

Advent sleepout challenge

On the night of Friday 8th December nine hardy souls from the benefice endured and enjoyed temperatures of -3c when sleeping outside under canvas in support of the Church Urban Fund. The Advent Sleepout is an annual challenge when we remember Joseph and Mary sleeping in the stable and give up a night's comfort to sleep outside for a night and raise money to help change lives and communities. Last year events across the country raised funds that provided support, food, shelter and 4,000 bed spaces for homeless people. We hope to help even more people this year.

The Seven Towers team was made up of members of Suzanne's home group who shared the Moseley family tent, which provided plenty of space for 9 sleeping bags, a table for midnight snacks and a porch for depositing frozen outside shoes. Ali challenged the team to spend a minimum of 10 hours in the frosty tent which was spent testing each other's general knowledge with a quiz, singing along to Fi and her fabulous guitar playing and finally managing a few hours of sleep.

Ali's 10 hour sentence ended at 7am when we broke the ice on the tent and escaped to the warmth of the Humphris' barn to be welcomed by hot tea and coffee, porridge and a fantastic cooked breakfast.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored the sleepout challenge. We managed to raise £ 1250. We endured discomfort for just one night when for thousands of our neighbours in the UK it is a daily hardship made even more dangerous by the constant threat of violence, theft and prejudice. We pray that the funds that we managed to raise will go a little way to helping some of the most vulnerable in our society.

In addition to the sponsors, the team would like to thank Trevor and Liz Humphris for their hospitality, downstairs toilet and fantastic breakfast. We would also like to thank Ali who masterminded the challenge, encouraged and enforced. If anyone hasn't made a donation, but would like to, please go to www.sleepoutchallenge2017.everydayhero.com or speak to Suzanne or Ali.

Any volunteers for the 2018 challenge