



The Cellar Café Newsletter Spring 2016

As I write this in March, it hardly feels like Spring with hailstones battering my windows! It seems to have been a long, wet Winter and I'm sure you are all looking forward to brighter days ahead. Particularly in Wintertime, **The Cellar** is a place where those who live alone can be assured of a warm welcome, away from the cold and with a friendly atmosphere, making it an important haven for many of our customers.



Before Christmas, over 50 **Christmas parcels** of seasonal food, and gifts were given to individuals and families known to **The Cellar**. The number of parcels needed has increased each year and we were able to considerably extend our social outreach to meet demand and reach further groups in the community. 17 parcels were provided for teenagers in families known to social services, through liaison with **Waverley Youth Support**. Christmas food was also distributed to **Christians against Poverty, Farnham Road hospital, Loseley Children's Centre**, and sheltered housing at **Turners Court and Busbridge Halfway House**. We were even given a real Christmas tree complete with decorations which we were able to give to a family! Debbie would like to thank all individual, groups and churches who donated items or money for the parcels, which make such a difference to those who receive them. We are also grateful for the donations received through the **Waitrose** food bank collection point.

Over £600 was raised through the sales of **Christmas wreaths** in December. They were very popular, and a small team of us managed to make 72. We were grateful to have the use of a large space at **Godalming United Church** for two long sessions where we were able to spread out the foliage and decorations. We could have sold more if time had allowed us to make them, and next December we would like to have a bigger team to make more wreaths. Please let me know if you are interested – no flower arranging or artistic skill is really required, just time.



Jeremy Hunt MP visited **The Cellar** on Friday 3rd March and enjoyed a cup of coffee and the opportunity to chat to trustees, staff and customers. He heard first hand from customers how **The Cellar Café** supports vulnerable and disadvantaged in the local community. Trustees explained the difficulties of fundraising and staff talked about the problems that many of the customers face in living on a small income.



Before he left, Mr Hunt donned a floral apron was put to work as a volunteer behind the counter alongside Debbie and Emma. Debbie talked about how it is more difficult to manage on a low income in areas such as Surrey than in less affluent areas of the country. Regular customers told Mr Hunt how important **The Cellar** was in their lives, and how they always received a friendly welcome.

Trustee **Shelagh Godwin** has raised about £500 for **The Cellar** through publishing her 150 page memoirs detailing her experiences from the age of three to her marriage in 1970. She lived in many countries as her father was an army chaplain. If you would like to receive a copy and make a donation, email Shelagh on jimdogshom@aol.com

In the past few months I have raised over £50 through online shopping for Christmas and furniture through www.easyfundraising.org . At present **The Cellar** has just 7 followers – please consider signing up - it’s very simple. Choose **The Cellar** in the Support section. You are then linked to hundreds of online shops, including Amazon and supermarkets, to make your purchases in the usual way. The shop donates a small percentage of what you pay.

Our treasurer, Ray Brown, monitors **The Cellar** budget closely and relies on monthly donations for Friends, grants and fundraising to meet costs with little or no extra to spare, except for a small contingency fund. However income is not always assured and costs continue to expand. If you do not donate regularly or would consider increasing your present giving, please contact Ray through **The Cellar** or on ray.brown44@btinternet.com . Also you may know of a company that would like to make a donation through their charitable giving programme, if so please get in touch.

Jottings

“ It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”

Charles Dickens’ opening line in a “A Tale of Two Cities” described the French Revolution; a nation savaged by the madness of zealots, betrayal and slaughter, but also bravery, heroism and self-sacrifice. Today we hear of torture and executions; evil atrocities fuelled by fanaticism around the world.

In the midst of this, a teenage girl from Pakistan speaks out for humanity, survives an assassination attempt and wins a Nobel Peace prize. An English Anglican priest daily risks his life to serve God and care for endangered Christians in the Middle East. Like St Francis, where there is despair they bring hope, where there is hatred, love.

During Lent, we explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, to daily take up our cross and follow where He leads us, entering into His passion and suffering. It was the worst of times, or so it seemed. The Saviour of the World insulted, beaten, tortured and brutally killed on a cross. Or was it? On that first Easter morning, Jesus was alive! He did it for us! The greatest happy ending ever!

Jo H.



Volunteers are always needed at **The Cellar** to fill in gaps in the rota and to be available to cover for absences. **The Upper Room** can be used free of charge by qualified or trainee counsellors to provide affordable low cost or free counselling. Contact Debbie or Emma at **The Cellar** to volunteer or use the Upper Room.

This newsletter has been made by Jacky Beale in the hope that it will help you keep in touch with **The Cellar** family.

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