

Tabor House to help turn more lives around

Birmingham shelter, Tabor House, is celebrating two great milestones as several guests secure jobs and it extends to welcome more people.

One guest who has made great changes is Roy, who was one of the first people to move into Tabor House.

Roy became homeless after his work dried up and his relationship broke down. As his savings ran out he found himself unable to finance his living space. He had no choice but to sleep in a tent in Birmingham city centre.

Over Christmas 2016 he used the Churches' Winter Night Shelter. When

that closed in spring, he returned to sleeping in his tent. He consequently developed breathing problems and a sense of hopelessness.

In Roy's own words, he "just gave up."

When he arrived at Tabor House Roy was exhausted. It took time before he adapted to living in a shared indoor space. However, after a few short weeks of good sleep, nutritious meals and engaging with others in a homely, welcoming environment, Roy came back to life.

With support, he updated his qualifications and secured work as a forklift driver in December. He is now seeking his own accommodation with the support of his mentor.

Mairead Shaw, Co-ordinator at Tabor House said, "He is very grateful for the support and opportunities he has encountered here. Roy gives all credit for his progress to the staff and volunteers but, in truth, they merely recognised his potential for change and



supported him to harness it."

The second milestone came in February, when Tabor House opened three more bed places. To begin with, it offered places for six guests so it could make sure its strength-based approach offered the right support and best outcomes. Now, thanks to its success, it can reach out to more people experiencing homelessness.

Tabor House will gradually increase bed spaces over the course of the year to ensure it continues to offer high quality support to its existing guests as well as helping new guests.



Lord Mayor shares moment of encounter at Fatima House

Sitting in a quiet living room in Birmingham, sharing tea and cake, four women spoke about their journeys to get to that point, fleeing their countries of origin and seeking refuge, alone, in a foreign land.

Such was the scene as Councillor Anne Underwood, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, visited Fatima House in January. Here she met some of the women staying at the house, which offers safe shelter to female asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and homeless. The Mayor was welcomed by Project Co-ordinator Mauricio Silva, of the Columban Missionaries, and Management Committee Chair Jo Watters, of Father Hudson's Care. The welcoming group also included volunteers Nathalie Marytsch and Jonah Jane Enterina.

Over refreshments she listened to the women's stories of their homes and experiences of seeking asylum. They shared unique insights into what they encountered along the way and the issues they continue to face in Britain.

Afterwards, the group gave the Mayor a tour of Fatima house. Cllr Underwood presented her official memento card to each woman as a gesture of solidarity. She plans to share the experience and the issues faced by lone destitute female asylum seekers with others.

Jo said, "We were all really pleased that the Lord Mayor took the time to visit a small project which is reaching out and providing food, resources, warmth and shelter to women with nowhere else to turn."

Fatima House is a partnership project between Father Hudson's Care, the



Archdiocese of Birmingham, Columban Missionaries UK, the St Vincent de Paul Society, a local Catholic Parish and Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham. It relies on donations, particularly non-perishable food, toiletries and household essentials. If you would like to donate, please take goods to Father Hudson's Care at the address overleaf during office hours. Thank you.

Old Boys continue to care

Each year Jimmy Spencer, Father Hudson's Old Boy and dedicated volunteer, plays an integral part in organising the Fundraising Ball. As well as his role on the committee, he organises the tombola, sells tickets, motivates volunteers and visits Coleshill businesses to encourage them to get involved, and helps on the night.

Jimmy also helps out at Father Hudson's Care throughout the year.

He is also in regular contact with other men and women who lived in Father Hudson's homes, keeping them up to date with what's happening at Father Hudson's Care.

The week before the Annual Fundraising Ball, he received a visit from fellow Old Boy and friend since childhood, Jim Delaney, who delivered a large donation of prizes for the tombola. Many thanks Jim and Jimmy for your ongoing support.



Jim, left, with Jimmy

Ball-goers raise funds for vulnerable children and adults

In February, the National Conference Centre in Birmingham came alive as over 200 people gathered for the 114th Annual Fundraising Ball in aid of New Routes Fostering and St Vincent's Independent Living Apartments.

We were delighted this year to be joined by His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham, who thanked everyone for coming together to support the



two worthy causes.

Andrew Penny, Domiciliary Care Manager, and Jo Walthew, Head of Children and Families, told guests about the difference their support will make to the people they work with by helping build new services for young people and a communal space for people living at St Vincent's.

Regular Ball volunteers, Michael and Fionnuala Feery, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the night. They were presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Ball committee.

The Tombola was a great success, with many players competing to win a giant stuffed monkey. The winner of the popular primate kindly gave it to Michael and Fionnuala's grandson. Thanks go to Mick and helpers for running the tombola, Jimmy Spencer

Michael and Fionnuala Feery and family



and the Feerys for co-ordinating the behind-the-scenes work and everyone who donated prizes.

While the proceeds are still being calculated, it's clear the evening will make a difference to the fundraising efforts of both projects.

The Committee is looking for new members to help organise the Ball in the coming years. To learn more, call Ginny Cullen on 01675 434015.

Sue honoured with medal from Pope Francis

Sue Allen, formerly of Hope Community, has been awarded the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Francis.

She was presented with the award by Bishop David McGough at a special retirement Mass as she steps down after twenty years as Manager.

Friends and colleagues from Hope Community, the Infant Jesus Sisters and Father Hudson's Care, as well as people from the local community, gathered to thank Sue for her service and dedication.

Fr Dawid Piskorz welcomed guests, saying they were gathered to thank

Sue for giving her talents and skills over the years. Bishop McGough echoed this, saying, "We are here to celebrate Sue's great contribution to this community."

After the Mass he read a letter from Archbishop Bernard announcing that Sue had been awarded the Benemerenti Medal in recognition of her service to Hope Community and the people of Heath Town.

Accepting the Medal, Sue said she was totally surprised. She said, "I am speechless – which is something my team won't believe!"



We wish Sue well for her retirement and are pleased to appoint Jane Bamber, formerly of Embrace in Worcestershire, to the position.

Reaching out to raise awareness and funds

During the spring term, Margot Scotford, Lucy Davis and Megan Cox visited primary schools across the Archdiocese, encouraging children to take part in our Good Shepherd Appeal. The appeal raises vital funds that enable projects across the Archdiocese to continue working with people in need.

Margot, Megan and Lucy, School and Parish Engagement Officers, visited almost 100 schools across the length

and breadth of the Archdiocese, giving talks about Father Hudson's work.

They play a crucial part in teaching students about the difference Father Hudson's projects make in people's lives and motivating the children to get involved. They help build foundations for the long-term as the students grow and move to senior school and beyond.

Many schools give out Good Shepherd collection boxes to collect coins during Lent. Others hold non-uniform days, cake sales and other fundraising events. At the end of the

Students from Good Shepherd Primary School, Coventry



appeal, schools gather together at a series of Masses to pray and celebrate their hard work and achievements.

HOLY WEEK is certainly a good time to speak, as Roy does, about coming back to life, with the help of the wonderful volunteers and staff at Tabor House, committed to respecting the strengths and dignity of each person who comes through the door.

In a time when other organisations, especially statutory ones, struggle to provide services, Father Hudson's has continued to develop new services, working with partners and with prayer.

This comes at a heavy cost to the organisation, which this year is

committed to running at a significant deficit rather than cut these vital services. Please help us see this year through and continue to build His Kingdom, by combining your generosity with our determination.

Andy Quinn, Chief Executive