter more guests, over a longer, five-month period (though, mindful of our limitations, we do not intend to progress beyond this). But what has also developed over the years is the programme of care which naturally arises out of the simple process of giving shelter: helping to find permanent accommodation for our guests in order to move them on to



another stage of their lives, supporting them through mentoring, offering language classes to the non-English speakers, and offering the hospitality and fellowship of a lunch club.

C4WS is now a year-round programme, and our new name, the `C4WS Homeless Project`, reflects this. Through the great generosity of our donors, to whom we are always grateful, we have been able to employ our two key workers, Jamie Nalton our Project Manager and Amanda Pickering our Welfare Manager, on permanent full-time contracts. As ever, we are grateful to them, to our seasonal Shelter Assistant Kiran Tamang, and to all the church coordinators and

volunteers without whom the project could never take place.

During the year, CARIS Camden too has developed. As well as acting as treasurer and accountant to C4WS, and employing and managing the project workers, CARIS Camden has recently taken over two charitable funds to benefit families with young children in the Camden area, which we hope will be complementary to the work of C4WS. A further step will be taken with the imminent transfer from the Diocese of London of a house in Camden which in the longer term may be used for the benefit of the C4WS Homeless Project.

Bill Risebero, Chair, CARIS Camden

THE JOURNEY OF C4WS

2005
1 JAN

C4WS opened a pilot project, providing the homeless with free shelter accommodation. Seven churches took it in turns to accommodate up to 13 guests per night for 13 weeks, overseen by a part time worker. During this time:

- 93 guests received shelter • 27% moved on to permanent accommodation
- 150 volunteers freely gave their time • A life saving project is born

2006
1 JAN

After a successful pilot project it was agreed to run the shelter again for 13 weeks starting on 1 January 2006, with more resources put towards guest welfare. A p/time advocate worker was employed to help guests find accommodation and access general welfare. During this time:

- 78 guests received shelter • 39% assisted in finding accommodation • 200 volunteers freely gave their time
- Strong foundations are being set for the future

2008
JAN

In 2008 when the whole country is starting to worry about the effects of a looming financial crisis. C4WS steps up a gear and with a leap faith employs 3 staff members to manage, provide welfare and fundraise for the project. During this time:

- 305 requests were received for a bed space • 103 guests received shelter over 3 months • 87% of willing guests are found accommodation

2007
JAN

We opened our doors in January 2007 and the need for the shelter and welfare for the guests was in great demand. 2 workers were employed to assist the churches and provide guest welfare. During this time:

- 82 guests received shelter • 40% moved on to permanent accommodation
- More of the Camden community get involved and see the benefit of the project

2008
DEC

It's the end of 2008 and for the first time the same project coordinator and welfare coordinator from the season before have been employed and a new p/time shelter assistant. This enables us to have our best year ever in terms of fundraising and we recruit more churches so we can open for 4 months. During this time:

- 90 guests receive shelter • Each guest is given an individual welfare package
- 91% of guest who engage are found accommodation

2010
JAN

Its season 6 and like many others we are starting to feel the financial pinch and have to say good bye to a valued employee. We brush ourselves down and are determined to provide shelter and welfare for 4 of the coldest winter months. The results of this year really show the dedication and hard work of all involved. During this time:

- Over 300 volunteers take part in our work • CARIS Camden become our supporting trustees
- 96% of willing guests are found accommodation • We raise all of the funds needed with reserves for the following year • We start to plan how we can fill the massive hole that will be left from the statutory cuts

NOV 2010/2011
- beyond
Please read on...

ROLES OF STAFF

As a small project we are always looking at ways of keeping our costs to a minimum. One of the ways we do this is by employing only two full time members of staff. Our dedicated team of volunteers provide all other support and help.

The Project Manager (PM) is responsible for the overall management of C4WS Homeless Project. This involves equipping and

supporting the churches, community and volunteers involved in making a project like ours possible.

The C4WS Welfare Manager (WM) is responsible for all welfare relating to C4WS guests. The WM heads the mentoring and befriending scheme and offers support to any homeless person that accesses our services all year round.



“When we write these reports I always hope to show the true heart of C4WS and how grateful we are to the hundreds

of individuals who make this project so unique in its ability to bring a wide section of the community of Camden together to provide warmth to those in need. If you are finding out about C4WS for the first time I hope you come away with a true sense of all we do. If you are a volunteer, guest, funder, church leader, trustee or agency I hope we have done you justice (although I fear we would have to write a telephone book to do so). Thank you to Amanda who makes coming to work easy. Enjoy reading.”

Jamie Nalton, C4WS Project Manager



“I feel very excited to be part of a project that is innovative and responsive in its approach to the need of homeless people.

At its heart C4WS truly cares about people. Going into my fourth season of this project I have seen how much we have grown and are now able to take the step to be a service that can be offered to homeless people all year round. I would like to thank CARIS, all the churches, volunteers and guests, without whom C4WS would not exist. I would especially like to thank the Project Manager who makes working for C4WS Homeless Project an absolute pleasure. I cannot wait to see how we progress this year with our new ventures and consolidating existing services to reach more and more homeless people and in turn hopefully make a difference in their lives!”

Amanda Pickering, C4WS Welfare Manager

OUR SHELTER

As a project that receives no council or government funding we are very proud of and grateful too all the different Christian and community groups that make C4WS a sustainable project every year.

There are many different parts of the C4WS family that contribute to making our project the very best it can be. We are a project made from a caring community. Words cannot really express how grateful we are to the contribution and commitment of those involved.

BOUNDARIES FOR GUESTS

The safety of our guests and volunteers is our primary concern and so we cannot admit anyone to C4WS who is not prepared to respect the following conditions of our hospitality:

1. NO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OR OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE
2. NO CONTROLLED DRUGS
3. NO ALCOHOL
4. ADHERE TO TIMETABLE



SHELTER TIMETABLE

6:30pm	Evening Volunteers & Cooks arrive
7:30pm	Doors Open, guests sign in and are given a bed
8:00pm	Deadline for all 14 booked in guests to sign in
8:20pm	Dinner starts

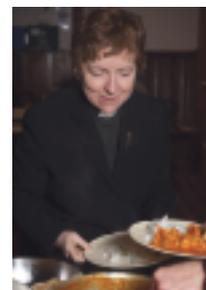
After dinner guests can chill out, chat, play games, sleep, wash, read & watch TV

11:00pm	Lights out
7:00am	Breakfast team arrive
7:15am	Lights on, Guests are woken up
7:45am	Breakfast starts
8:45am	Doors close

“Has been a real benefit to me when I needed it the most. Made a real difference.” Guest

CHURCHES

We have a total of 12 Churches from different denominations providing accommodation to our guests; this can be in the church itself or a church hall. As a Christian project we believe that churches and Christians have a huge part to play in helping those in need. With the support of the PM the churches are responsible for funding and providing a safe space for 14 guests to sleep, have bathroom and washing facilities with toiletries available and to provide food for dinner and breakfast. In addition to the 12 churches which provide the actual premises for a shelter we have various church and community groups that are sent to other venues, provide funding, pray for C4WS and generally give help wherever they can. All of them provide this free of charge and many see it as part of their mission work to be involved. Thank you so much to the church leaders and parish committees for your continued support and being part of C4WS.



