



Clay Hill Winter Night Shelter 2014/2015

Clay Hill is taking part in the Enfield Churches Winter Night Shelter Project under the umbrella of All People All Places (APAP). It is a church based 'rolling shelter' run by volunteers providing **food, shelter, warmth and friendship** overnight during the winter months. Each night of the week up to 12 guests are hosted by a different church and **St Luke's Church** will host the shelter on **Friday** nights. It will start after Christmas on 2 January through to 6 March. During Christmas guests have access to Crisis at Christmas facilities.



Admittance to the shelter is by referral only via APAP. Only guests with low support needs are referred as the project operates with volunteers rather than trained professionals. People with medium or high support needs will not be referred to shelters. There are rules for guests and they sign a guest agreement to ensure their comfort and safety.



Volunteers are crucial to making the shelter work and there are a number of roles. The **co-ordinator** liaises with APAP and responsibilities include drawing up rotas and ensuring there are enough volunteers; ensuring someone provides meals for evening and breakfast; and getting team leaders for each shift. Peter Livermore is co-ordinator for the Clay Hill shelter.

Each session of the shelter comprises of 3 shifts: evening (7.00pm to 10.00pm), night (9.45pm to 7.00am), morning (6.45am to 8.30am), and **shift team leaders** are required for each shift with responsibilities including allocating tasks to volunteers; taking key decisions on the day; supporting volunteers; ensuring the bedding and towels get taken to the launderette; the communication book and getting it passed to the next church. **Teams of volunteers** are needed for each shift and tasks include welcoming the guests and providing a friendly environment; setting up and clearing away the beds, tables and chairs; serving food. Teams of **cooking volunteers** are needed to prepare and cook three-course evening meals and breakfasts.

What does it take to be a volunteer? Key requirements are anyone who can smile!; has experience of face-to-face work; is non-judgmental; can deal with situations calmly; is willing to take instructions; is responsible; and, most importantly, is reliable - must not be late! Knowledge of first aid is helpful, as is knowledge of homelessness.



There was an initial meeting to discuss the winter night shelter at St Luke's on 9 October, and a briefing was provided. If you want the briefing or further information, please contact Peter Livermore. Peter's email is peter@plivermore.freeserve.co.uk

APAP will provide a training session for volunteers and a volunteer handbook. They take seriously the safety and health of volunteers and are mindful that time, energy, skills and experience may be limited, so they seek to work with the strength of volunteers.

Donations Welcome

As well as volunteering, **donations** would also be welcome to help run the shelter. Beds and bedding are provided by APAP, and Mothers' Union can provide toiletries, but there are many other things that could usefully be donated including towels, hot water bottles, socks and boxer shorts. The loan of equipment such as hostess trollies may also be useful as there are limited cooking facilities at St Luke's. **Cash donations** would also be welcome as there are costs to setting up and running the shelter.

APAP is a Christian registered charity. Their aim is simple - they wish to give people who are homeless the tools and help they need to move from being on the margins of society to being a valued community member.



All People All Places

Looking out for the overlooked.

They have three specific strands of work:

1. Winter Night Shelter
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Day Centre provision

They are also developing Education and Training provision.