

Bethany Christian Trust

Prayer Diary 2023

Celebrating 40 years of Bethany



Pray with us - 2023



Join in prayer with the Bethany team this 40th anniversary year

Welcome to Bethany Christian Trust's 40th Anniversary Prayer Diary!

God has been so faithful to us as we seek to fulfil His purposes, and we are delighted to be joining together in prayer as we mark 40 years of serving God and His people.

We are, always have been, and always will be, totally dependent on God's immeasurable love, and we cling to this continuous line as we thank Him for the last 40 years and look ahead to the future. Contributors to this diary reflect the 'People of Bethany', including people who have received our support, members of staff, volunteers, and supporters from across the years.

Together, as the 'People of Bethany', we seek after God for His help as we aim to show His heart and love for people in the most challenging of circumstances across Scotland.

Thank you for your support – we hope you enjoy using this Prayer Diary!

1983 Bethany Christian Centre opens its doors

1990 Care Van starts in partnership with Edinburgh City Mission

Bethany House opened for supported housing

1994

1996 Winter Care Shelter begins (later to develop into the Welcome Centre)

Learning Centre in Leith opens for groups such as the Bugle Magazine

2009

2013 Connect to Community launches, helping people build a positive pathway after prison

2019 Care Van starts in Glasgow in partnership with Glasgow City Mission

2020 Anne Hope House founded to support women experiencing homelessness

Supported Housing launches in Aberdeen

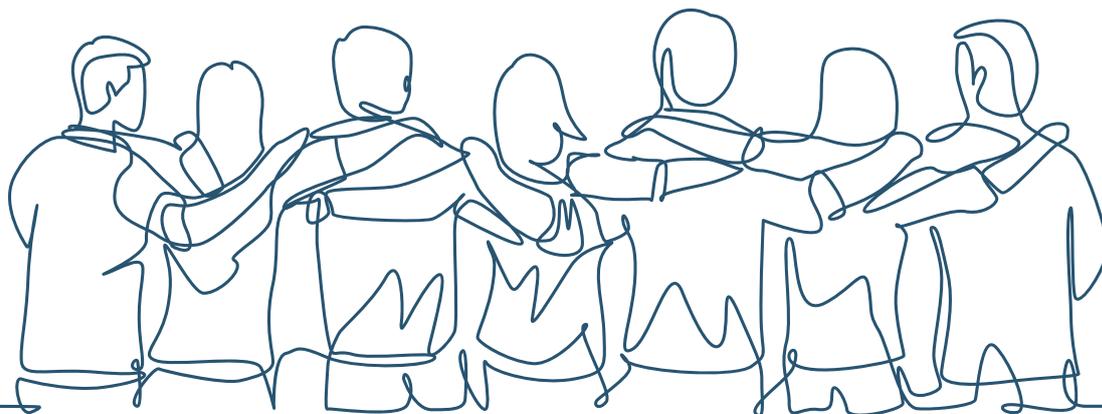
2021

2023 Bethany Christian Trust celebrates 40 years serving people in Scotland

Father, I thank you that the words of Psalm 40 are a living testimony for me. When Alan Berry took me into Bethany in 1987 from a life of sleeping rough outdoors, I experienced first-hand the love of God. 'He lifted me out of the slimy pit' and 'gave me a firm place to stand.'

I pray that through the work of Bethany across Scotland, many more souls will experience the redeeming love of Jesus and full restoration in their lives.

John Rodgers, Director of Income Generation



January

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. Psalm 40:2

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| | | | | | | 1 New Year's Day |
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We continually seek to sow God's love into the hearts and lives of people in our communities, developing new services that respond to the multiple needs affecting people today.

