

East Northants Community Services (ENCS) – June 2019 update
Also serving the district through the East Northants Faith Group (ENFG)

(Registered Charity Number 1154210)



NEWS FROM ENCS

Coming soon: the **Mud Run event fundraiser**: with five men in recovery raising funds for the Recovery House. Please see <https://www.give.net/mudrun>.

The ENCS Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday 18th June. During the meeting, David Houghton looked back at last year's finances, as set out in the trustees' 2018 Annual Report – available at https://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends10/0001154210_AC_20181231_E_C.pdf. In response, Jo Burns highlighted the large contribution made through volunteers giving their time. David noted that this was quantified in the Annual Report as 44 volunteers having given 1,116 hours during 2018, worth about £125,000 at the National Minimum Wage level. Looking ahead, Andrew Presland spoke about the ENCS business plan (copies available on request from him), which sets out a direction for the development of ENCS over the next three years.

Volunteers are still needed in the Night Shelter, to cover the evening shifts and the sleeping/overnight shifts. If you or anyone you know can give up even just one regular evening or night a month, that would allow us to continue to help the most vulnerable in the community. **We are also looking for donations for our projects as well**; Sugar, UHT Milk, toilet rolls, cleaning products, tins and microwave meals. More details: Jo Burns at jo.burns@encs.org.uk or on 01933 733001.

We are also short on stock in our food bank. Donations of tinned foods, cereals and toiletries would be very gratefully received! Please email or drop them off at the Full Gospel Church between 9am and 3pm on a weekday.

Update from ROC (Redeeming Our Communities)



The next meeting of the **Raunds & Rushden area Action Group** will be taking place on Tuesday 23rd July, from 7.30pm at Rush to the Den in Fitzwilliam Street, Rushden. Groups are currently working on **family support, elderly isolation, youth engagement and homelessness**. Others are welcome to get involved too. Groups are also active elsewhere in the county, with the county-wide group meeting at St Giles' Church Hall, Northampton on the evening of Wednesday 3rd July. Nick Amis has more details on 07979 366654.

Refugee support

The next meeting of Friends of Refugees East Northants will be taking place at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th July at Rushden Full Gospel Church.

Please contact Andrew Presland at andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com or by phone on 01933 316927 if you would like any more information on anything mentioned on this sheet.

A date for your diary

The next **East Northants Community Leaders' Lunch** will be taking place on **Wednesday 2nd October**: 11.30am for 12 noon at the Frontier Centre. As well as a buffet lunch and networking opportunities, Julia Smith from East Northants Council will be giving an update on the plans for local government organisation, and an update will also be given by East Northants Community Services.
More details later...

Planting trees to tackle climate change...

Regardless of how far you think that climate change is caused by humans, few people deny that we need to do more to look after our world. But even though safeguarding the integrity of creation etc has been one of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion for many years, local churches and other faith groups haven't often led the way locally in changing things for the better. Instead, secular reports have usually taken the lead, such as the Committee on Climate Change, which recently called for many radical changes within this country, such as the trebling of woodland creation by 2050. Such grand targets will be met nationally, however, only if action is taken to make a difference locally – and churches and similar groups are well-placed for making that difference, as well as potentially increasing people's wellbeing, strengthening community life, and prompting environmentally concerned residents to become part of their local community.

All that's needed, is a few like-minded people to come together; find somewhere to plant some trees (e.g. public/church owned land or friendly private land owners); obtain some trees (e.g. cheaply from the Woodland Trust); plants and look after them, and perhaps hold the occasional community event on the land to keep people interested.

If this is something that you'd like to start in your local community – or are doing already, please contact Andrew Presland (details below) to tell him more.



One of many examples of how this could happen is Midshires Covert (pictured), near Harrington (near the A14 west of Rothwell), where there will be an open afternoon from 2pm on **Saturday 20th July** – and which people are welcome to visit any time. Details are available from Andrew and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250829575354/>

CMS (Church Mission Society) cream tea:

2.30 to 4.30pm on Thursday 4th July, at St Katharine's Church, Irchester. Rev Abi Middleton will be speaking on **"Pioneer Ministry – what's that?"** Cost: £5. Details from Edna Wadsworth – 01933 357253.