“St Mary Magdalene’s, Munster Square has now been hosting C4WS on a Saturday night for four years. Although at the start there was a degree of apprehension and even resistance to the idea, it is now firmly established as an annual fixture in the church’s calendar. This year we were joined by a large number of postgraduate students and staff members from Goodenough College as well as the usual welcome contribution by the priest and people of Holy Cross, Cromer Street.

The Shelter has enabled people of all ages from the whole local community to be involved in many different ways and the generosity of so many people has been inspiring.”
Father Martin

Guest feedback score out of 10

Food	9
Bedding	9
Entertainment	8
Shelter set up	9
Warmth	9
Atmosphere	9

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the life and soul of C4WS. This project would not exist without their support, many of whom have been with us from our humble beginnings and tell us they cannot wait until the next shelter season starts. With over 300 volunteers taking part this year, it has enabled us to give our guests a first class service yet again. There is an average team of 15-20 volunteers at each shelter night/morning, the majority of which will come from the host church themselves with others from the wider community. Each team is led by a church coordinator whose role is, with guidance from the PM to allocate jobs to the volunteers. This includes putting together a dining area and washing up but most importantly talking and being with the guests. Everybody is on first name terms and there are no personal questions asked but fellowship is encouraged which makes the night into one of community rather than a 'them' and 'us' environment.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers. You truly make a massive difference to the guests' lives.



All volunteers are trained before they start a shift at the shelter and are made aware of our policies and procedures. They are then asked to sign an agreement before starting their first shift.

"I loved all of the volunteers. They are friendly and it is fun to spend time with them."

Guest

A volunteer story by Ben and Faith Morgan

Ben Morgan - My wife and I started helping out at C4WS in November '09 after hearing about it from our Church Elder.

Faith Morgan - Walking through London and witnessing the large number of homeless people, I was feeling quite frustrated that I didn't know an effective or safe way to help or support them. Volunteering at C4WS sounded to me like a great way to be able to do this in a safe environment.

BM - We thought it would be good to give our time and energy into helping out at the shelter on a regular evening shift as it was clear that they needed volunteers and not just donations.

FM - Also we didn't really have much to give financially but we were more than happy to give up some of our free time towards something so worthwhile.

BM - The first thing that struck me was just how normal people were. I was one of many who, when thinking about homeless people, automatically conjured up thoughts of people suffering from drink and drug addictions. However the people in front of us were just regular folk, down on their luck and in need of a helping hand. In fact I found I got on with practically all who stayed at C4WS. It felt more like a social club than a homeless shelter, with all sorts of games and conversations on the go. I found dominoes the most popular, breaking through the language barrier nicely with many of the guests having English as a second language.

FM - For myself, not being much of a games person, I found there was plenty of practical stuff I could get stuck into, from setting tables to making beds to cooking dinner to serving the guests

with tea and coffee. I especially enjoyed doing all the extra little bits like baking little cakes or setting the dinner tables with specially folded napkins or laying out a display of gifts like knitted hats and gloves and toiletries that had been donated to the shelter. I found it really rewarding to know I was blessing the guests and helping to make them as comfortable and happy as possible when going through such a distressing and scary time.

BM - It quickly got to the point where I looked forward to Thursday evenings and playing dominoes with the guys. Spending time with the group each week led to real friendships being formed and this proved to be one of the hardest things about C4WS. I'd find that I would look forward to seeing people but realised that seeing them each week would mean they were still on the street. It proved to be quite challenging but the pleasure I got from finding out that people were getting housed and set up trumped all the fun we had hands down.

FM - It was really great every week hearing reports of who had left us to find housing and get set up with work! One of my favourite memories from the 2 years we have been with C4WS was an evening when Jamie told us about a guest who, like me, was a dancer. C4WS had helped him set himself up with not only accommodation but also the means and venue to run his own dance classes so he could support himself properly! I loved hearing all the stories of people we had had a part in helping settle, but this one really stuck out for me.

BM and FM - Working with C4WS has been one of the most rewarding experiences we have had and we look forward to working with them again for many years to come.

COMMUNITY

Very early on we realised that there were many community groups wanting to get involved in some sort of social action in Camden and for some we were a match made in Heaven. From our side, the more resources we can pull together, the more beneficial it is to our guests. It is also a great way to raise awareness among all the age groups in Camden. For the community groups, it gives them an opportunity to get involved in a charity at a ground level and really see what a difference they are making. Each year various groups are getting involved, ranging from junior schools who provide goodie and wash bags for the guests, bakeries providing breakfast, universities putting together volunteer groups, local artists arranging galleries for C4WS and so much more.



The following was written by Mel who helped lead a student group from University College London in taking responsibility for several shelter nights in Camden.

“Volunteering at the Cold Weather Shelter was a valuable and thought-provoking experience. The relaxed and informal atmosphere at the shelter encourages a warm and welcoming environment where people mingle and get chatting about anything from the weather to the housing system to the ins and outs of hostel life. As a lead volunteer, I was also able to listen to different volunteer’s impressions which were often fresh perspectives on difficult circumstances. I know the guests enjoyed having students with them; it ‘kept them young’ as one man said, and it’s always interesting to hear stories from the medical and veterinary dissection rooms! The shelter couldn’t work as well without the great management and co-ordination of Jamie and Amanda; people who really believe in what they’re doing. All over, a great experience!”

CARIS CAMDEN

CARIS (Christian Action Response In Society) is a registered charity 1121919. Through a team of dedicated trustees they give their time freely providing governance in the form of accounts, employment, legal responsibility and insurance to the C4WS Homeless Project. They support and line manage the C4WS staff and are always on hand to give guidance. Their role is an invaluable one and CARIS are one of the main reasons for the continued success and good health of C4WS.



“I have really enjoyed every minute as I have had a really good sleep every night.”

Guest

“As I’d been in the street, I can value a bed and dinner. So one of the greatest experiences of my life.” Guest

WELFARE AT C4WS HOMELESS PROJECT

Here at C4WS our intention is to offer welfare support to every person who requires it. This can range from something as simple as referring someone to the doctor to helping them establish or in some cases re-establish their life. There is **no time limit** put on how long we will support somebody, however **we do require every person to engage with the support we are offering.** We feel we would be doing people a disservice if everything was done for them and hope that we can equip people to be able to do for themselves in the future what they need help with in the present.

