



# BEACON BRIEFING *Autumn 2007*

For use on notice boards, in newsletters etc.

**“Helping Churches support Asylum Seekers –  
Helping Asylum Seekers support Churches”**

## HOSTING PROJECT

*Will Sutcliffe began work with Beacon on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to develop a Hosting Project and has initially been visiting similar successful services in Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds, to learn from their experiences.*

*In December he will bring his research and proposals to the Beacon Executive and it is hoped that he will then be able to start actively promoting the project - and looking for people with spare rooms that they might offer to (mainly) single destitute Asylum Seekers. Meanwhile, if you are interested in learning more about what hosting might mean and the support available to hosts and their guests, please ring Will at Beacon on 01274 721626*

## Would you like to support the work of BEACON?

Please send your donation to Judy Midgley. BEACON, 32, Merton Rd, Bradford, BD7 1RE  
cheque/postal order/CAF  
voucher payable to BEACON

**If you are a taxpayer and would like to increase the value of your gift, please ring BEACON and ask for a Gift Aid Declaration.**

BEACON relies on donations to support the work with Asylum Seekers

## CHAT PILOT SUCCESS

*CHAT - Care and Hospitality At Thornbury*

*Four months into the pilot project the volunteers look forward to their Tuesday morning encounters with Asylum Seekers at Phoenix House.*

*Some solicitors are distributing our leaflet, in different languages, with the calling papers, so that those attending the court will know that they are permitted to go across the road for refreshments and a place to relax. Many Asylum seekers are still afraid to leave the court in case they miss the Hearing, which will determine their future. Thanks to the co-operation of Phoenix House staff, we now have a tea trolley in the building, so we can offer 'a cuppa', alongside a listening ear.*

*Some people do find their way to our CHAT room at Thornbury Methodist Church, often after their case has been heard. If this has been an initial hearing, or an adjournment is agreed, we see them again several weeks later. There is no doubt that our visitors appreciate our concern for them and the opportunity to share their stories.*

*We hope to add a second morning early in 2008. If you could help please contact BEACON Tel 01274 721626 or Rev Rita Armitage Project Co-ordinator Tel 01943 603886*

**In the name of Jesus, refugee, rejected and risen ... let us thank God - for Asylum Seekers who transform our worship, for volunteers who offer patience and persistence, and for people across Bradford Met who share a commitment to the work of BEACON in very different parts of the District. Amen.**

## McKENZIE FRIENDS

*We are currently recruiting volunteers for McKenzie Friends to support asylum seekers without legal aid.*

### **What is a McKenzie Friend?**

*This is a non-legal member of the public who assists an appellant when they have no legal representative, at a time that is often bewildering and full of anxiety.*

*A McKenzie Friend is a volunteer, independent of the court system and the Home Office.*

*Volunteers will attend a training course and will be mentored by McKenzie Friends with court experience.*

*If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please fill in the form below. If you know someone who needs a McKenzie friend we are operating a referral system and we may be able to help.*

*Contact Ann on 07947 139243 or Judy at BEACON 01274 721626*

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

BEACON AGM Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
10.00am at Desmond Tutu House,  
2, Ash Grove, off Great Horton Rd,  
Bradford. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

## What can our church do?

- **Pray** for refugees
- **Be informed** about the Asylum System
- **Invite** a speaker from BEACON
- **Support** BEACON financially
- **Campaign** on behalf of vulnerable people

Join the Living Ghosts campaign  
With Church Action on Poverty  
[www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

***If you are interested in becoming a BEACON volunteer please fill in this form with your details and send it to; Judy Midgley, BEACON Development Worker, 32, Merton Rd, Bradford, BD7 1RE Tel 01274 721626***

Name			
Address			
Tel Numbers Home and Mobile			
Email			
What sort of voluntary work would you be interested in. Please circle.	CHAT (Hospitality project)	McKenzie Friends	Hosting
	Speaking to Church Groups	Campaigning	Other(please state)
	Public speaking	Research	

Please use an extra sheet to tell us about your talents, skills and previous experience, which may be useful when working for BEACON