

Thank You For Your Donations

- **A big thank you** to all who have made personal donations or raised money for KeySteps, including the Quiz Night at The Plough in Congresbury in August 2015, which raised £194.
- **If you wish to donate** please make your cheque out to “WDGB LTD” and send to the address below. Please remember to Gift-Aid your donation if you are a tax-payer.

Grants Awarded

Many thanks to the following trusts and organisation for their support:

Beatrice Laing Trust	Olive Tree Trust
Henry Smith Foundation	Portishead Nautical Trust
Lloyds Foundation	Truemark Trust
MacRobert Trust	Weston-super-Mare Town Council
Marsh Christian Trust	

COULD YOU BE A TRUSTEE??

We are looking for local people with a real heart for, and commitment to, helping local people to avoid homelessness.

Key Areas include:

- **Fundraising**
- **IT Support**
- **Publicity**
- **Safeguarding**

If you are interested please contact Maggie (details below).

KeySteps

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KeySteps is the working name of WDGB Ltd

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Giving Up Sunday Lunch

Caring members of Yatton Methodist Church gave up their Sunday lunch to dine on bread and soup in the church hall. They donated what they would have spent on a full roast dinner to KeySteps, raising £480.70.

Anne, this month's host said: "Every two months we pick a charity to support. Normally we have bread and cheese, but I decided January called for a warming home-made soup".



Afterwards they heard about the life-changing work of the charity helping people to escape, or to avoid, homelessness.

Diary Date: Choir Concert in October

Gloucester Christian Choir will be performing a concert in aid of KeySteps at Yatton Methodist Church (BS49 4DW) on **1st October 2016** in the evening.



The choir has members from many different churches and denominations. They join together to sing uplifting songs with a Christian message in a variety of modern styles.

Tickets £5.00 (to include light refreshments) - further info from KeySteps office.

Breakfast with the Bishop

Last October KeySteps staff, Maggie and Julia, were invited to Breakfast with the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Revd Peter Hancock, in St Paul's Church Hall, Weston.

The event celebrated the work of local organisations involved with vulnerable people in Weston. It was also a chance to make new connections and put faces to names.

Bishop Peter spoke about the role the Church can play in connecting with community groups and creating effective partnerships that really make a difference.

Our ladies enjoyed a superb breakfast. They were touched by the kindness and hospitality of the church volunteers – from the kitchen staff to the young people who made sure everyone had all the food and drink they wanted.

They also enjoyed the church's 103rd birthday celebration service afterwards, with its exuberant music, lively worship and inspiring personal stories of lives turned around by faith.

"It was a great opportunity to meet people and make new connections, and we really appreciated the encouraging words from Bishop Peter. We were particularly impressed by the church's involvement in local issues, and all the projects it is linked with through the Lighthouse organisation.

We hope we can continue to build on this by working together more closely in the future."



Partnership Working

Over the last year KeySteps has been working with Churches Together Weston District on a project to create signposting tools to direct people in need to sources of help in the town.

The project, funded by the Church Urban Fund, includes the production of a leaflet containing all the information a homeless person arriving in Weston would need and could easily access on the day.

Researching, designing and creating the leaflet took a while. We are delighted with the final print by AP Design & Print of Weston. Copies have been distributed amongst various support agencies and churches in the town.

Organisations in other parts of North Somerset are already interested in creating similar sheets relevant to their own areas.

Homeless Sunday

On 24th January 2016 KeySteps and Somewhere To Go held a special service with the Salvation Army to reflect on the issues surrounding homelessness in Weston-super-Mare, and possible solutions.

People judge us, assume we are drinking and taking drugs and that hurts ...

Representatives of over 15 different organisations working in the field attended the service, along with the Mayor of Weston, Cllr Raymond Armstrong.

Speaker Jo Southard, of Lighthouse Weston, challenged and motivated all present to work together to improve the provision of suitable support and accommodation for needy people in the town.

Joan Eales, manager of Somewhere To Go interviewed two people who were sleeping rough in Weston. Asked how they felt about their situation, they said were most concerned about how other people saw them - "People judge us, assume we are drinking and taking drugs and that hurts - I've been clean for years". One of these people has now been helped with a bond from KeySteps.

The collection taken during the service came to £330.07 and was split between KeySteps and Somewhere To Go.

How You Can Help

- ◆ Donate clothes, shoes, sleeping bags etc. to the Salvation Army and Somewhere To Go.
- ◆ Donate furniture to one of the Changing Lives shops (Weston, Nailsea, Clevedon).
- ◆ Donate food to the Foodbank.
- ◆ Fundraise for, and donate to:
 - Somewhere To Go
 - Salvation Army
 - Weston Lighthouse
 - KeySteps (*please make cheques out to "WDGB Ltd"*).
- ◆ **Churches** can help by adopting a homeless charity as a "project". In return the charities can supply speakers, information and displays.
- ◆ **Landlords** can help by making affordable rental property available to KeySteps clients - find out more from the KeySteps office.

Contact info:

Foodbank - 01934 708906

Changing Lives - 01275 870117

Salvation Army - 01934 628513

Somewhere To Go - 01934 641880

KeySteps - 01934 617617

Weston Lighthouse - 01934 613259