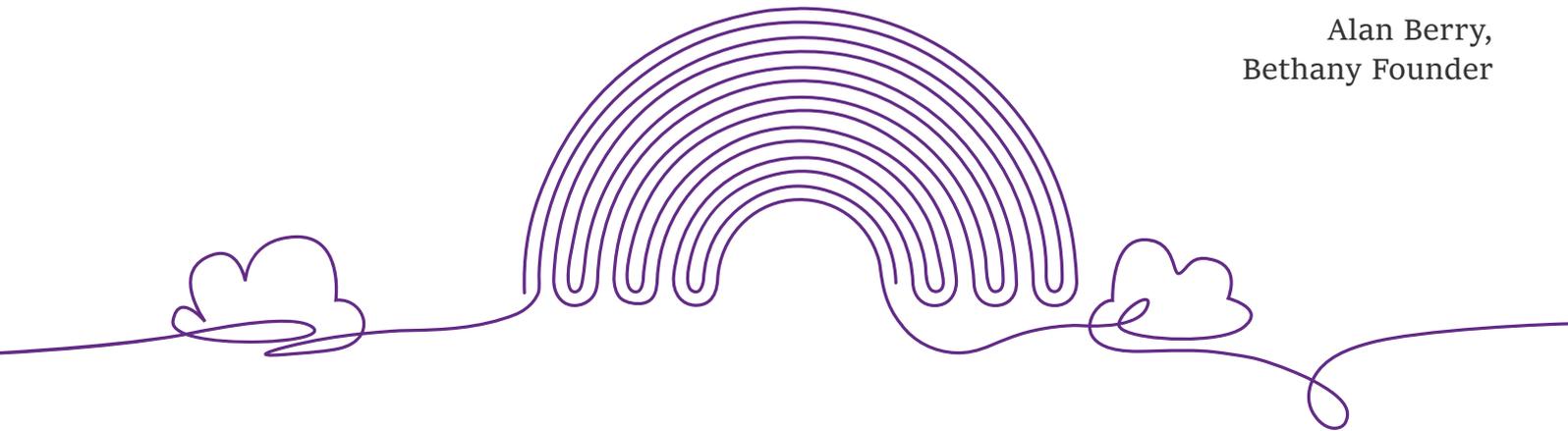


Dear Heavenly Father,

You are a merciful and compassionate God and we thank you for sharing your heart for people who are homeless and vulnerable with the original Trustees. Thank you for your faithfulness over these 40 years and the faithfulness of those who have contributed to the vision through prayer, giving, volunteering and serving with love within the life of the Trust.

Thank you that many who were without hope have found hope and a future in You.

Alan Berry,
Bethany Founder



February

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 106:1

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| 6 | 7 Bethany's birthday | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
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Bethany celebrates its 40th Birthday this month. Why not get in touch to find out ways you can help us mark 40 years of ending homelessness in Scotland?

Email the Fundraising team at events@bethanychristiantrust.com or call us on 0131 561 8927.

Dear God,

We thank you for the love in the hearts of Bethany's supporters for ending homelessness in our cities. Their tireless work and the miracles you have brought is an inspiring light amidst the darkness of injustice.

We pray for the upcoming Sleep Out, that it will continue to foster community, bringing people closer to understanding your heart for those unjustly disadvantaged.

We pray for that same light in their hearts and ours.

Philip Brown,
Sleep Out Participant



March

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. Isaiah 1:17

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| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Sleep Out 2023 | |

In solidarity against the issue of homelessness, over 70 participants in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and across the country swap the comfort of their beds to sleep rough for one night, raising awareness and vital funds to end homelessness in Scotland.



Lord God, Easter focuses our attention on the wonderful generosity displayed in Christ. This generosity is at the heart of Bethany's work and we pray today that it might be in the hearts of all the churches who support Bethany.



You alone can make Your people to be more like Your Son, so we ask You to be at work in every church, that new acts of generosity would begin, and well-established patterns of giving would be continued.

Luke Davydaitis, Church Leader

April

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. **2 Corinthians 8:9***

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| | | | | Good Friday | Holy Saturday | Easter Sunday |
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Bethany relies on the prayers, donations and support of hundreds of churches across Scotland. Get in touch if you would like to know more about how your church community can support and partner with us in ending homelessness.



Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to start a new life and begin afresh. We thank you for providing us with safe accommodation which has transformed our lives.

We ask that you help all the tenants continue to grow in fellowship together and inspire others.

Thank you, Lord, for providing us with safe spaces to grow in faith and in recovery.

Jesus we pray that there will be more opportunities for people to experience the help we have received.

Bethany Homes Tenants

May

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

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Bethany Homes provides supported accommodation to individuals and families at risk or with a history of homelessness. There are Bethany Homes across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dumfries and West Lothian.



Father we pray for the Care Van. We give thanks for all those who consistently commit to serve on the Care Van and without whom the service would not be complete. We ask for strength to keep serving and for new volunteers to share in this wonderful service. We pray for those that the Care Van serves. May they find love, provision, kindness and community as they gather around the van each day.



Eleanor McLachlan, Care Van Coordinator

June

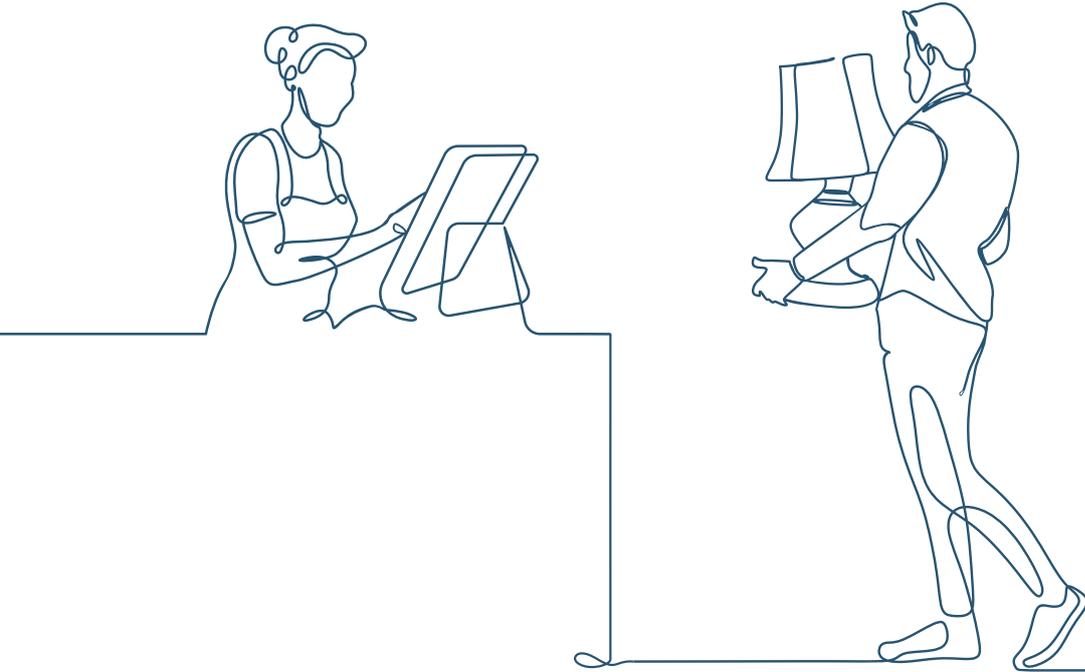
*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. **John 13:34-35***

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The Care Van provides food, hot drinks, compassion and support for people who are homeless and vulnerable. There are Care Vans based in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth, with volunteers from local churches working with the teams.



Lord, we give thanks for your blessings and provision in each of our shops. We are so grateful to our customers, past and present, for their continued support. We pray the shops continue to be a beating heart in the community and Christ's love is palpable to all those who cross our thresholds. We are blessed by the continued faithfulness of our volunteers who give their precious time to be part of the Bethany family, and pray that they are an encouragement to others.



