

Genesis Canal Challenge

Saturday May 7th 2011

the
Genesis
news



Sponsored cycle, canoe, run, or walk along the Kennet and Avon canal. For all the family.

Starts at 10.30am from ...

The George, Bathampton to The Cross Guns at Avoncliff and back (12 miles).

Or ...

Dundas Aqueduct to The Cross Guns at Avoncliff and back (6 miles).

**Join the Canal Challenge
Fundraising for Genesis
Genesis grows**

the
Genesis
Compassion in Action **trust**

Registered Charity No 1045828

the
Genesis
Compassion in Action **trust**

Helping the homeless
and people in need
in Bath

01225 463549
office@genesistrust.org.uk
www.genesistrust.org.uk

Spring 2011

Director's Thoughts

Recently we had to close the Lifeline Centre for two days because people were becoming desperate and their behaviour meant it was impossible to carry on.

The Lifeline Centre faces growing demand from people for food parcels and help with 'electric' as prices rise.

More people are also coming who have not received benefits for 4-6 weeks as they are moved from one benefit to another.

As stress level grows, some people will fall back into depression, anger and increased alcohol and drug misuse, which in turn subverts their ability to respond to problems in a positive way.

As more people lose jobs, as food prices continue to rise, as benefit changes take place (such as lower Local Housing Allowance rates), and as budget cuts bite in local services, it's likely that more and more people are going to fall through the cracks and need help.

Please do pray. Do think about volunteering. Please do consider supporting Genesis financially by making a regular donation, with a one-off gift, or take part in our Canal Challenge.

Paul Solly, Director.



Canal Challenge

Join us in our annual sponsored Canal Challenge on Saturday May 7th. It's a great day out in the countryside - a beautiful, easy route along the canal which you can walk, cycle or even canoe.



Participating in the Canal Challenge

There are 2 options – either a 6 or 12 mile round trip from Bathampton or Dundas Aqueduct to Avoncliff – and it is suitable for all ages.

Our target is to raise £10,000 – we need 100 people take part and if each one raises £100 in sponsorship, then we would reach our goal. £10,000 would pay our Life Skills Support worker's salary for the next year.

Why not get a team together from your church? Or come as a family, everyone is invited to join in, and any amount you can raise would be very welcome.

If you would like to register, please complete and return the registration form on the back pages of this newsletter.

News

Genesis Chaplain appointed

Peter Heywood, Chair of Genesis, recently announced that Richard Wilson is to become the Chaplain to Genesis management boards and Director. He will also become a member of the Advisory Board.

Richard, who leads the church at St Michael's, Twerton, said: "I am really looking forward to being part of the Genesis family, hanging out with the team and journeying with them as we seek to bless the city. It's a real privilege to be invited to participate in this way. Genesis is so close to God's heart."



Richard Wilson - our new Chaplain

New 'Work Club'

At Life Skills we are forging a working partnership with the DWP through the local Jobcentreplus Disability Advisor. With her we are in the process of setting up a 'Work Club' for clients who have gaps in their CV due to mental health issues such as depression or previous substance misuse.

Our aim is to make opportunities for long-term unemployed people to get together in a supportive way to increase their confidence, self-esteem and employability skills whilst looking for work.



If you have experience of unemployment or are willing to share your expertise to support vulnerable people, perhaps you could lead a session at the Work Club?

Please contact Denise or Carey on 01225 463549 or email denise@genesistrust.org.uk.

Genesis Art Exhibition

"Creating New Beginnings"

Preview Evening:
Friday 17th June 6 - 9pm
and
Saturday 18th June 10 - 5pm

Bath Fine Arts Gallery
Gay Street

Over 30 artists are donating work for this prestigious exhibition, including work from Genesis clients. Come along and see what catches your eye.

Genesis needs your prayers

Whilst financial support is very important for us to survive, prayer support is our lifeblood.

Would you join us in praying for discernment, wisdom, answers and the way ahead in our every day work? Please consider joining the Genesis Prayer Group. We are seeking people who will pray for The Genesis Trust on a regular basis and help establish prayer cover for our work.

You are very welcome to join us. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1-3 James Street West, from 5.30pm-6.30pm. Enter by the blue doors at the back of the building where parking is also available.

You do not need to be physically with us; you can pray in your own home, you can pray together within your home group or perhaps with a group at church. We will send you our monthly prayer requests list by email if you send us your email address. If you would like to join us, or have any questions, please contact Laure on 01225 429 617 or email laure@genesistrust.org.uk.



Church in the community

In November last year 32 church leaders came together to discuss the present challenges facing Genesis and how we could all work in partnership to meet the needs within our community.

The meetings were filled with energy as people shared the issues that were on their hearts and how we might respond to them.

Issues raised included:

- how to support those facing unemployment
 - concern about the widening gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'
 - non-street based working prostitutes
 - the needs of carers, alienated youths
 - the needs of older people
-and so on.

A major theme was how as churches we can be involved in community ministry in our local neighbourhoods.