Welfare to all those who access C4WS Homeless Project is offered in a variety of ways:

- C4WS Night Shelter - Intensive welfare support whilst staying as a guest at the shelter
- C4WS Mentoring Scheme - offered through a trained volunteer mentor
- Lunch time club - offered to anybody that requires it
- Ongoing welfare support all year round

WELFARE @ C4WS NIGHT SHELTER

The WM meets with a guest after 1 or 2 nights in the shelter (often to give guests a chance to settle in) and assesses their needs.

The WM then works alongside the guest to see how C4WS can support them in any of the following:

- Sourcing and referring to appropriate accommodation providers
- Helping acquire primary sources of ID such as a birth certificate or passport



- Writing references for housing applications
- Making National Insurance Number applications
- Helping guests with benefit claims (existing or new ones)
- Helping to find education opportunities
- Assisting with looking for volunteering / training opportunities
- Helping guests to find employment by helping with job searches, CV's, applications, interview techniques etc

Many other situations arise in a guest's time with us, which the WM responds to as and when they come up. This may be looking into an alcohol Detox program, helping a guest to relocate family or looking for a counsellor.

“Enjoyable and welcoming with kind hearted, good spirited people and helpful guidance and housing service.” Guest

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU HAD TO DO ALL OF THIS... HOMELESS?

Number of guests who were helped with these problems shown in circles



These are just some of things a homeless person needs to do to get back on their feet and this is where the C4WS Homeless Project comes alongside them to assist. We do not do the work for them but equip them to be able to do it themselves.

* C4WS gave out over 150 bus saver tickets, 40 weekly passes and 30 daily passes to help guests make journeys for essential appointments.

Blema

All my life I have wanted to dance. After recovering from breaking my lower back and being paralysed due to the help of an alternative health therapist, I felt I had been given a second chance in life, as the hospital had given up on me recovering fully. With his help I more than recovered and in 2010 was called by Simon Cowell's company about dancing in a kind of promotion/advert for their show which I did, as I had just started dancing again. I thought that it was a good start, although I was told they could not pay me for it.

As I was brought up to believe that dancing and sports were evil and I was therefore an evil person as I wanted to be an athlete, I danced in secret coming 4th in a world breakdance championship and doing adverts for MTV and music videos for artists like George Michael. After my mother died and my brother became schizophrenic mysteriously, I lost my family as only my mother supported me, due to my passion for dancing and sport. I felt very isolated and alone and I soon found myself homeless. I think due to depression I was an easy target for physical attacks. After being attacked at gunpoint in my area for my money, which I only survived due to the police turning up at the last minute, and as where I was last living I could not relax or

feel comfortable due to the drug and alcohol and mental problems of the other residents in the house. I decided that I should leave the area and soon found myself homeless due to lack of money and depression. Ironically while I was homeless I felt a lot better. However I knew I could not make myself financially stable from living on the street which was very depressing at Christmas time .

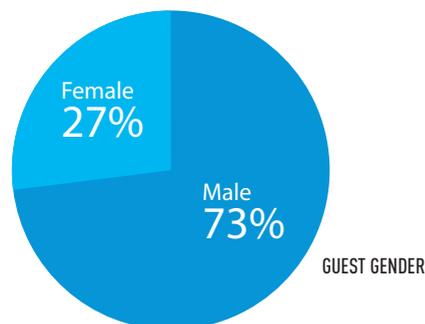
When Jamie called and said I had a place at the shelter, I felt as though I had been saved, although I was apprehensive at first. After seeing how warm, friendly and caring the atmosphere and people running the winter shelter were, I felt like I had been saved by God and was very surprised to find more people who could offer so much care and support. I felt like I had been given, yet again, another chance.

Since being given a place on the winter shelter I have been helped to get a studio flat and am waiting to start dance work which I have been offered by a number of companies. I would like to say thank-you although words cant express how grateful and happy I am for the help I have received from C4WS.

OUR GUESTS

As always, our guests came from all different walks of life, nationalities, and backgrounds and bring to the project their own experiences.

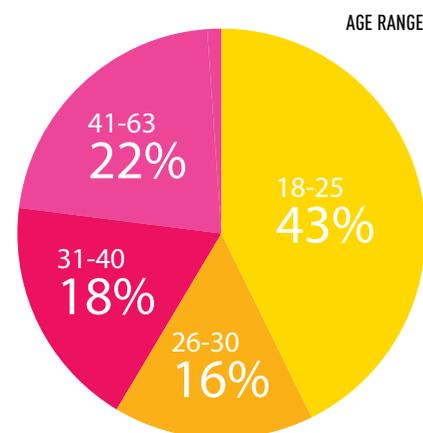
More than ever this year we had many guests with complex and sometimes multiple support needs. This often meant that some guests needed more intensive support from the WM and PM for a period of a time. What was of interest was how **the atmosphere of the shelter was still one of calm despite such diverse issues that people were dealing with.** Even those who were extremely vulnerable and frightened when they first came to us, were able with the support of our volunteers and staff to engage with the help we were offering. We saw an improvement in some way whether it be their confidence, self belief, or just getting through the day with relatively few problems.



Support Needs of Guests	No of guests
Lack of English speaking skills	18
Mental Health	13
Physical health	7
Alcohol misuse	5
Repeat offending	4
Gambling	2
Learning difficulties	2
Drug misuse	1

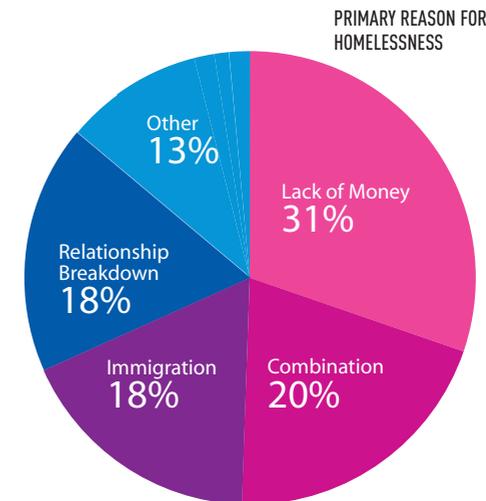
C4WS received **348** calls for a bed space and **88** people stayed with us. This means the need for our service was **FOUR** times greater than we could accommodate. It also highlights the issue of how many people would be on the street without our service and others like ours.

- As in previous years we had more male guests than females and their ages were very similar.
- We saw a 4% decrease in guests between 18 and 25 from last year and a 4% increase in guests between 26 and 30 compared to last season.
- Each year we ask guests what they believe is the primary reason for their homelessness. The feedback was very similar to season



6 results. However lack of money dropped by 9% but was still the top reason for homelessness with relationship breakdown increasing by 6%.

