



SLEEPOUT

FOR



HOMELESSNESS



20TH JANUARY 2024

SLEEPOUT SURVIVAL KIT

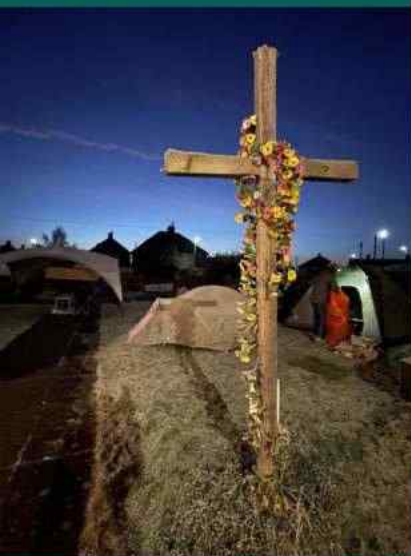
In this pack you will find loads of information about this years Sleepout For Homelessness, including:

- details of our campsite
- hosting your own
- worship ideas
 - prayers
 - songs
 - Bible readings
 - activities
 - discussion points
- information about our charities
- a kit list
- homelessness statistics and information

WELCOME TO OUR CAMPSITE



Our base for the past 2 years has been Lidgett Methodist Church in the York Circuit. Here are some of our photos from previous years!



WAYS TO JOIN IN



There are so many ways you can join in with the Sleepout this year:

- join us at Lidgett MC
- host your own campsite (page 5)
- sleep anywhere but your bed
 - in your garden
 - in your bathtub
 - under your desk
 - on your sofa
- pray for the homeless and for us
- donate



HOST YOUR OWN CAMPSITE

Hosting your own campsite is easier than you think, and it helps more people get involved! Below are some things to think about!

VENUE

A church/building with plenty of outdoor space is great (grass, tarmac or concrete are best, rather than stony ground). Think about access to toilets, a kitchen and somewhere warm - we don't want people being too uncomfortable and getting ill!

SAFETY

Make sure you have a risk assessment, emergency contact details for over 18's, consent forms for 18's and under, a designated first aider, access to clean water and a security team in place. A security team is especially important where there is open access to the campsite from the street.

The District team can offer help with safety, please just ask us!

WORSHIP

Think about worship the day after the sleepout! Try to organise for someone from your group to help lead the service, or for each person to go back to their own church and share their experiences. There are worship resources on pages 6-11 to help you plan a service on the theme of Homelessness!

PEOPLE

The amount of people in your campsite will depend on how much space you have - we recommend checking out the space beforehand and estimating how many tents (and how many people per tent) can fit there.

WORSHIP: PRAYERS

Follow the links to various websites full of prayer ideas for homelessness (or Justice in general!)

Find prayers written by Housing Justice [here.](#)

Find a way to pray through doodling [here.](#)

Find a prayer video about Shelter [here.](#)

Find creative ways to pray for homelessness [here.](#)



Find prayers on a theme of Justice [here.](#)

Find general prayer station ideas [here.](#)

Find an intercessory prayer video [here.](#)

WORSHIP:

MUSIC

Find these songs in Singing The Faith or on YouTube!

Justice

God of Justice - Tim Hughes (STF 699)
Beauty for Brokenness - Graham Kendrick (STF 693)
Longing for Light - Bernadette Farrell (STF 706)
I will speak out - Bankhead et al. (STF 702)
Lord you hear the cry - Geraldine Latty

Mission

Let us build a house - Marty Haugen (STF 409)
Hear the call of the kingdom - Keith & Kristin Getty & Stuart Townend (STF 407)
God of all comfort - Joel Payne & Matt Weeks
If we are the body - Casting Crowns

Calling

Have you heard God's voice? - Jacqueline Jones (STF 662)
I, the Lord of sea and sky - Daniel Schutte (STF 663)
Speak, O Lord - Keith Getty & Stuart Townend (STF 161)
All the room was hushed and still - Graham Kendrick (STF 266)
From heaven you came helpless babe (The Servant King) - Graham Kendrick (STF 272)

Adoration of God/Gathering Together/Praise

Everlasting God - Vicky Beeching (STF 46)
The Splendour of the King - Chris Tomlin (STF 15)
You're calling us - Graham Kendrick (STF 37)
Our God is an awesome God - Rich Mullins (STF 62)
Blessed be your name - Matt & Beth Redman (STF 41)
When we were in the darkest night - Matt Redman (STF 241)

WORSHIP:

BIBLE READINGS

There are lots of Bible readings you could use for a service about Homelessness or Justice - here are a few!



Psalm 9:9 - The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Matthew 25:31-46 - For I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.



