



NIGHT SHELTER & St John's Church, Farsley

"We feel like we've done something BIG, together, a community"

In April 2018, the Night Shelter was ably hosted by the team at St John's Church in Farsley. This Night Shelter inspired contributions from the whole community including regular churchgoers plus residents, groups, individuals and local businesses. The Reverend Paul Tudge commented: "We work hard as a church to get stuck into community work – this church is open to everybody – and this paid off for us when we hosted the Night Shelter." Curate Hannah Lievesley added: "we were all in it together – and we feel like we have done something big – as a community"

The St John's team volunteered with only a few weeks' notice in response to an urgent Night Shelter appeal. They have since commented that they could have done even more with a longer lead-time. They even took everything down for a wedding and reinstated the sleeping area that same evening. They happily ran events and services with guests resting in their screened area by the altar. Nothing phased this supergroup.

The community supported them admirably and generously. 70 volunteers came in over a 2-week period – one third friends of the church, one third regular parishioners and one third non-church associates (but now new friends!) The local Co-op were generous with donations and even gave paid time for staff to assist. Three local cafés donated food and one donated meal vouchers. Farsley Celtic offered access to 5-a-side pitch for free. A local launderette washed bedding and towels for free and a local resident washed personal items. Dry Cleaners donated unclaimed items and a local funeral director gave a large financial donation. A local dentist donated toothpaste and toothbrushes plus Farsley in Bloom and a local Community Orchard offered gardening sessions (sadly prevented by severe weather). A local resident donated West Yorkshire bus passes; another donated plenty of eggs. A local church lent a football table and another a table tennis table.

Thank you St. John's, and the businesses and residents of Farsley. You have done us proud and are an inspiration to future Night Shelter host organisations.

Date of shelter:

3-16th April 2018

Host Organisation:

St John's Church, Farsley

Coordinated by:

Hannah Lievesley (Curate)

Managed by:

Rev. Paul Tudge



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