- **31%** of our guests were British, compared with 22% last year. Those from A8 (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia) and A2 countries (Romania and Bulgaria) had dropped significantly from 26% to 11%. Many of our referral agencies had noted a significant drop in people from these countries using their service, hence fewer referrals to our project. It will be interesting to see the impact the changes in law will have on those from A8 countries who now have the same rights as other countries in the EU, meaning they no longer have to register for the Workers Registration Scheme to work in the UK and do not have to work for a



year under this scheme before they can apply for benefits. They will still however have to satisfy the right to reside test and the habitual residency test.

- The average stay of guests was exactly the same as last year at **23** nights, the longest staying **96** nights. **37%** of guests stayed **29** nights or more.
- There was a slight (4%) increase from last season in those who had a criminal record to 17% and three people had been in prison multiple times which was not the case last year.
- 70% of guests had access to benefits (10% more than last year), which helped when looking at accommodation options. **25%** had no recourse to public funds (compared with 33% last year).

OUR GUESTS

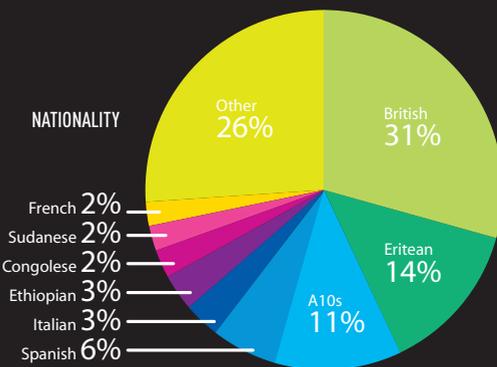
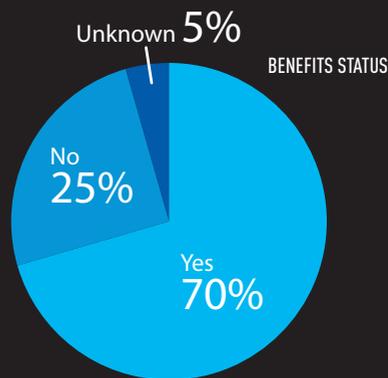
Referral Agencies

New Horizons Youth Centre	Shelter
Alone in London	Focus Mental Health Team
Office	House of St Barnabas
Hope Worldwide	London Irish Centre
Camden Health Improvement Practice	SANKTUS
Whitechapel Mission	Manna Centre
American Church Soup Kitchen	Notre Dame Refugee Centre
Women at the Well	St Mary Centre
Housing Options	Dawson Cornwell Solicitors
ICCWS	Terrence Higgins Trust
Holy Cross Crypt Trust	Growth
Action 4 Employment	London Jesus Centre
184 Project	Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture

There seemed to be less people claiming Job Seekers Allowance this season (66% compared with 81% last year), there was an increase of 8% in people claiming Employment Support Allowance and a 3% increase in claiming Income Support.

- In terms of the type of accommodation people moved into there was a big drop of 15% from last season of people living with friends to 9%. There was an increase of 13% from season 6 in people moving into hostels and B&B's to 43%. 23% of guests moved into the private rented sector, 9% moved into specialist accommodation and others moved into job's led accommodation or returned home.

- 31% of those who wanted a job and engaged in our service we helped into employment.



STARTER PACK SCHEME

As our guests tell us finding accommodation is only the beginning of life after homelessness. We are committed to helping our guests with the next stage of their lives. A powerful way we do this is through our starter pack scheme, which enables us to help turn somebody's accommodation into his or her home in a very short space of time.

Once accommodation has been found for a guest they are asked to come up with a wish list of items they feel they need to be able to start functioning in their new home. Provided from The **Hampstead Wells** and **Campden Trust** we can offer kitchen utensils, microwaves, pots, pans, kettles, irons, vacuum cleaners and cleaning equipment.

We also give each guest a small budget to be able to buy furniture at a reduced cost through the **ReStore Community Project**. We buy essential items such as duvets, pillows, bed sheets etc and also a starter food hamper containing essentials so the guests have food for the first couple of weeks.

We are very grateful to The Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust for providing us with the means to be able to help so many people in this way.

 "To be able to turn a space into a home and not worry about food was amazing. I feel able to start my new life in the right way" Guest

 "The Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust support C4WS with grants and starter packs because of the great work they do in supporting those who are in need, suffer hardship and distress." Sheila Taylor, Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust

C4WS MENTORING & BEFRIENDING SCHEME

In September 2010 the C4WS Mentoring & Befriending scheme was launched as a pilot in response to the increasing number of guests of the C4WS night shelter requiring support with the next stage of their lives. This resulted in 2 training days for mentors, 10 mentors successfully going through the application process and 3 mentoring relationships that are currently in full swing.

Now that the C4WS Homeless Project offers support to homeless people all year round the mentoring and befriending scheme is available to any homeless or previously homeless person who requires support around the following:

- Life skills support which centres on independent living skills e.g. learning how to cook, how to integrate into the community
- Tenancy support (including how to pay bills and budgeting)
- Employment support - helping to apply for jobs, writing CV's, interview techniques

- Educational support - Helping to look for and apply for courses

- Social support - for many mentees their mentor is the only person they will regularly see in a week who can offer social support

- Addressing the issue of homelessness and how to stay out of the cycle of homelessness

Without the support this scheme provides many former homeless people can find their 'new life' overwhelming and not know where to turn. **The C4WS Homeless Project is about more than just accommodating people.** It's about helping them with the entirely different struggles and obstacles they will face once off the streets. A mentor is there to help with this process of adjustment and more than anything to be a listening ear as this mentor found...

"I am not sure what my thoughts were after I finished the training to be a mentor. I suppose I had ideas of a mentee with problems with English, as many guests had. I also suppose I thought that I could help

step by step with basic tasks. Being totally honest, I am sure I had some glowing do-gooder idea of myself, as many of us do when we volunteer.

"All this changed when I met Gavin. First of all Gavin is English and grew up near where I raised my children. Then he is very capable, fiercely independent, resourceful and intelligent. Our first coffee together was spent discussing our foreign travels (he has travelled more than me!), different cultures, politics and life in general.

"Over the months we met weekly and I saw the ups and downs of trying to rebuild a life after homelessness. He had struggles with the hostel where he was living, he had a job interview that did not work out and of course had the continuous strain of never having enough money. After every setback, though, Gavin would pick himself up and go back to the struggle again.

