

# **An Exciting New Chapter for The Joel Centre**

**Dear Friends and Supporters,**

We are delighted to announce the start of an exciting new chapter for the Joel Centre. [Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness \(KCAH\)](#) will be taking over the running of the Joel Centre with immediate effect, enabling them to significantly expand the support they provide to vulnerable people facing homelessness in Kingston.

KCAH is a vital organisation with deep Christian roots. Not only are KCAH our next-door neighbours, they are a close and trusted partner, having been the main source of referrals to the Joel shelter.

KCAH provides lasting solutions that restore the self-esteem and confidence of vulnerable people, helping them out of the vicious circle of homelessness.

## **Joel During The Pandemic**

During the COVID-19 crisis, night shelters like Joel have not been permitted to operate. However, the Joel Centre has not lain empty! Since the pandemic struck, Joel has provided invaluable space for:

- More than 90 rough sleepers to meet safely with KCAH staff and be assessed for emergency housing and support during lock down.
- KCAH staff and volunteers to put together around 1200 bags of food and toiletries for those being supported in a local hotel.

## **The Future of The Joel Centre**

The Joel Board of Trustees is determined to continue the vision of our late Chairman, Reverend Peter Holmes, to support homeless people in our borough back into work and permanent accommodation.

Although the Joel Centre cannot reopen as a night shelter for the foreseeable future, KCAH shares our long-term goal, which is for Joel to become once again a Christian place of dwelling for those without a home.

Please join us in praying for KCAH as they assume responsibility for the Joel Centre. Please also pray for the success of this initiative; that it helps to transform the lives of desperately needy people and prevents them from ending up back on the streets.