Helen Dickie,
Bethany Shop Manager

July

*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. **Romans 12:11-13***

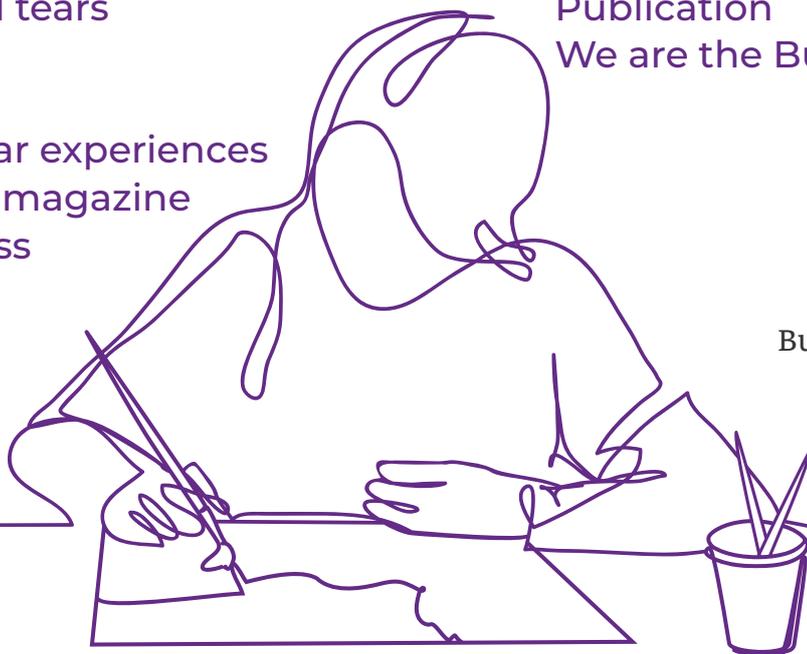
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Donate to our shops and make a real difference in the lives of people who are homeless and vulnerable. We are always in need of donations – portable items can be handed in to any of our shops and furniture uplifts can be arranged by calling 0131 561 8904.

If God be for us
 In our days of trouble
 Who can be against us
 On and on we have travelled
 Through the years
 We have trusted God
 Through our friendship
 We have had tears
 Laughter
 Sadness
 Shared similar experiences
 In the Bugle magazine
 Homelessness

We have been like a family
 Supporting us through different
 Seasons
 We been through fine Exhibitions
 Well-crafted
 Taught by fine poets
 Inspiring us for our next
 Publication
 We are the Bugle creative team

Rosalind Alexander,
 Bugle Magazine Contributor



August

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

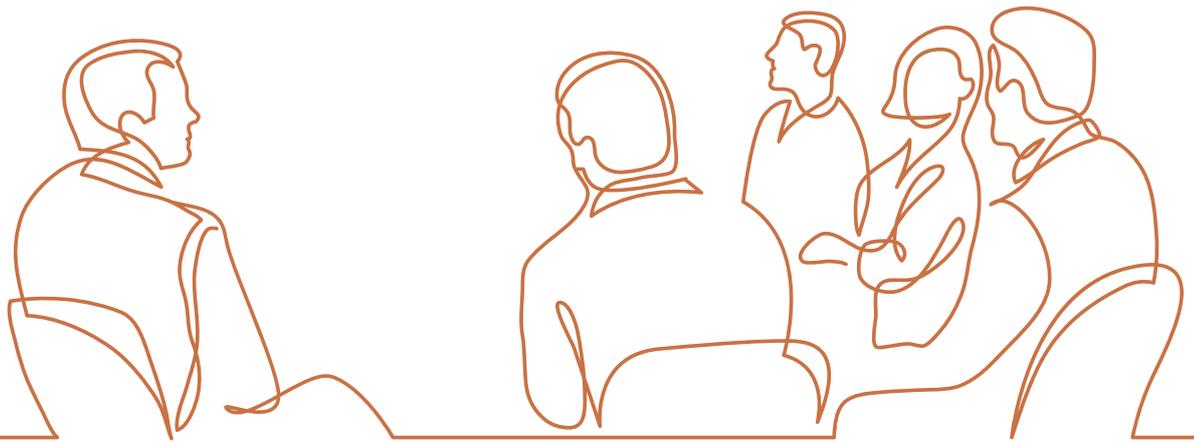
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Creative Expressions gives people the opportunity to express themselves through the creative arts in communities across Scotland.



