

News from the Fellowships

(Carey, Belmont Road and Church of the Resurrection, Grovehill)

October 2023

BELMONT ROAD

- **Thursday 5th October**, to celebrate National Poetry day, we have an evening with the World Poetry Slam Champion Harry Baker at 7.30pm with tickets priced at £12. See our website for more information and for booking details.
- **Saturday 14th October**, 6:30pm at John's Church, Boxmoor, Concert featuring local ecumenical choir Joyful Noise! and composer Roger Jones of Christian Music Ministries. Contact Sarah (07929 645179) for tickets, more info or to join the choir.
- **Thursday 19th October**, Prayer meeting 7.30pm

Please continue to remember Hazel Barton and family following the death of her father. She writes: 'Thank you for the cards and kind words given to us following the death of my Dad, Ted Yorke. Your fond memories of dad mean a lot at this time. I would also like to express my thanks for the many folk who helped with the funeral: music, sound, cake, serving tea & coffee, washing up, clearing up. The church family of Belmont Rd surrounded us in love.'

*Paul Martin would like to thank those who sponsored him and he was able to raise **£278** for **Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust**. **Great effort** on such a hot day.*

CAREY

- **Sunday 15th October, 10.30am**, Church Anniversary Covenant & Communion Service. Our preacher is Rev Lisa Kerry, Team Leader of our Central Baptist Association. The worship will include the congregation making personal pledges of extra creation-care steps & will be followed by a fellowship meal. (NB. Please sign up on the sheet in the corridor, if you are joining the meal).
- **Tuesday 17th October, 2.30pm**, Hymn Café in the hall.
- **Friday 2nd November, 2.00pm**, Heather Club AGM in the hall.

GROVEHILL (C.O.R.)

- **Sunday 15th October**, Collection for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal at the Sunday service.



KEVIN'S STORY

When Kevin's parents became unwell, he found it difficult to juggle his job in IT with caring for them. Sadly, they both passed away within a short space of time. This had a considerable impact on Kevin's mental health, which started to affect him at work. His employer decided it was time to part ways, leaving Kevin out of a job for the first time in his life – which caused his wellbeing to decline even further.

Kevin withdrew from everyone and everything around him. Without the knowledge of what he could claim by way of financial support, and with his motivation at an all-time low, his rent and other bills went unpaid. After about 12 months, he was evicted from his private rented flat and found himself homeless.



After contacting Dacorum Borough Council for support, Kevin was directed to the Day Centre, who then referred him to The Elms hostel. There, he accessed the Crash Pad's emergency overnight accommodation, before being offered a room at the hostel.

Kevin's dedicated Key Worker helped him to apply for benefits and set up a repayment plan for his council tax arrears. He attended The Elms' Life Skills course, where he learned about cooking, budgeting and looking after a home. He also started counselling with the hostel's clinical psychotherapist.

One morning, Kevin noticed a group of residents learning about coffee from a Barista Trainer. A lifelong coffee lover, he was intrigued and asked his Key Worker about it, and so began his journey with the Coffee Project. He signed up to start the next course, and attended every Friday morning for 12 weeks. He learned about the different types of coffee beans, how the equipment worked, and how to steam and froth milk.

Kevin enjoyed his first experience of serving the public when he helped to run the coffee van at DENS' Sleepout fundraising event. Shortly after, he heard that DENS were planning to open a café in partnership with Sunnyside Rural Trust and volunteered to help out two hours a week. He then assisted with running the coffee van at another fundraising event, the Hillbuster.

Being involved with the Coffee Project has improved Kevin's mental health significantly, because it has kept him busy and not dwelling on things. It's also helped build his confidence, as he feels he is contributing to DENS and has found something he's good at.

Kevin said: "I've been able to control my mental health issues when working with the Coffee Project. I really enjoy meeting the customers and providing a service."

Kevin is now thinking about returning to paid work in the coffee industry, something he wasn't considering before.

DENS will continue to support and empower Kevin to return to a happy, healthy and independent life.