FAITHWORKS

HOMELESSNESS

Changing Homelessness Together, One Life at a Time

A guide to our services, our approach and how you can help.

At Faithworks, we believe nobody should face hardship alone.

We are a Christian charity. So, our faith inspires us to welcome everyone with compassion, dignity and hope, regardless of background, beliefs or circumstances. Through local churches and community partners, we meet those facing the hardest times, and walk with them to find practical help, community support, and spiritual hope.

Through our homelessness services, we help people get off the street, stay off the street, and rebuild lives filled with hope, purpose and community.

Homelessness is rarely just about housing. Many people face challenges including poor mental health, addiction, relationship breakdown, isolation, trauma, debt or involvement with the criminal justice system. Our role is to walk alongside people, offering practical help, trusted relationships and ongoing support that enables lasting change.

Our work is built around these key elements:

- Half-Time (including our Help-line)
- Thursday Club
- Friendship & Support

All of which links well into our other project: our Hope into Action move-on homes (you can find more details at https://faith-works.org.uk/get-involved/hope-into-action)

Together, all of this provides a pathway from crisis to stability, belonging and hope.

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Half-Time and Help-Line

A First Point of Contact

For many people, a call to our Helpline (07842 174241) is the beginning of their journey. It's staffed from 10am to 2pm on Monday to Friday, and allows people experiencing homelessness to make contact wherever they are and talk to someone who will take the time to listen and help.

That first point of contact often then leads to us inviting the person to meet at Half-time, our safe and welcoming place where people experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping can come for help without appointment or referral.

Operating from **St Mike's Church in Bournemouth town centre on Wednesday and Friday from 11-3pm, Half-Time** provides visitors with access to:

- Showers
- Laundry facilities
- Phone charging
- Refreshments
- Practical essentials
- Advice and support
- One-to-one conversations with trained staff and volunteers

But Half-Time is about far more than practical services.

We take time to listen. Through dedicated conversations, known as Team Talks and our Life Scores self-assessment, we help people understand their options, develop realistic plans and connect with accommodation providers, outreach teams, health services, recovery programmes and other specialist support.

Many people who visit Half-Time are not yet engaged with statutory services. By providing a welcoming, low-barrier environment, we are often able to reach and support people who might otherwise remain disconnected from help.

What People Tell Us

The most common reasons people come to Half-Time are:

- Friendly staff and volunteers
- Help connecting to services
- Feeling safe and welcome

Guests have described Half-Time as:

"Warm, safe and welcoming."
"The most supportive outreach service."
"A place where I am listened to and treated like a human being."

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Thursday Club

Staying Off The Street

Finding somewhere to live is a huge achievement.

Keeping that accommodation and building a stable future can be just as challenging. Thursday Club exists to help people make that transition successfully.

Every week, people who have moved into accommodation can gather for friendship, encouragement, practical support and activities designed to help them thrive.

The club provides:

- A safe and welcoming environment
- Support with forms and paperwork
- Advice and signposting
- Community activities
- Opportunities to build confidence and life skills
- Encouragement during difficult times

Many people moving into accommodation face loneliness, financial pressures or uncertainty. Thursday Club provides routine, consistency and a supportive community that helps people navigate these challenges.

Why It Matters

When we asked attendees what helps most, the most common answers were:

- "A safe place to come"
- "Routine and structure"
- "Practical support"
- "Encouragement"
- "Reduced loneliness"

Most importantly, attendees tell us the club gives them greater hope for the future.

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Friendship and Support

Walking Alongside People

Housing alone does not solve homelessness.

What helps people flourish is connection, belonging and knowing that somebody genuinely cares. ,

One couple whom we met when at their absolute lowest, are now in a home, married (with our worker as best man!), and building a future through work and study. They were asked what made the biggest difference, and rather than the practical help they could have mentioned, they were adamant:
"you gave us Time, Love and Trust!"

Our Friendship & Support programme brings together trained volunteers from local churches and communities to provide that Time, Love and Trust, and walk alongside people as they rebuild their lives.

Volunteers provide:

- Regular friendship
- Encouragement and accountability
- Practical support
- Help attending appointments
- Opportunities to build new community connections
- A consistent, trusted relationship

Through simple acts of friendship and support, volunteers help reduce isolation and strengthen confidence.

These relationships help people move beyond surviving and begin to flourish

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More Than Services

A Pathway of Hope

Our homelessness work is designed as a connected journey.

Step One: Connect
People access support through our helpline, outreach partnerships and Half-Time.

Step Two: Stabilise
We help people access accommodation, health services, benefits, recovery support and practical assistance.

Step Three: Sustain
Through Thursday Club, support workers and community relationships, we help people maintain stability.

Step Four: Thrive
Through Friendship & Support teams, training opportunities and community connections, people can build lasting resilience and hope. ,

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Ways You Can Help

Homelessness is something we can change together.
There are many practical ways you can support this work.

1. Signpost People to Us

If you meet someone sleeping rough or worried about homelessness, encourage them to contact Faithworks or our Homelessness Helpline (07842 174241).
Sometimes one conversation can be the first step towards lasting change.

2. Volunteer

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.
You could help by:

- Supporting Half-Time sessions
- Assisting at Thursday Club
- Joining a Friendship & Support team
- Offering professional expertise
- Helping behind the scenes with administration or events

No previous experience is required. Training and support are provided.
If you want to help, then please call the Faithworks office on 01202 429037
or email joy.moore@faith-works.org.uk.

3. Donate Essential Items

We regularly need:

- Toiletries
- Underwear and socks
- Sleeping bags
- Warm clothing
- Practical everyday essentials

These items provide immediate support and dignity to people facing hardship.

We have a “Yellow bucket” campaign where churches, businesses and community groups are given a big yellow bucket to put in their venues and a list of the key things we need – it’s a visual reminder and a great way to help people understand the needs of those who are rough sleeping.
If you can help, then please call David on 07731 858625 or the Faithworks office on 01202 429037.

4. Give Financially

Regular giving enables us to:

- Keep Half-Time running
- Provide practical support
- Develop Thursday Club
- Train volunteers
- Respond quickly to urgent needs

Every donation helps someone take another step forward.

In particular, we have a Safesleep “pot”: this is a modern day version of the Good Samaritan story, funding overnight accommodation in a safe place when we meet a particularly vulnerable person. We are seeking 100 supporters to each give £10 per month – just go to https://faithworks.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/h7kjnchb

5. Pray for those who are experiencing homelessness, and those who help

As a Christian charity, we believe God is interested in a relationship with us, so we talk to and with Him. And because we read of Jesus taking time with those who are homeless and encouraging us to do the same, then we want to pray about this homeless work.

We know that many local Christians will want to do that too. So, if you want to pray for the work and for those who are experiencing homelessness, please call David on 07731 858625 or email david.chidwick@faith-works.org.uk

6. Invest in a Hope into Action Home

Faithworks partners with Hope into Action to provide supported move-on accommodation. Investors make it possible for more local homes to be purchased and used to help people move from homelessness into stable housing and independent living. More details here: *https://faith-works.org.uk/get-involved/hope-into-action/*

Our Vision

We dream of communities where nobody faces hardship alone and where everyone has somewhere to turn for practical help, friendship and hope.

By working together with local churches, partner organisations, volunteers and supporters, we believe homelessness can be changed one life at a time.

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