

PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN

SPRING 2016



*Ready to serve: Marie, Keith, Becks, John, Adrian & Michelle.
See page 2 for a snapshot of just some of the many Saturday night
volunteers at Methodist Central Hall*

Remembering Kelly...

22nd March 2016 saw the memorial service at **Mutley Baptist Church** for **Kelly Dan** who sadly died on 28th February and who was well known to the Soup Run. Including Kelly's family there were over 60 people representing many who knew and supported Kelly over the time she spent living rough, including the Police, Shekinah, Big Issue and The Salvation Army, as well as many from the Soup Run teams.

The congregation included one or two service users who hadn't been inside a church for a very long time, if ever. It

was good to think that so many people from so many different backgrounds could join together to give thanks for Kelly's life in this way.

Special thanks to Rev Alen McCulloch, Fiona Spicer and Rev Clive Burnard for taking the service as well as MBC Soup Run teams for organising refreshments on the day.

Everyone found the occasion, including the music, personal tributes and Clive's message, comforting and uplifting - complementing the formal committal service at Dobwalls Methodist Chapel that took place a couple of weeks before.

Adrian Sutton

SPONSORED WINTER WALK...

We're planning another Sponsored Winter Walk following the success of the one in 2014. The idea is to walk the Soup Run route in the evening

to give people an idea of what it's like to be out at night, hopefully in bad weather! The proposed date is **Saturday 19th November, starting at 10.30pm...** More details to follow.

MEETINGS...

The Soup Run Development Group meetings for the rest of the year are as below. Ideally, each night should be represented at the meetings, which are also open to anyone on a Soup Run team. Meetings last about an hour and half and speakers from partner organisations have been invited to talk about their specific work at the start of each meeting at 6pm for around half an hour.

7th June: George House Homeless Hostel, 22a George Place PL1 3NY

20th July: Harbour Drug & Alcohol Service, Hyde Park House PL4 6LF

8th September: Plymouth House Westward Housing Support, 10-13 Lockyer Street PL1 2QQ

1st November: HISS (Housing Intervention, Signposting & Support Service). BCHA, Broadreach and Path working together to support single homeless people, especially those with mental health, drugs/alcohol or offending issues and histories. This meeting will be held at Shekinah.

For more details please contact **Hilary Knight** on 01752-404134.

Shekinah Mission drop-in centre is planning a '**DIY SOS**' refurbishment from 2nd July over four weekends. If you can help to support the work by **providing refreshments**, please contact Maddie Maddison on 0773-4007617.

A community and faith driven service providing free food and hot drinks to homeless, hungry and vulnerable people 365 days a year.



From left to right: Michelle, Adrian and Marie

Plymouth Methodist Central Hall is just minutes from the first Soup Run stop with it's prime location directly opposite the Drake Shopping centre. There are a number of teams who prepare and distribute food on a Saturday night and this newsletter features one of the food prep teams.

Keith Beswetherick has been the overall Saturday team leader for about two and a half years now. Keith's Soup Run journey began after a serious cancer experience for which he received prayer and healing.

Adrian's gym comrade who also attends Central Hall told him about the Soup Run. Adrian responded by volunteering, recognising that we are all "on a thin line and at times we all need a helping hand". He feels particularly concerned about the many ex-servicemen in Plymouth who are desperately in need of support.

After this Keith made a commitment to God to do whatever He asked him to do and to live a life in service to the Lord. Soon after making his commitment, Keith learned that the previous Soup Run team leader at Methodist Central Hall had to give it up and he felt called to take it on.

Keith has a very real sense of commitment and conviction about the need do it but also finds great reward and fulfilment, and enjoys the fun side of it too. Partly retired, Keith also has a day job in a local DIY shop.



Keith Beswetherick

Michelle heard about the Soup Run through a work colleague, Becks (also a Volunteer). Michelle has a 9 to 5 computer desk job and felt that she needed a challenge from her sheltered life. So since November last year she has been working as a volunteer once every 4 weeks preparing food in the kitchen... "it's been rewarding and a real eye-opener".

Marie started prepping Soup Run food in the kitchen about 18 months ago following an announcement in church. A busy mum with a part-time job in healthcare, Marie also helps out with toddlers, she's on the church welcome team and is a Girls' Brigade leader. But we all need to take time out to re-charge and earlier in the day Marie attended the annual Women's Stiletto Conference at Methodist Central Hall. The theme was 'Brave' and for Marie was "just what I needed"...!

If you would like more information about Saturday night Soup Run teams, please contact Keith Beswetherick on 01752-660997.

Dear Lord...

Thank You that You understand what it's like to be hungry and alone and You care for those in need. Amen.