Heavenly Father, we thank you for your goodness to us. We remember that you provide all we need. Help us to remember that and to think of others less fortunate than ourselves. We pray for the North of Scotland and those who are struggling in addiction and homelessness. We ask that you bless them and help them to see that hope and help is available. Help them to see you. Lead us and guide us in all we do.

Martin MacLean,
Recovery and Resettlement Worker, Inverness

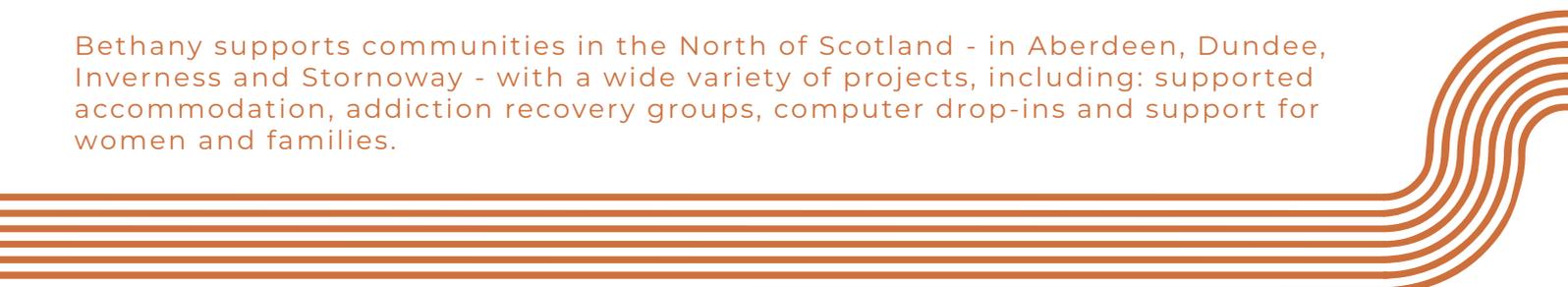


September

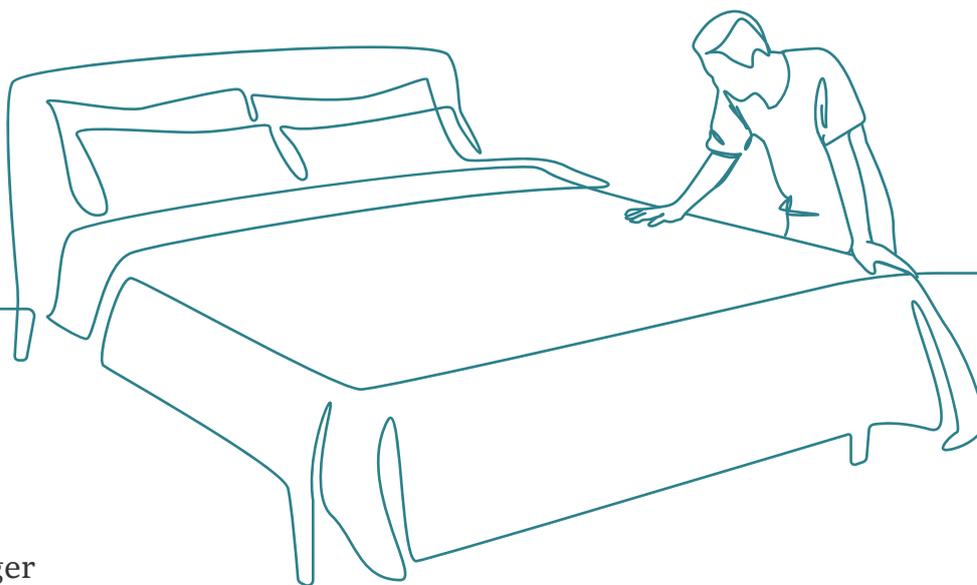
Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Psalm 34:8

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Bethany supports communities in the North of Scotland - in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness and Stornoway - with a wide variety of projects, including: supported accommodation, addiction recovery groups, computer drop-ins and support for women and families.