Micah 6:6-8 - To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Proverbs 31:8-9 - Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.



Luke 18:1-8 - And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?

James 2:14-17 - Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.



WORSHIP: ACTIVITIES

There are many different ways to be interactive in a service about Homelessness. Some of these require some preparation, so make sure to plan time to do this before your service!

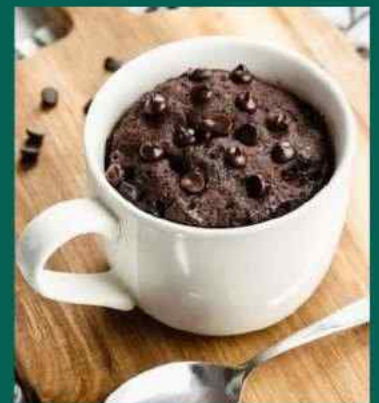


HOMELESSNESS JENGA

This is a great game to play to help the congregation understand the reasons people may become homeless. The instructions to make and play this game can be found by contacting Amy amy.shephard@methodistyouth.org.uk 07708559419

MUG CAKES

This works well in small groups, perhaps a café style service, or house group activity. You can find packet mixes in most supermarkets!



SHELTER

Use blankets, chairs, boxes, pegs, anything you can find to make dens, then small groups can sit inside them and discuss.



WORSHIP:

DISCUSSIONS

The following discussion points and questions may relate to some of the Bible passages, activities or music, or may just stand by themselves. You can use them as they are, or adapt them to work best for your context!

- Talk about the little things that we take for granted, e.g hot drinks, clean toilets, warm buildings
- How safe would you feel sleeping on the streets?
- What does it mean 'to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God'?
- Talk about everyone being able to do something about Justice - sleepout, donate, pray, share resources (tents/sleeping bags etc), volunteer...
- What are some of the reasons people may become homeless?
- What would Jesus do if he saw the amount of homelessness in our communities/country/the world?
- Do we always see homelessness? (Think about Rural and Urban Homelessness!)
- Think about practical steps you can take to make positive change - remember, faith without action is dead!

WORSHIP: EXTRAS!

You could find or make your own trivia quiz about homelessness in your area and see how much your congregation knows about the situation right on their doorstep!

If there are Street Pastors or other organisations that work alongside homeless people in your area, you could invite them to share their experience with you in your service

You could share [this video](#) of artist River Jones speaking about homelessness

What about using songs that aren't from a direct religious background - like Martyn Joseph's *Albert's Place* - inspired by a woman who started a Community Soup Kitchen!

You might like to take a tour around your campsite with the congregation - you could do this by walking around the tents/space with them, and even set up some prayer stations in a few of them!

What about getting a volunteer from your congregation to try on some wet socks, or even stay in them throughout the service?

CHARITIES

Our 3 Charities again this year are Carecent, Inspire North and SASH. Find out more below!



Carecent is a York-based organisation which provides breakfast 6 days a week for those who need it. They also work closely with other York services to be able to signpost people to important support including mental health, employment and finances

InspireNorth are a charity focused on training and development of mental health, wellbeing, housing, domestic abuse and other services, working across Yorkshire and the North of England.



SASH (Safe And Sound Homes) work with host families in Yorkshire, organising temporary placements in homes for young people who have nowhere safe to live, and working alongside them to plan for the future.

KIT LIST

If you want to take part in the Sleepout, but don't know what to bring with you - here are some ideas from Sleepout-Veterans!

Lots of socks!

Small tent

Sleeping bag (or 2)

Roll mat

Cardboard (an extra layer between you and the ground!)

Woolly hat

A notebook & pen - you might like to write down any reflections overnight

Gloves

Torch

Cosy pj's

Blankets

Joggers and hoodie to go over your pj's!

A pillow/cusion

Remember, the idea of the sleepout is to make you uncomfortable, not to make you ill - make sure you stay as warm and dry as possible throughout the night!

HOMELESSNESS

At the beginning of 2023, 271,000 people were recorded as being homeless, including 123,000 children.

The number of people living in temporary accommodation has risen by 74% in the last decade.

More than two thirds of families in temporary accommodation have been there for over a year.

In 1 year (March 2022-March 2023) the number of people sleeping rough rose by 641.

FACTS & STATS

63% of people living in temporary accommodation say it has had a negative impact on their mental health.

The UK government is reportedly spending £2billion over 3 years on tackling homelessness.

Relatives/friends no longer being able to 'house' people is one of the biggest reasons for homelessness.

Men outnumber women on the streets by a ratio of 6 to 1.

Information taken from multiple sources, including Shelter, Big Issue, gov.uk and ONS.