

## The Drop-In at St. Mildred's, Addiscombe

Currently every Sunday afternoon from September through to mid-July, St Mildred's hosts the Drop-In for homeless and needy guests. During September, October and April- July, the sessions run from 1-3pm. From the beginning of November until Easter the sessions run from 1-6pm.

At the Drop-In we are able to provide showers, haircuts, second-hand clothing, new underwear, toiletries, snacks and drinks, a film, peace and quiet, board games, reading material and social interaction. On average, the Drop-In receives 40-50 guests per Sunday.

It has been our privilege to maintain contact with many of the guests after they have been housed and we recognise that they need our continuing support.

Last winter was particularly harsh and with increased economic instability for many, our number of guests rose dramatically. During the coldest months, we welcomed between 55-65 guests during our 5-hour sessions.

We are incredibly fortunate to have forty plus volunteers spread over the month from other local churches, parents from a local school as well as numerous personal friends of the leaders who support us. Additionally we have eight ex-guests that now serve as volunteers on a regular basis.

Each volunteer and leader brings valuable talents, skills and energy that keep this vital resource thriving for our guests. On many occasions our ex-guest volunteers or "housed friends" have been a useful resource to the new guests, offering advice, inspiration and hope, and massively enhancing the feeling of a familiar, safe and cosy environment for new struggling guests.

Most of all, we give offer friendly and supportive company for those who want it. We listen!

For further details please contact the Parish Office.