

PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN

September 2017

* Happy 25th Silver Anniversary Shekinah! *

To recognise 25 years of service, Shekinah invite friends and supporters to their biggest fundraiser yet... Come and join us in celebrating Shekinah's Silver Year, by coming along to our Big Silver Party on 13th of October at Plymouth Guildhall, 7-11pm. Tickets are £30 and include canapés, buffet and arrival drink. The evening will include live music, entertainment, raffle and auction. Dress code is smart, stylish and something silver! For tickets and more information visit www.shekinah.co.uk/news-events.

There will also be a 25th silver church service at 5pm on 11th November at St Andrews Church; anyone planning to attend please RSVP to Pat Andrews at Shekinah Bath Street.



Winter Donations ...

Here's a list to inspire you for some useful winter donations:

- Clean blankets/sleeping bags
- Men's socks/pants
- Shower gel/deodorant
- Rucksacks
- Tinned sandwich fillings, ie meat, tuna etc
- Treats, eg individually wrapped chocolate/ cake/biscuits etc

Monday night Plymouth Round Table

Plymouth Round Table were very concerned with the level of people on the streets relying on hand-outs and are happy to help those in need by volunteering with the Soup Run. They've also bought freezers for the Soup Run and have been able to help Shekinah at Christmas. Graham Roberts, who is the Plymouth Round Table Chairman, has

even roped in his own family when they've been short of numbers on the bus. 'Maddie and all the team work so hard and are an inspiration to us and we are truly humbled to be able to support where we can.'



Graham's dad, retired John Roberts, also enjoys volunteering and has helped at Shekinah on Sundays too. Sasha Roberts, Graham's partner also volunteers, as well as juggling a job as a teaching assistant and bringing up three children.

The photo also includes Graham's daughter Shannon and her boyfriend Alex who have helped out several times on the Soup Run bus.

Soup Run Plus

Soup Run Plus is the Thursday night soup run specifically for the street sex workers in Stonehouse. Following is a very brief summary submitted by committed team member Norma:

The team usually comprises two men and two women. We meet at Devonport House at 7pm to prepare sandwiches, soup and hot drinks before going out at 8pm. We have about nine regular service users and occasionally some new ones.

We have lots of leaflets signposting to various services and have got to know the women very well over the past couple of years. The women trust us and know that we will not judge them in anyway so they ask us for help and advice on many subjects. We have had at least three women go into recovery and no longer need to be on the streets to make money for drugs. The women have told us that they feel safe knowing that we are there and are so grateful for food, and that they can be themselves with us regardless of

what they are doing. We have been challenged in so many ways as we do feel protective over them but know that all we need to do is be there for them. We have a very small but reliable team of volunteers and are very grateful to the Salvation Army for keeping this very valued service up and running. It would be wonderful if we could go out another night as well as Thursdays but so far it is working in its own small way. For more information about Soup Run Plus please contact Les Dennis on 07922-117867 or 01752-558581.

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



Left to Right: Gary, Tess, Ed, Della and James

run lady in Bournemouth who gave her extra portions of food and told her that God loved her. Those simple acts of kindness had a real impact on Della who after 12 years of being an addict, is now a Christian and free from drugs. She finds the Soup

garage. Tess realises that she is working amongst Christians on the team but feels that it's nice to have some who aren't.

Gary is a self-employed investment consultant who became a Christian about a year ago. As someone who was always a truth seeker, Gary began to question why there was good and evil in the world. This led him to researching and reading which in turn (in a roundabout way) led him to faith in Christ. Now a regular attendee at St Andrew's, Gary read about the Soup Run on the church website and felt it would be a good way to help people who are genuinely in need.

James is a genetics doctor who travels into Plymouth from Exeter and is married with an 8 month old baby. Neither James nor his wife were originally from a Christian family, and struggled with atheism before doing an Alpha course in New Zealand. Now a committed Christian, James feels his faith has fulfilled a need and, as well as going to St Andrew's on a Sunday, is part of the church's 'Roots' bible study group.

For more information about the Tuesday night Soup Run teams, please contact Andy Bell on 07549-628303.

Tuesday night St Andrew's Teams

The following feature focuses on one of the eight teams who operate from St Andrew's on a Tuesday night.

The team Leader is Ed who has been part of the Soup Run for about 3 years, although this particular team is relatively new, having taken over from a previous team. Serving with the Soup Run is Ed's way of expressing his faith and God's love through charity. Ed is married, builds camper vans and attends St Andrew's Church.

Della was previously a homeless drug addict who tried several times in Plymouth rehabs to get clean before finally asking God for help. She recalls a Christian soup

Run a good way to serve and share the love of Jesus, ensuring that people have food and blankets. Della is sometimes able to tell her story, giving hope to those on the streets. Della is a hairdresser currently looking for work; she attends St Andrew's Church.

Tess always wanted to do the Soup Run; she recalls that sometimes she'd be sitting at home when it was raining thinking how awful it would be for those out on the streets. Although Tess is now settled as a mother of two grown-up children and a grandmother, she does know what it's like to have no money and nowhere to go. At 16 years old she found herself homeless and spent 2 nights sleeping in a

Soup Run Development Group

The next Soup Run Development Group meeting is at 6pm on Thursday 28th September at Devonport Lifehouse (please note the change of date from 21st September).

The meeting after will be on **Thursday 16th November 2017 (venue tbc)**. Meetings last about an hour and a half and are open to anyone on a Soup Run team; so do come along if that's you! It would be great to see someone from each team represented.

Volunteer applications

A volunteer application form is now available to download via the Volunteer tab on website www.plymouthsoupapun.org.uk

Dear Lord...

Thank You that we can find refuge and strength when we call out to You. Amen.