



## RUGBY WINTER SHELTER OPENS FOR A SEVENTH YEAR

**MEDIA RELEASE – Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Rugby's Winter Shelter will open soon, for four months, in 7 local church venues across the town. Announcing the launch of the seventh Rugby Winter Shelter The Revd Dr Michael Bochenski, who chairs the local charity Hope 4 Rugby, observed: **“Every winter asround 50 different guests use the Rugby Winter Shelter. The inspiration behind the shelter lies in the Bible story of the Good Samaritan. We do not want to “walk by on the other side” when people are in need of shelter in our town. This is why, for seven winters now, churches in Rugby have been providing temporary emergency winter shelter in the town for up to 15 rough sleepers each night.”**

According to the charity SHELTER the number of people recorded as homeless in the West Midlands has reached 20,900 and, the report claims, that figure is likely to be even higher. In it Rugby is named as one of the places where the number of people living in temporary accommodation is unusually high. This does not surprise the Hope Centre Team on Newbold Road who see a steady stream of new referrals each month. Reflecting on this Dr Bochenski observed: **“The best we can offer is far from enough. A recent survey among our guests has revealed that we have at least 24 guests who are rough sleeping or badly housed as this winter approaches. Ans anyone who walks the streets of Rugby, with eyes to see, will have noticed increased numbers of people sleeping rough in or around the town. We do what we can as local churches each winter but two things are urgently needed for the future – more social housing for young single people and more all year round emergency accommodation.”**

The Rugby Winter Shelter will be open from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> March. **This year's venues are : Sundays - St John the Baptist, Hillmorton; Mondays - St Marie's; Tuesdays - St George's; Wednesdays - Rugby Baptist; Thursdays – m2o; Fridays - the Salvation Army and Saturdays- the Rugby Methodist Centre.** Volunteers willing to help out – especially with the overnight shifts - are encouraged to contact the charity directly. And guests wishing to book a place at one of the venues need to register in person for each night at the Hope Centre, 8 Newbold Road, Rugby CV21 2LJ Tel 01788 572456. Referral documents and Volunteer Application forms can also be downloaded via the Hope 4 web-site: [www.hope4.org.uk/](http://www.hope4.org.uk/) **ENDS**

**Further information: Rugby Winter Shelter 2017-8** – Poster attached.

**BBC summary of the SHELTER report:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-41889923>

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07968983320. Hope 4 (Rugby) Ltd. is a **Registered Charity** (no. 1126487). It is also a **Private Company, limited by guarantee**, (Companies House no. 06614898). web site : <http://www.hope4.org.uk/>