"So where was my role as mentor? What happened to this do-gooder? In a humbling way I realised that all I could do was continue to meet with Gavin and listen. I hoped that by listening to his journey without judging, I could help him clarify his goals and then decide how to move on. The ups and downs of Gavin's life continue, but I feel certain he will find a way to create the future he wants because he is prepared to work hard and is determined to keep going."



AGENCIES

House of St Barnabas (HoSB)

"HoSB offers a unique Life Skills Programme to homeless individuals and have been working with C4WS over the past two years, to deliver an excellent service to our shared client group. Throughout this time, C4WS have proven themselves to be a fantastic resource for sector information and available services, and a highly professional partner for co-referrals. The staff at HoSB and C4WS regularly share good practice and consult as to the best course of action with particular service-users. We have always found the team at C4WS to be positive, engaged and dedicated to their guiding principles. Staff at HoSB have undertaken a series of shadowing shifts at the shelter, and have volunteered on a number of occasions to help with the set-up and cooking: the energy and enthusiasm shown by C4WS has always made this a hugely enjoyable experience and has built ever-stronger relationships between the two charities."

C4WS ENGLISH CLASSES

Shortly after the C4WS shelter opened its doors in November 2010 it became apparent one of the biggest needs of the guests was to improve their English skills. Many had recently arrived in the UK either as economic migrants or asylum seekers and had very limited or sometimes no spoken or written English skills. Some had been here years and still struggled with their English. When asked if we could refer them to English classes it became apparent that due to funding cuts across statutory and some charitable organisations this service was not as easy to find as in recent years. The added problem came with the majority of English classes being very expensive for those that could not subsidise them by being able to access benefits. There simply were not enough free English classes for those who desperately needed them.

We decided to respond to this need by starting our own English classes once a week for anybody who was homeless or needed to improve their English to enable them to integrate into society, access education, put themselves forward



for jobs and generally improve their skills. We believe that learning English should be a right to anyone. By providing this service we are empowering and giving people the tools they need to have the best chance to succeed in their life in the UK.

With government plans to cut funding for English classes, making them inaccessible to those who need them the most, our service is needed more than ever. Therefore we will be aiming to offer English classes all year round as long as there is a need.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

All the guests that access the C4WS Homeless Project are offered welfare support, however some instances require us to go the extra mile, as these following case studies will show...

When **Patryk** came to C4WS Night Shelter he had nothing - no home, no job, no English skills, an alcohol problem and he had just lost his father. He had high ambitions though. He wanted to go to college, gain qualifications and work to provide for himself. Due to the complex nature of Patryk's circumstances he stayed at the C4WS Night Shelter for 3 months so that we could help him work through all his requirements and needs. **In this time we helped him to register with a GP, get a free eye test and prescription glasses, register him with a dentist who would sort out his extensive dental problems, obtain different educational certificates to enable him to compete in the UK job market, provide him with travel so he could get to his various appointments, open a bank account and access English classes.** 6 months on, Patryk is working part time, is being accommodated by a friend, has obtained various educational certificates, has gone through several dental operations and is looking forward to one day having a home of his own. He will always thank C4WS for allowing him the opportunity to smile proudly.

Daniel was at his wits end. He had fled severe torture in his home country, could not speak a word of English and spent the first 3 days at the shelter crying and being completely non responsive. He didn't eat, sleep, speak or shower. He had fled his home office accommodation, which was provided to him while he was waiting for a decision about his asylum claim because he was being threatened by other tenants. He found himself homeless, physically and mentally ill and extremely afraid. He had contemplated suicide on many occasions as a way of escaping his current circumstances and had actively been trying to end his own life. Despite all of this somehow Daniel navigated his way to a C4WS shelter where he was shown hospitality by the amazing C4WS volunteers who were all understandably concerned for his wellbeing. By working with FOCUS (community mental health team) and Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture we were able to support Daniel in getting medication for his severe PTSD, paranoia and anxiety issues. We attended the hospital with him, and doctor's appointments and provided free travel for him to get

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

around. Although he continued to be affected by the trauma he had experienced, after staying at the C4WS night shelter for a while and interacting with the staff, volunteers and support offered he began to smile (we counted two on record), communicate with a few words of English, eat, sleep and look after himself. On the last day of the shelter he was re-accommodated by the home office. We are confident that if Daniel was left on the streets to fight his own battles he would not have survived.



James is an intimidating looking guy, but one of the most charming you'll ever meet. James has been in jail more times than he can remember for committing various crimes. His upbringing was horrendous and as a result he has struggled with drug addictions and mental illness but still wants to make the best he can of his life. With our help James moved into a one-bedroom apartment in North London and decided he would like to work. He found himself a job and was doing really well for himself. Then it all went quiet... All of a sudden we lost all contact with James and couldn't get hold of him for a couple of weeks. Then we got word that he was in prison. In many

ways the story could have ended there but we believed that whatever reason he was in prison for was not enough for us to stop working with him. So we contacted him. We discovered he couldn't handle life on the outside so had intentionally committed a crime to get himself back into a situation which was comfortable and 'normal' to him. He was extremely apologetic for 'letting us down'. We are continuing to support James in his journey, which admittedly took an unexpected turn. For the rest of his jail sentence and once released we will continue to be there for James in whatever way he requests. We do not believe on giving up on somebody, **ever.**

LUNCH TIME CLUB

In partnership with Kings Cross Methodist Church we host a lunch time club every Friday. This is open to our current or former guests and anyone homeless or in need in the area who would like to receive a meal with good company. This time gives us a chance to catch up and continue welfare with previous guests, engage with the local community and share who we are. For the Methodist church it enables them to also connect with the

diverse population of Kings Cross. We hope to build on what we have started and with Kings Cross now the point of arrival for many from Europe and next year's Olympics we will be here to connect with anybody who would like to share food, warmth, prayer, or just friendship.



TRAINEESHIP

Over the years we have been asked by former guests and people close to our work whether we would consider offering a job to somebody who had been previously homeless or affected by homelessness. We are very pleased to say that for the first time we were able to do this in season 7 and offered somebody the opportunity to have six months paid work within our project.

The aim was that this person would firstly regain work skills but also be able to have training and support to work within the homeless/housing sector in the future. Anybody was free to apply for this role although we did require the following from them:

- They were addiction free
- Had stable accommodation
- Had commitment
- Had compassion
- Had a willingness to learn

The stand out candidate was **Kiran Tamang**. He came with all of the above and as we were to find out so much more. We cannot praise Kiran enough for his contribution towards our work in season 7. We wish him

the very best for the future and are positive that he has a big role to play in social action. This is his story...

“A little over two years ago I had found myself in a situation that was totally foreign to me. Through taking a few wrong turns I found myself isolated from my family with whom I had lived with my whole life, going through a mental breakdown, criminal charges and trying to get clean from my own addiction issues. I was totally alone for the first time and needless to say it was a scary situation. Through the grace of God my life steered me into the direction of people who had been in the situation I was in, they had through fellowship and support come to a place where they were living a more independent way of life and it was here my journey started.

