



Gateway into Life



Gateway into Life, Dene House, Shilbottle, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2HS
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Supporter News and Prayer Update 3

14th January 2020

Dear Supporter,

As we enter this new year, we are excited by all that is in store, especially the opening of the first HiAN house. I and the other Trustees of Gateway into Life are conscious that the way ahead is full of challenges but what we do know is the amazing way that God has guided and provided during 2019. We continue to trust Him for all that is unknown in 2020.

Good progress is being made on the Alnwick house. Most of the work is completed and we are now looking for furniture and household items to make the house tenant ready. If you have any items that might be useful please contact Joan Verity (jmverity21@gmail.com or [01665 575696](tel:01665575696)). Our aim is to have the house ready by the end of January or early February.

I am very pleased to inform you that Catherine Iley has started as the Empowerment Worker. Catherine has a background in prison work as a probation officer, has helped run drug rehabilitation centres, as well as being a domestic violence advisor. As a committed Christian she is thrilled that God is using her past experience as our Hope into Action worker. Catherine and I had a very positive visit to HMP Northumberland and as a result she is in contact with the Chaplain who is looking to refer to us men who are soon to leave prison. Catherine's work e-mail is catherine.iley@hopeintoaction.org.uk

When the setting up of G2L was first discussed in January 2019, we knew that there was a lot of work needed to get such a charity up and running. Gill Bray who has significant experience setting up community projects and charities offered to serve as a trustee while the new charity was established. During the past year Gill has been instrumental in setting up the charity, finances and publicity channels. She is now stepping down as trustee and treasurer. I would like to place on record my and the trustees thanks to Gill for all the time and hard work she has put into her role. We are so very grateful that her skills and experience have enabled G2L to be established quickly and on such a good foundation. Thank you Gill.

An example of God's provision is that we already have a new trustee and treasurer. Bob Burston is a retired Church of England vicar who has always had a passion to help the homeless and marginalised in society. I am grateful to Bob for volunteering to serve God in this new capacity. His experience as a trustee with Glendale Trust will be invaluable to G2L and will help to steer us forward as a charity.

Another example of God's provision is the growing number of individuals who are regularly supporting us financially. This regular giving is vital to the progress of the work, including the setting up of the first and future houses. We need to increase the number of supporters as we still have a working deficit of £3500. Please spread the word to family, friends and in your churches so that this gap in funding will soon be met.

Praise and Prayer Pointers: These are listed on the back of this letter.

Thank you for your support and encouragement

Paul Allen

Chair of Trustees



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Praise and Prayer Pointers:

- Thank God for the appointment of Catherine as Empowerment Worker. Please pray for her as she gets up to speed with G2L and Hope into Action nationally. Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill and equip her for the new role she has undertaken. Catherine is responsible for vetting all those referred to us. Please pray for great discernment and wisdom as she looks at these referrals, meets potential tenants and identifies their personal needs and what support package is needed.
- Thank God for Bob's willingness to become a trustee and treasurer. At the start of this new financial year, pray for him as he sets up the 2020 accounts, updates the budget, and takes on responsibility for payroll and HMRC returns.
- The Chaplain at Acklington has made the first referral. Thank God for the positive dialogue with the prison and pray for the Chaplain as he meets prisoners who will soon be leaving, that he will have wisdom as to who to refer to us.
- Give thanks for Gill's work and the progress that has been made in 2019. Please pray for the Trustees as they plan for this first house and future houses.
- The first house is being supported by the Gateway Church in Shilbottle. Pray for the Friendship and Support Group who will be supporting tenants when they move into the house. This group will receive training from Hope into Action all day on Friday 24th January.
- On Saturday 18th February the Trustees, HiAN Management Team and Church support group will be attending Safeguarding Training. Please pray that this training will help all of us understand fully the issues of working with vulnerable adults.
- Please pray for Catherine and Paul as they meet with the director of Hope into Action and our HiA "mentor" on Thursday 23rd January, that this will be a productive time and ensures that everything is correctly in place for setting up the new house.
- As other Churches are contacted and news of G2L spreads, please pray that more people will want to give regularly to the charity so that the deficit is covered. Also that grant applications will be successful.