- How can the local churches be catalysts of change?
- How can we work alongside others?
- How do we work with people to meet goals, rather than simply provide services?

If there are issues you would like to see movement on and are wondering how, if you have a desire to see churches strengthening the work they do together in their local communities, then please contact Paul Solly on Bath 463549 or paul@genesistrust.org.uk

Genesis steps up a gear

Genesis has changed gear recently with the appointment of new Trustees and the creation of an Advisory Board.

We welcome Paul Kefford, Jim McPhee, Stephen Lillicrap and Cherry Beath as Trustees, and look forward to all that they will contribute to Genesis. They join Steve Bruce-Jones, Graham White, Ian McKay (vice chair) and Peter Heywood (chair) on the Board of Trustees.

At the same time I would like to thank the Trustees who have stepped down during the last year – Monty Erskine, Paul Bright, Iain Nettleton and Louise Cripps – for all that they have done for Genesis.

The main role of the Board of Trustees is to be responsible for the running of the charity in a professional and businesslike way that satisfies all the legal requirements and that raises enough income to cover all the costs.

New Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is responsible for the way that we actually provide our services, and for helping to improve the experience of being a client of Genesis, or of being a volunteer or a member of staff.

They will be helping project leaders, helping us to follow best practice, researching and planning for the future, and advising the trustees on areas that need their attention or their approval. The members of the Advisory Board

are Graham White (also a Trustee), Sharyn Ingram (previously a Trustee), Shirley Ward, Morny Davison, Alison Marle, Ozzie ffield and Richard Wilson.

We welcome them and thank them for taking on this new role, which should lead to some great improvements in the ways that we operate, and in our ability to respond to our clients as effectively as possible.

The future

So we've changed up a gear, and we have more people on board, and we are excited about the future. We want to continue to be sensitive and encouraging for all our clients, and to be able to help them in even more ways in the future.



All our staff and volunteers continue day in, day out, to give so much in energy, time and compassion, and to share the love of Jesus in this city where we all live. All that we do is only possible because we all do it together.

Thank you all,

Peter Heywood
Chairman

Our new board members

Our new Trustee and Advisory board members share a common desire to offer their experience and skills to help make a difference.

They bring a wide variety of skills and experience which balance well with the existing trustees.

The make up of the boards reflects the very nature of Genesis – more than 10 churches are represented from across the whole Christian family.

Our New Trustees

Paul Kefford is a former senior civil servant. He has experience of working with homeless charities and deprived communities.



Stephen Lillicrap recently retired as director of a medical engineering charity and has experience of fundraising.



Cherry Beath is a BANES Councillor. She has professional experience of working with vulnerable groups including addicts, prisoners and ex-offenders. She said on joining Genesis, "It is a quiet vital work,



unglamorous, but carried out with dedicated compassion and skill, and I count it a privilege to support this enterprise".

Jim McPhee worked in the Financial Service Industry before setting up his own company in consultancy, management and training.



Advisory Board Members

Shirley Ward has been a Social Worker for 30 years. She worked in the Bath Adult Care Team and as the Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator.



Morny Davison has had a career in research, at the LSE and the Home Office, mainly concerned with problems in the criminal justice system.

Alison Marle is an ex-children and families Social Worker. She also brings insight as a client of several Genesis projects.



Ozzie ffield has a background in Health Social Services and the Voluntary Sector in service, management and consultancy roles.



Help the homeless and people in need in Bath

- I would like to make a gift to the work of Genesis and enclose a cheque payable to Genesis Trust for:
- £10 £25 £50 Other _____
- Gift aid *. Tick this box to increase your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you, if you are a taxpayer.

- I would like to support Genesis with a regular donation. Please send me a Standing Order form.

Title _____ Full Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Signed _____

- I would like to receive the monthly Genesis Supporters Bulletin. My email address is:

giftaid it

* I confirm that I will pay income and/or capital gains tax for each tax year at least equal to the amount that this charity will reclaim in that tax year.

Please treat all donations I have made in the last 6 years and any future donations as Gift Aid donations until I notify this charity otherwise.

Please complete your details and return to:
Genesis Trust, 1-3 James St West, Bath, BA1 2BX.

What makes Genesis different?

We are often asked the questions “What makes Genesis special?” and “What makes Genesis different?” and specifically “What is the difference between Genesis and Julian House?” Well, here are the answers.

There is some overlap between the people helped by Genesis and those helped by Julian House, so some people do receive support from both charities. However, there are lots of people who come to Genesis, who do not go to Julian House. This is because we have so many projects, and deal with so many different types of need.

Also, Genesis is in effect all the churches in Bath working together to help people in need. We have many church teams, we are supported by the churches, we use church premises, and we have many hundreds of volunteers from the churches in Bath and surrounding areas. This is a different structure from Julian House, who manage their operations in a different way. Now what makes Genesis special?

We have recently been talking with our clients and our volunteers and our staff and trustees about what they think makes Genesis special. Whether they were giving or receiving, they said the same sort of things. This is what they said...