“When I first heard about the position at C4WS, I was instantly drawn to it as I had some experience volunteering with the West London Shelter. I remember thinking my chances were minimal but I sent the application anyway. Soon after I received a call and was invited to the interview. This had been my first interview into paid



work for a while and I remember going away thinking that somebody else would get the job but later that day I received a call offering me the job. It took a while to sink it but I was very happy; personally from seeing where I had been and the fact that through faith and hard work I had managed to turn my life around and step into another role of trust and responsibility.

“My first day was spent getting to know the team, I was kind of worried that I’d be a third wheel and how I would fit in but I was put at ease from the moment go. I went along with Jamie to some volunteer training sessions and met some of the coordinators.

“Once the shelter started in November it was all hands on deck

and I relished the opportunity of meeting and working with the guests, the part of the job I love the most.

“The C4WS team have been very supportive of me from the very start. They taught me how to be professional, respecting all the rules and boundaries of the organisation but at the same time gave me the freedom to be myself. I personally felt like part of the family from very early on and actually enjoyed coming into work. Through their mentorship I have been able to make the next step in my journey and although my “contract” may have come to an end I will always be a part of the C4WS family and look forward to coming back to lend a hand in the next season and beyond.

“I wish to whomever takes on the role next season the best of luck and my only advice is to keep an open mind and believe in yourself. Thank You!”

We are happy to announce that due to the success of the pilot scheme we will be offering a similar role and opportunity to someone who has experienced homelessness or has a passion for and would like to work in the sector through our paid traineeship.

American Church Soup Kitchen

“During the winter months (2010-11) it was a relief for staff and volunteers to be able to refer our guests directly to C4WS. We found that working directly with the C4WS Project Manager meant that we could assess potential guests together, get advice for guests who were not eligible and keep up-to-date on bed spaces. C4WS’ friendly approach meant that we could also communicate regularly about guests who were at the shelter to better support them.

“We referred several guests, one of whom was particularly vulnerable but very ambitious.

C4WS’ Welfare Manager was able to tap into his potential and to support him to reach his goal of finding accommodation and getting a job. C4WS also continued supporting this guest through their mentoring project, even when everything in his life didn’t go to plan. We’ve also benefited from the Starter Pack Scheme, which has helped some of our guests make their accommodation feel more homely, stable and permanent.

“Staff at the Soup Kitchen look forward to working with C4WS this upcoming winter.”

Focus

“Focus provide an outreach service to single homeless mentally ill people and work closely together with C4WS whilst the shelter is open. It was helpful that prior to the shelter opening, Amanda attended our team meeting to give us all the information we needed to know, such as referral criteria and how to refer. I myself had a number of clients stay at the shelter. Staff

were always quick to respond to my messages, and there was continuous effective communication between the two of us on how the client was. We also felt that staff were flexible in being able to attend appointments at Focus when needed, and showed good understanding with the clients. I look forward to working with them again later in the year.”

SUPPORT TO OTHER CHARITIES

At C4WS we are committed to supporting other charities that may benefit from our infrastructure and experience. The support we offer ranges from sharing our policies and procedures, providing volunteer training and guidance to new church shelters, giving other projects access to our starter packs and in any other way they may feel they would benefit. We do not charge for these services as we do not claim to have all the answers to the ever changing homelessness scene or indeed the resources to help as many people as we would like. Therefore the more projects we support the more people will benefit that are in need. Here are a few words from projects we have supported in the past.

“C4WS stands out as an established and exemplary model of the Church night shelter system. GrowTH our shelter in Tower Hamlets, was new this year and Jamie and the team were invaluable in the support, practical help and wisdom. We worked closely together on a number of clients and I was struck by the care and professionalism that characterises their ethos. As one of the longer-running shelters, C4WS now does much to support new shelters in starting up. This role has a huge impact in the fight against homelessness beyond Camden’s borders. Indeed, without this support GrowTH 2010-2011 would not have succeeded in the way we did. Thank you.”

Ollie, Project Coordinator, GrowTH



“In 2007 a few Christians in High Wycombe were concerned about the plight of homeless people in the town and wanted to do something about it but weren’t quite sure where to begin. Rev Paul Willis had previously volunteered at C4WS and suggested contacting them for advice. A small group paid a visit to Camden and were inspired by what they saw. C4WS went on to share their policy documents, volunteer handbook and other vital advice and information, enabling the shelter in Wycombe to get off to a flying start. Wycombe Winter Night Shelter (WWNS) opened its doors in Jan 2008, closely modelled on the shelter at Camden. Since then over 150 people have stayed at the annual winter shelters and an equal number have been helped by the year-round work which aims to help homeless people rebuild their lives. In addition, the example of generosity shown by C4WS to Wycombe has been passed on as we have been able to encourage others in setting up shelters in surrounding areas.”

Ali Preston Project Coordinator
Wycombe Homeless Connection
(formerly Wycombe Winter Night Shelter)

“Westminster Churches Winter Shelter (WCWS) opened its doors for the first time in January 2011. With the help of C4WS, we trained 35 volunteers who coordinated and hosted 4 shelters over 7 weeks. C4WS ran a training workshop with our teams which covered: issues relating to homelessness, befriending, supporting and establishing healthy boundaries with rough sleepers staying in the shelter, dos and don’ts as volunteers, managing conflict, dealing with drugs, alcohol or anti-social behaviour amongst guests, partnering with local service providers and signposting guests to any relevant services, nurturing good team and guest dynamics, and praying for each of the guests and the shelter as volunteers. C4WS generously supplied us with our first 20 sleeping bags and their contacts for sourcing mattresses and further sleeping bags. WCWS is extremely grateful to Jamie and C4WS for their help and encouragement in setting up the Westminster shelter. We couldn’t have done it without you! Thank you!”

Rev Annie Kirke, Westminster Churches Winter Shelter

FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Fund-raising dinner and wine-tasting. On 9th November 2010, the first of what we hope will be many fund-raising dinner and wine-tasting events took place to help raise money for C4WS' mentoring and befriending scheme. The dinner was held at The Kentish Canteen www.kentishcanteen.co.uk, courtesy of owners Wendy and Owen Crinnigan who very generously waived their profits for the night. The wines were donated by Bibendum Wines and Jancis Robinson, the Financial Times' wine correspondent, gave us a tutored tasting and shared her passion for wine with the 65 participants.



A total of **£3,812.50** was raised for C4WS, including proceeds from a raffle held on the night. The evening was a huge success as well as being an opportunity for participants to share good food and wine with friends while raising money for C4WS which provides an increasingly important lifeline to for those who are homeless in Camden during the winter months.

