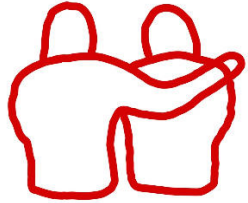


**NORTH EAST**  
**HELP LINK**  
Showing God's Love In Action



[www.nehl-trust.org.uk](http://www.nehl-trust.org.uk)

Charity No : 1100971

## **Newsletter**

Spring 2011

A recent article in a national newspaper stated that the number of homeless people in the North East area, where we have kitchens, were :- Darlington, 2; Stockton ,0; Middlesbrough 20; Newcastle, 3. From the many reports which receive from our workers we know that this is not the true picture. In every kitchen there are those who are struggling with alcohol or drugs, and those who have just been released from prison and are on the streets. There will be those who have left home because of a domestic dispute which they cannot resolve, and those who are simply lonely and just want someone to talk to.

#### Reports from the kitchens

Our workers have reported the following stories. The names of the people concerned have been changed to protect their identities.

- Some good news about a young man at our Newcastle kitchen who has been doing work for One North East and Business Link, designing computer software. He has just received confirmation that his application for funding to start his own business has been successful, so he is now on the lookout for suitable premises.
- Tony is really struggling with drug addiction. He comes every day for food and support.
- Paul sleeps rough and comes for food, but won't accept any other help. He has been attending our kitchen, on and off, for several years. He sometimes visits his grandmother in Whitby and then appears again in Middlesbrough.
- Jane's boyfriend died last year from a drug overdose. Sadly, she seems to be heading the same way.
- Sarah, an alcoholic girl, is back on the streets after losing her tenancy because of anti-social behaviour.
- Wayne is having to leave the area because he owes money to dealers and they are after him to collect it.
- Eddie is an alcoholic who is trying really hard to get off the drink. He comes to church sober every week and has

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To let us know of any fundraising events etc, please contact Jean Cansfield (Secretary) with details of date, time and venue.

☎ 07788 983746

- joined a help group.
- Bev is an alcoholic who has a flat but spends all day drinking on the street with her mates.
  - Tony has a flat but is very lonely. He comes for company and comes to church regularly.
  - Charlie is homeless after falling out with his stepdad. We have been able to help him into a house and to give him some support.
  - Ralph is homeless, depressed, and really low at the moment. He comes for support and we have advised him to visit a GP for medical help.
  - John, who is ex-army, is sleeping rough and won't go into accommodation. We gave him a new sleeping bag and offer support and the chance to talk.

We recently took the decision to close the Thursday afternoon kitchen at Newcastle, because there was an over-provision of kitchens at this time, and we could use our resources in Darlington and Middlesbrough where there was a greater need. We know how important it is to organise our kitchens at times which suit our clients, but it is also important to consider the hours which we ask our employees and volunteers to work.



On the 19th of February, a 20 year celebration of the Help Link's founder, Walter Wilkinson, was held at his church in Spennymoor. The church was full of people who had travelled from far and wide to be there. Many had been volunteers, supporters, workers or trustees over the years. A video record of the service was made and can be viewed on our website at

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### **Fund-Raising Activities**

*(Contact Jean Cansfield for further information on any item)*

- Anne Chisholm will attempt to produce watercolour paintings of buildings, landscapes, flowers (NO people or animals!) from photographs or pictures.
- Pauline Blyth is willing to try to sell unwanted items on e-Bay.
- Lawn cutting (Sunderland Area)  
Please contact George Carlyon  
(0191) 5211217



[www.nehl-trust.org.uk](http://www.nehl-trust.org.uk).

The members of the congregation were invited to leave a written memory for inclusion in a scrap book of the occasion. Greetings, from supporters unable to attend, will also be

included. The retiring offering will be used by Lifeline Christian Ministry, Leanne's work in Middlesbrough on Sunday evenings.

This was a moving occasion when a wide range of people met with a single intention: to thank God for a remarkable family and their faithful fulfilling of God's call to service.

Once again our grateful thanks to all of our supporters for their donations of money, food,



and clothing which is appreciated by all at NEHL, as well as our clients.

## NOTICES

\* A coffee morning will be held at Ryhope IM Church on Saturday 11th June, in aid of NEHL.

\* The Walk for Walter's Work will be held on 25th June

Please check our website closer to the time for more details.

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## **Contact Details**

To donate tinned food, clothing, or blankets, contact Carl Heron (Chairman)  
☎ (0191) 5368637 to arrange collection

To make a donation of money, contact Moira Cansfield (Treasurer)  
☎ 07733365607

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