

Justice & Peace Refugee Project (JPRP)

Oct 2013 Annual Report

The JPRP drop-ins still operate in four geographical areas -but two have had to change their venues. The one formerly at St Joseph's, Benwell, now operates from St. Margaret's C of E church in Scotswood while the former 'All Abraham's Children' drop-in in Gateshead now operates from Corpus Christi R.C. Church in Bensham. For opening hours, see table below. Co-ordinators and other volunteers from all venues have an opportunity to meet at the quarterly Volunteers' Forum held at St. Margaret's. There is also a considerable exchange and /or transfer of food donations between the venues – the Gateshead coordinator picks up around 40 grocery bags each week from St Margaret's, while the Stockton co-ordinator exchanges regular food collections from the Stockton area for bulk items from Scotswood. Most venues report an increase in demand for their services.

JPRP VENUES

St Margaret's Asylum Centre Scotswood Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 6AR Monday to Friday 11-00 am to 3-00 pm Manager John Marshall, 34 Netherby Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 2RS 0191 245 2840	Gateshead drop-in Corpus Christi R.C. Church Kelvin Grove Bensham Thursday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm Coordinator John Hodgson 0191 440 0301
St Anthony of Padua Community Centre Unfortunately now closed (Nov 2013)	Stockton drop-in Stockton C of E Parish Church High Street Stockton on Tees TS18 1SP Tuesday & Thursday 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm Coordinator Frances Groves 01642 657 725

Clients Receiving Weekly Support

Destitute Asylum Seekers (£5 and a grocery bag)	70	
Destitute Asylum Seekers on waiting list (a grocery bag)	3	
Asylum Seeker Families on reduced benefits (1 or 2 grocery bags)	39	Families
NB All the above attend St Margaret's Asylum Centre.		

In addition we supply grocery bags to Gateshead drop-in 40
collected from St Margaret's weekly by the Gateshead coordinator.

Stockton drop-in has between 50 and 60 clients attending sessions.
St Anthony's drop-in has a smaller number due to less asylum seekers in this area.

St Margaret's Asylum Centre, Scotswood

The Centre opens 5 days each week from Monday to Friday from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm offering a hot meal around lunchtime. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits are provided throughout the day. Clients can also wash clothes, watch TV, use telephone or internet, or just spend time there each day. English lessons are available on two days each week, and recently we have offered a cookery course over three weeks.

Numbers have increased throughout this year. We still have a number of clients forced to sleep out of doors, in parks or around the back of shopping areas. We continue to have a small number of Eastern European migrants as well as a few local families seeking our help.

Currently we are distributing about 160 bags of groceries each week. This is made possible by the continued support of diocesan parishes and schools – 110 on our books at the time of writing, mostly, but not all, catholic. At the start of each month they provide us with a huge amount of packets, tins etc. (the monthly miracle as we call it) but by the end of each month our shelves are invariable almost empty. We seem to be always anticipating the next delivery! Fortunately Harvest Festival time always produces a boost in food gifts, for which we are most grateful.

ITEMS IN GROCERY BAGS

Tin of meat	Tin of tomatoes	Biscuits
Tin of fish	Tea or coffee	Sugar
Tin of beans	Rice or pasta	Toilet roll

We offer cooking oil, toiletries, bread, fruit and other commodities when available.

Destitute Fund

We continue with weekly £5 cash payments to our destitute clients, thanks again to donations from parishes, J&P groups and individuals, including a continuing growth in standing orders. Money is raised in many and various ways—coffee mornings, quizzes, ecumenical events, and this year, we even had a runner in the Great North Run! We are still managing to employ

2 part time workers. However, we totally rely on grants from charitable trusts to cover the cost of this, as also the rent for our premises. Unfortunately, such grants are becoming harder to obtain. For the time being however, thanks to the Northern Rock Foundation, the Sir James Knott Trust, Christ's Hospital in Sherburn and the Passionist Order, we are managing to survive.

Our faithful volunteers, a team of 17, plus groups of school students, continue to give their time and energy, week in and week out. New volunteers and visitors are always welcome.

Thanks to everyone who supports us in any way.

John Marshall

Clients' Countries of Origin

D. R. Congo	Angola	Russia	Romania
Zimbabwe	Algeria	Sudan	Slovakia
Palestine	Togo	S Africa	Nigeria
Iran	Somalia	Ethiopia	Albania
Eritrea	Armenia	Israel	Bangladesh
Iraq	Burundi	Mauritius	El Salvador
Guinea	Sri Lanka	Brazzaville	Poland
Cameroon	Kenya	Pakistan	West Sahara