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Poole Homeless Charity Launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

Routes to Roots hopes to raise £25,000 from this year's Christmas Appeal, which will fund a new heating system for its new permanent centre for Poole's vulnerably housed

Poole homeless charity, Routes to Roots has launched its 2020 Christmas Appeal which aims to raise £25,000 to fund a specialist new heating system for their new permanent centre for Poole's homeless community. The former Baptist Church in Hill Street, Poole, is undergoing extensive renovations that will convert it into a lasting 'Place for Change' for locals currently without somewhere to call home.

A team of dedicated Routes to Roots volunteers and trustees are calling on individuals and organisations to help them reach their target. The new building will provide a sanctuary for rough sleepers, providing warmth, food, shelter, and specialist support throughout the day.

Routes to Roots co-founder and Chairman, the Reverend Pat Southgate, who has been supporting Poole's homeless community since the charity was first established in 2002 said, "We are so close to realising our long-standing ambition of providing a dedicated space from which to offer a wide range of support to help some really vulnerable people make a lasting change in their lives so our Christmas Appeal this year is more poignant than ever."

"It's heart-warming how much support we have already received from the local community and now, it's only a matter of time before our homeless can come in and keep warm and dry."

To help spread the word and to donate, visit and share the following link <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity>

For further information, visit <http://www.routestoroots.org>

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Media information & interview requests

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Routes to Roots

Poole-based charity Routes to Roots was founded in 2002 to support local rough sleepers and the vulnerably housed and is dedicated not just to providing day-to-day support but also outreach services to help those in need make long-term change. Through its Amos House facility, it provides three short-term supported housing units, helping residents make the transition from life on the street to more permanent homes.

The Patron of Routes to Roots is The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. The Trustees are the Reverend Pat Southgate, Chairman of Board of Trustees and Associate Priest at St Peter's, Parkstone, Founder Trustee of R2R and Chaplain to the Homeless in Poole, Kate Mellor, Martin Finch, Andrew Teale and the Reverend Lucy Holt.

In February 2020, the charity bought the former Hill Street Baptist Church. Renovations at its future permanent base have begun this month. Once completed, the building will become the centre for all the help and support available to Poole's vulnerably housed to help them realise lasting positive change in their lives.

Saltwater Stone is working for Routes to Roots on a pro-bono basis. PR, marketing services and advice are being offered to the charity without charge.