

Oswestry Foodbank — emergency support for local people in crisis

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For people on low incomes, a sudden crisis such as redundancy, benefit delay or an unexpected bill can mean going hungry. Oswestry & Borders Foodbank, based at the Kingswell



Kingswell continues to work with other organisations to provide much-needed support and advice for people in the local community.

JMAS,

The Jubilee Money Advice Service, works with people who may be in situations of debt-created poverty, with many not knowing how to break free from their money difficulties.

Based at 9 Arthur Street, JMAS offers a free Christian-based debt advice service, which complements other local agencies and offers strategies and practical help to enable people to manage their money (for more information contact JMAS on 07599 985523).

Prayer and Pizza events take place on Tuesdays between 6 - 8pm at 9



Arthur Street and they are open to everybody.

A chance to receive prayer for personal needs or to join in praying for our community - and to enjoy some pizza!

Centre, can provide emergency food and support for local people in need, as well as helping them to find further long-term support.

Part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide network and backed by CTOD (Churches Together in Oswestry and District), Oswestry Foodbank is a channel for local Christians to show God's love in action to our community. For more information or to make a donation, contact 07530 213926.

Other support agencies which operate out of the Kingswell Centre building include the **Just Credit Union**, **Impact** (alcohol advice), **Wace Morgan** (family mediation), **Mediation Works** (conflict resolution) and the **Shaw Trust** (jobseeker support).

Kingswell needs you!

Thank you again for your interest in Kingswell over the past years. We hope that you will continue to support us as we move on to establish the exciting new work with young people in and around Oswestry.

How can you help?

Come to the **Kingswell AGM**, 7.30pm on February 9th.

Pray for us and for the young people we are working with.

Become a **Kingswell link** so that you can keep your church or organisation informed about the work.

Support us financially. If you are able to gift-aid this will increase the value of your support.

Become a **Kingswell volunteer** to work as part of our StreetSpace team. Training will be given (CRB checks may be necessary).

Kingswell Newsletter

for prayer and information

January 2012



In this edition:

A Future and a Hope -
a new direction for Kingswell

A Time of Transition -
seeking God's guidance as we set out to meet the needs of this generation

Getting more involved -
Can you be part of the group that takes Kingswell forward?

Thank you for your encouragement, support and interest in the life and work of Kingswell. We are now able to tell you about several significant changes for Kingswell over the past two years, which are summarised here for your information and prayers.

.... a practical Christian influence in Oswestry and district

.... meeting the needs of young people and families

New Directors Join the Kingswell Board

Wendy Dyke and Mark Davis became Kingswell directors last year. Wendy is a local GP and Mark is deputy head of a junior school. 'We are very glad to welcome Wendy and Mark on to the board,' said Kingswell chair Tudor Humphreys. 'They are making a great contribution, bringing fresh enthusiasm and valuable skills to our hardworking team.'

Foodbank help for needy families

Providing emergency food basics for families in crisis, Oswestry Foodbank is operating out of the Kingswell building at Arthur Street. (continued on page 4)



Foodbank volunteers Caroline and Barbara

Kingswell AGM is on February 9th at 7.30pm, with guest speaker Richard Passmore from Frontier Youth Trust
An important event for all Kingswell friends and supporters

A Future and a Hope

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD.

"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

When God closes a door, he opens.....



.....another one!

The current recession has brought about a significant reduction in funding and this, together with major changes in staffing, have meant that we have had to reduce or change the services we offer.

Counselling and Support Services

Possibly our biggest reduction in income has been caused by Shropshire Council's decision to withdraw their funding from the Community Substance Misuse Team. This has meant that we have had to close the work of OFAAD (Oswestry Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs) and its companion befriending group FACES, with the valuable support which was available to people with drug/alcohol dependency and also to their families. This loss of funding, coupled with the decision of the Primary Care Trust to end their use of the Kingswell Annexe, has meant that we are no longer able to employ Lyn Berman (our family support worker) and it was with great sadness we had to make her redundant in May 2011. We are very pleased that she has been able to find another position and we are extremely grateful to Lyn for her many years of dedicated work at Kingswell. Changes in staffing and funding have also made it necessary for us to close the counselling services which have been provided at

Kingswell through One to One Counselling and PACE (Pregnancy Advice Service for Everyone). These services were much in demand and helped a number of people through difficult times, so it is with much regret that we had to withdraw them. We extend our grateful thanks to the volunteer counsellors who have given so much time and compassion to helping people in this way.

Youth Group

We are no longer able to operate regular youth meetings at Arthur Street, because of staffing and funding issues. Youth work has been a key part of Kingswell since its beginning and so it was especially difficult to make this necessary decision. However, this is not the end of Kingswell's work with young people - see page 3 for news of an exciting new initiative.

"No one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."
Matthew 9:17

A Time of Transition

Kingswell is not dead or even dying. We believe that we can see God's hand leading us on into a new future. When he closes one door, he opens another, and we are excited about the door of opportunity which we believe he has opened for the future of Kingswell.

We were able to obtain a transition funding grant from central government to enable us to assess the work of Kingswell and to develop an action plan for the future. We have contracted in Debbie Garden of Frontier Youth Trust and Rob Buckeridge, a former teacher and pastor. Debbie and Rob have been working together to assess local needs and national initiatives. With information gained from Oswestry organisations and service providers and surveys conducted in the market place and The Marches School, they have worked alongside the Kingswell directors as we have sought God's guidance.



Debbie Garden



Debbie and Rob working with young people at The Marches School

StreetSpace

We are pleased to be able to tell you about the new initiative which we believe God is calling Kingswell to follow.

A New Wineskin for a New Work

StreetSpace, a Frontier Youth Trust project, is a channel for innovative youth work on the streets and in the community. This is something which Kingswell is passionate about and which is directly in line with our foundational calling to be a practical Christian influence in Oswestry and district. We invite you to join with us as we develop a partnership with StreetSpace and take the work of Kingswell outside of the building to show God's love by working alongside and supporting young people in and

StreetSpace

supporting local people to work effectively in their local culture and contemporary community

An initiative of Frontier Youth Trust and the Church Mission Society, StreetSpace aims to promote young people's personal, social and spiritual development. Activities include: Detached Work, enabling regular contact where they hang out on the

the parks, by the chip shop; 'Hear my Voice' is a way of engaging young people in community action; M&Ms (meals and meetings) bring them together for chats, planning, exploring spirituality or community consultations.