Share God's Love

It was very clear that the motivation of all we do is to share God's love, valuing each person as unique and special. We actively support people in moving forwards in their lives, helping them with their practical, emotional and spiritual needs, so that they can become independent and enjoy the fullness of life.

Stepping stones to the future

We provide stepping stones to the future, from the provision of food... to friendship and personal support... to help with re-housing...to training in life skills...to work experience... to gaining qualifications...to ongoing support when they enter voluntary or paid employment. People can progress as they wish, and everyone's journey is different.

Safe places

We provide safe places for people to come, in a non-threatening environment, and in a relaxed informal culture.

Come alongside people

We come alongside people and share their lives, their disappointments and their achievements. We accept people as they are, and we are not judgmental. We treat them with great respect, and value them as individuals. We help them to be themselves, and to live life more fully.

Work it out for themselves

We guide, mentor, open doors, and match support to individual need. But we allow people to work out for themselves what their needs are, and find out for themselves how to meet them.

Belong to a community

In Genesis, people have the opportunity to belong to a community where they are valued and loved. Spiritually, people know that they are loved by God, and are able to move into a faith community in the city.

Gain confidence

We give people the opportunity to talk, to be listened to, and to socialise with others. We help them to build relationships, to learn, to gain confidence, and to express their needs and aspirations. We give them hope to achieve what was previously impossible.

Help people to move forward

We help people to move forward so that in the end they do not need Genesis. But the timing is in their hands, and they are never asked to leave. Our friendship is real, and it is long term. We don't give up on people.

We've tried to say it all in 3 words, and you'll see them just underneath the Genesis logo – Compassion in Action.

'Fun'draising for Genesis

You can make a difference...

It costs £25K every month to run all our projects. About half of this is raised from sales of furniture and our charity shops, so each month we still need to raise at least £12K just to stay afloat.

Fundraising is therefore a key part of our mission.



Sarah MacGillivray, one of our volunteers, is a great example of how one person can really make a difference. In June last year she did a

sponsored silence which raised £360; in November she baked cakes for a Genesis stall and in January Sarah successfully nominated Genesis to receive the proceeds from St Philip and James Drama Group's pantomime.

In all she has helped raise the fantastic sum of £2,500.

Could you help raise funds for Genesis?

Why not:

- take part in the Canal Challenge
- have a cake sale
- organise a coffee morning
- host a dinner4good (see below)

Contact us for more ideas and support at office@genesistrust.org.uk.

Host a 'dinner4good'

Raise money for us simply by doing something you enjoy - having your friends round for dinner! Why not host a 'dinner4 good' for Genesis?

Go online and create your personalised Dinner Page and send invitations from the site. Guests accept and donate online – you don't have to ask for or collect money personally. All you then have to do is hold the dinner and enjoy yourselves! Go to www.dinner4good.com/GenesisTrust for details.

Old phones and printer cartridges

Printer and phone recycling company 'eachonecounts' will give money to Genesis in return for your old phones and used printer cartridges. Check out our page at www.eachonecounts.co.uk/genesistrust for what they take and to order freepost recycling bags.

Does your employer give funding?

Many employers encourage their staff to support their local community by either matching money raised by the employee or by donating directly. Direct donations are normally for specific needs, which could be for example laptops for Life Skills, or a water heater for Lifeline.

You may have to put together a rationale for the donation, including your involvement with Genesis, but we would be happy to help you do this. Please contact us at office@genesistrust.org.uk or call 01225 463549.

CANAL CHALLENGE REGISTRATION FORM 2011

Full Name _____

Others in party _____

Number of cyclists/walkers/canoeists

I wish to start at Bathampton or Dundas Aqueduct

Address _____

Postcode _____ Email: _____

My party and I have read and agree to abide by the rules.

Signed _____ (By guardian if under 18)

Print _____

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Participants are asked to raise sponsorship using official sponsorship forms which will be supplied by Genesis. Participants not raising sponsorship are asked to make a donation of at least £10.
- Registration point on the canal by The George at Bathampton and one on the Dundas Aqueduct. Halfway checkpoint in The Cross Guns at Avoncliff.
- There will be a drinks station at the Dundas Aqueduct, however it is recommended that all participants bring adequate drinks.
- Participants in the Genesis Canal Challenge take part at their own risk.
- Participants are asked to obey the waterways code.
- Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Participants under 18 must have their entry form signed by a guardian.
- Canoeists should travel to the right of the waterway, wear a lifejacket, be insured, be a member of the British Canoe Union, or have a special licence from British Waterways. Canoeists are asked to take due care and attention when canoeing along the canal and to be considerate to other canal users including anglers.
- Cyclists are asked to cycle on the left, take due care and attention when cycling along the towpath and to be considerate to other towpath users.
- Should any participant fall into the canal and have flu symptoms within the next few days, see a doctor and explain there may be a risk of leptospirosis.

Please return to: Canal Challenge, The Genesis Trust, 1-3 James Street West, Bath, BAI 2BX. Tel 01225 463549, email office@genesistrust.org.uk