Sarah Barclay and Rebecca Lander.

One of our volunteers, **Susanne Griffin** went to see a stage show called Woody Sez and on impulse asked the cast if they would like to come along and sing some songs to raise money for C4WS. Amazingly they agreed, The concert was held in The Old St Pancras Church and was a wonderful night. It goes to show what one person with one idea can do! Thank you Susanne and to all involved.

Helen took part in the Chester Marathon Run to raise money for C4WS. This is not the first time she

has done so and we are very grateful for all her efforts to support C4WS and the work we do.

Jamie Nalton, C4WS Project Manager decided to do a bit of fundraising himself and along with a group of students (yes he was the oldest) ran up Tower 42 (183 metres) to raise money for the project.

We would like to thank everybody who had the heart to raise funds for C4WS this season, which totalled **£5,633.68!**

AGENCIES

Medical Foundation for the Care Victims of Torture

"The amazing scheme that is offered by C4WS should be celebrated! The warm shelter, the meals and the support given by the C4WS team give people back their dignity. They literally save people's lives and help them through the recovery and establishment process. The welcoming, non judgmental and supportive people of C4WS should be cloned (if possible).

"Thank you Amanda and the team for your great work."

GUESTS

Danny

Not long before I came to the cold weather shelter I was enjoying a pretty normal life. I had a decent job and was living with my girlfriend. I lost my job and very soon after I split up with my girlfriend. I had to move out and didn't have anywhere to go. After making some phone calls for emergency accommodation I was referred to C4WS. When I first arrived at the shelter I was unsure about staying there, I just saw lots of beds and strangers in one room. I had never been in a situation like this before so it was a bit of a shock to me and I had no other choice but to stay there. After the first night it didn't seem so bad and as the days went on some of those strangers became friends. The volunteers at the shelter were really nice people who talked listened and catered for us, some of them had been in the same situation before so it was encouraging for me to hear their stories and progress. I found the facilities at the

shelter very good overall as I was able to sleep well and shower frequently. I also thought the food was to a good standard and we were provided with breakfast and dinner, I actually ate too much there and put on quite a bit of weight. I think the project workers do an amazing job at the shelter. I was able to get support and advice daily which really kept my morale up. Although becoming homeless was the lowest point in my life the cold weather shelter gave me a platform to rebuild my life. By staying in the shelter I have learnt a lot about myself and I think I've come out of it a stronger and better person. I was so moved by all the volunteers and staff at the shelter that it has inspired me to look into training and employment opportunities in that field. I would like to give a special thanks to Jamie and Amanda who continue to support me after my stay in the shelter.

INCOME/EXPENDITURE

	2010/2011 Expenditure	2011/2012 Budget
Staffing costs	£ 70,011.02	£ 74,542.00
Running costs	£ 9,157.88	£ 12,736.94
Welfare	£ 2,973.27	£ 8,850.00
Set up costs	£ 1,374.96	£ 1,500.00
Equipment	£ 172.09	£ 3,000.00
Total	£ 83,689.22	£ 100,628.94

The increase in budget reflects how much C4WS has grown over the past year. As we are now a project that serves the homeless all year round extra provisions have been implemented to allow for this.

GIVING

If you would like to contribute and help raise funds for C4WS Homeless Project you can do so in the following ways:

- **Bank transfer** to CARIS Camden, account no: 00019217, sort code 40-52-40 at CAF Bank Ltd
- **Make a cheque** payable to 'CARIS Camden - C4WS'
- **Set up a regular donation**, please contact the staff team on 020 7278 6267

If you would like to learn more about the project please visit www.c4wshomelessproject.org

“St Pancras Parish Church and the St Pancras Thanet Street Trust are pleased to continue supporting C4WS. C4WS provides not only a bed and sustenance for the night, but also practical support and advice. We are grateful to this project for all that they do for people in great need.”
Paul Hawkins,
St Pancras

BUDGET AND FINANCE

C4WS Project Income June 2010/May 2011

Albert Street Party	Odin Charitable Trust
Aldo Trust	Rank Foundation
Armourers & Braisers	Rosslyn Hill Chapel
Gauntlet Trust	SankTus
BMA	Souter Charitable Trust
Church Urban Fund	St Anne's Church, Highgate
Churches Together in Hampstead	St Martin's Church, Gospel Oak
Fitton Trust	St Pancras Church Charities
Friends House	Ancient Trust
Fitch Ratings	St Peter's Belsize Park
Hampstead Junior School	Streetsmart
Hampstead Parish Church	Thanet Trust
Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust	The Albert Hunt Trust
Highgate United Reformed Church	The Alchemy Foundation
John Laing Charitable Trust	The Allan Charitable Trust
Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation	The Coutts Charitable Trust
Marsh Christian Trust	The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust
N M Rothschild and Sons	The Oliver Borthwick Memorial Trust
New Life Church	The Vandervell Foundation
North Camden Deanery Synod	Waitrose

Charitable Donations total	£ 59,401.06
Private donations	£ 4,607.00
C4WS staff and volunteers fundraising efforts	£ 5,633.68
Standing orders	£ 580.00
Carried forward from season 6	£ 18,933.38
Total	£ 89,155.12

THE VIEW FROM THE CHURCHES

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH

When I was first asked by Fr Tom to coordinate the running of the night shelter at Our Lady Help of Christians Church I was hesitant because it was a new venture for me. But I like to take on worthwhile challenges and knew in my heart I wanted to do this. I was sure that once involved my confidence would grow.

My heartfelt thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers, who gave up their Tuesday nights and early Wednesday mornings for 3 months, for their total commitment, love and kindness in the service of our guests. And to the 6th form students from La Sainte Union who cheerfully did what was asked of them.

With very few exceptions I found our guests to be considerate, helpful, protective and mutually supportive of one another and also to team members. Relationships developed healthily and trust increased and within a few weeks guests and team members were hardly distinguishable creating a warm family-like atmosphere.

I am very happy to have been involved with C4WS knowing it is a life giving project for guests and helpers alike.

Grace

PARISH OF OLD ST PANCRAS

We host the Shelter on Sunday evenings from January to March, staffed by volunteers from across the four churches of the Parish of Old St Pancras - the Church of England in Camden Town and surrounding areas.

It is of course the volunteers who make the provision of this important service possible, and I am thankful to all who helped. I have found myself reflecting often this winter on a traditional Christian saying (often attributed to St Francis of Assisi), "Preach the Gospel always; use words if you must." We are very careful not to preach to the guests, but the impact of our witness to the love of Christ is no less profound because of it. And it is not just the guests who have benefited from the Shelter - the greatest benefit has been, I think, for the volunteers, who have had their awareness and understanding of Christ's great commandment to love our neighbour awakened, renewed and refreshed.

Kyle

ROSSLYN HILL CHAPEL

Rosslyn Hill Chapel increased the number of cold weather shelter nights it offered from three to seven this year. This was a big jump, but the volunteers joined up and worked hard to make it all go smoothly.

We had delicious food and wonderful music. One night the guests were serenaded to sleep with guitar music. We coped with all the lights going out - twice - when a fuse blew. And we endured a very, very cold winter. A special thanks to Leslie who drove through deep snow one evening to deliver our dinner when taxis and other transport had let us down.

Our guests were wonderful and we enjoyed our time with them. The volunteers were very hard working and cheerful. They offered warmth and food to sustain the guests through the next day. The congregation supported the project both practically and financially. I am very grateful to everyone and offer them a big 'thank you' for all that they did to make this year's shelter such a success.

Leighton

THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON

The 2011 shelter season was a blessing all around for us at The American Church in London. This was our third year participating in C4WS on Wednesday evenings from January to March, and in those three years this ministry has really become a special part of our community. Nearly 80 volunteers played a role this year at ACL, including volunteers from the Junior League of London and students from Southbank International School.

Once again, we were inspired by the sense of community that was built between guests and volunteers. There are many programs that provide people with food and shelter, less common are the organisations, which successfully provide friendship and community as well - and this is what C4WS has done so well. We are already looking forward to this next season and feel very blessed to have the opportunity to work alongside other church communities to make a real difference in Camden.

Stephanie

THE VIEW FROM THE CHURCHES

KINGS CROSS METHODIST CHURCH

This past season was my second as the shelter co coordinator at the Kings Cross Methodist Church in London.

I have once again been very impressed with the commitment of our volunteers, and I say a big thank you to each one of them. Our volunteers come from all parts of London and are from many differing persuasions. Many of them have worked at the shelter in previous seasons, and so all the details seem to fall into place and they are also well schooled in showing the new ones the ropes.

The guests and volunteers soon got to know one another, and a festive mood prevailed at the table while we were having supper and playing games. Our Church hall is an ideal venue and the smooth running of the shelter is enhanced by Amanda and Jamie being on site and having their headquarters in the building. Many guests stayed on Friday mornings and attended the Kings Cross Methodist Friday Lunch Club.

The shelter has been a humbling and enjoyable experience and the team are excited about the next season ahead.

Deacon Paul

CAMDEN METHODIST CHURCH

The CW4S shelter is now firmly fixed in our church diaries at Camden Methodist Church. It always brings with it a sense of 'is it that time again and where has the last 12 months gone?'

But it also brings with it a sense of real excitement that we as a church will be involved again in such a fantastic project which makes such an impact on guests, volunteers and church members alike. It is something which we can all be rightly proud of.

I am always struck by the way in which over the weeks the atmosphere becomes warmer and warmer as people relax and get to know one another. There is a real sense of mutual support and sharing. It just has that feel good factor in which every one of us can make a difference.

This year it was good to have students from two local colleges provide an army of volunteers and so guests had people of their own age to relate to, although I still think they will to go some to match the enthusiasm of Peggy, a member of

Camden church who is nearly 90 and still manages to get to the church in order to be the first to start preparing breakfast.

All in all this year has been another great experience in being part of the work of the CW4S and I shall really miss it when I move to a new church in September so may I wish CW4S every blessing as it certainly has proved to all our guests.

Deacon Brian

HOLY TRINITY SWISS COTTAGE

This was Holy Trinity Swiss Cottage's third year of doing the shelter and once again it was a privilege to be part of the community of churches involved. As time has gone on we have more people in the church who have been able to take a lead, so my job as church coordinator has been made easier. The team of people involved has grown over time and they do a fantastic job. As ever we have loved hosting our guests and have received more than we are able to give.

We are so pleased that the December scheme has been extended to November to give us more opportunity to serve the

homeless in this way - we are looking forward to next year.

Chris

ST MARY, BROOKFIELD

St Mary, Brookfield hosted the shelter on Friday evenings to Saturday mornings in January and March at our Church hall in Dartmouth Park. This was our second season.

We were very pleased to welcome volunteers who have no direct connection to our regular congregation. We would very much like to see our participation in the shelter become a neighbourhood as well as a Church initiative, and of course we would like to see boundaries between Church and neighbourhood become more blurred.

Our hospitality still depends on a small core of regular volunteers, and as coordinator, I am very grateful to them for finding so much time for the Shelter. I am also very grateful to those in our congregation who are unable to participate but who have been so generous in their financial support.

Bill

THE VIEW FROM THE CHURCHES

ALL HOLLOWES

The night shelter at All Hollowes was on Tuesday evenings for 9 consecutive weeks in November and December, the last being the Tuesday before Christmas. It was the first time we had done a project like this.

As each week approached I became increasingly nervous about how things would go. Each week, however, I was pleasantly surprised and relieved that everything went smoothly and the arrangements we put in place seemed to work well. People would turn up unexpectedly to help and we never ran into any major difficulties.

From the Church's point of view I was very pleased with the way others helped with the project, even if they could not actually come to help in person. People gave food and money, they cooked at home, they helped clear up the next morning when everyone had gone.

Father David

COMMUNITY AT TRINITY URC AND MCC

As church coordinators for Community at Trinity URC and MCC it was our pleasure to look after our guests on Monday nights for our sixth season. We thank Trinity URC for providing our venue, resolving any building issues and Noel for

laundering bedding and towels again every week. We thank Trinity URC and MCC for raising funds and also Ruth and the other poetry group members who worked hard again all year holding readings and raising an amazing amount which meant we were able to provide the best possible care to our guests.

We thank Kate for arranging knitting so our guests had some very special items when they arrived, Ann the chiropodist who looked after our guests' feet again, our shift leaders, Carl, Jen and Rob and all our volunteers from the congregations and the many others who joined us again from the wider community.

Tony and Dee

LYSAN

This year Lysan was privileged to host the shelter at two different venues: Camden Town Methodist Church in November and December, and Lumen URC in February. Thanks to all our volunteers - our friends from Glorious Undead church, Roslyn Hill Chapel, and various others. The Black Heart pub hosted a quiz night and Terra Nera and others from the market donated to help us raise funds to run the shelter. Thanks to the many guests who shared a bit of life with us. We look forward to seeing some of you as we run into each other at random times in the middle of Camden Town.

Dan

“I would just like to say thank you to the management and volunteers that have provided me with a warm meal and bed and the advice given to help me on my journey.” Guest

“Friendly and rewarding.”
Guest

“I think everything is perfect.”
Guest

“Very good atmosphere.”
Guest

“An experience I am glad to have had.” Guest