Father God, we thank you for all the provision you have given us at the Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre. We thank you Lord for the opportunities to support and care for people who are homeless and struggling. We pray for everyone who enters the Bethany Welcome Centre, that through our actions they see your work in practice. Give us the opportunities to share the good news and to praise our Father in heaven. We pray this in your powerful and mighty name. Amen.



James Milligan,
Welcome Centre Manager

October

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.*
Philippians 4:4-5

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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

The Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre provides emergency accommodation and support to anyone who would otherwise be rough sleeping in Edinburgh.

Lord, we thank you for the work of Bethany Christian Centre. We thank you for the way that the staff and volunteers have served people in need with their practical Christian love. We thank you for the many lives that have been turned around as a direct result of the Centre.

We pray for renewed energy for the staff and volunteers, and we pray that you would continue to bless this service and the valuable work that is made into people's lives.

Tim Purves,
Bethany Supporter



November

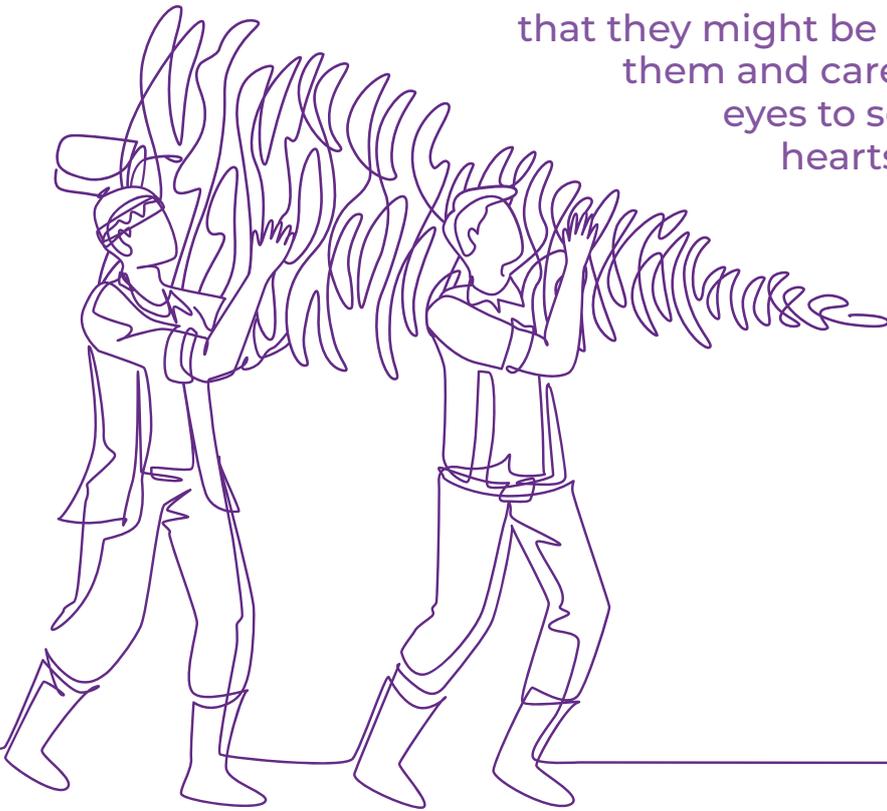
In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' **Acts 20:35**

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| 27 | 28 Giving Tuesday | 29 | 30 | | | |

Bethany Christian Centre is a supported residential community for men who are homeless, providing assistance to individuals in their recovery from addiction.



Father, we thank you for creating us, you know us and love each one of us. At this Christmas time we lift up to you the people in Scotland who are facing challenging circumstances, that they might be aware of how much you know them and care for them. Please give us your eyes to see, your ears to hear and open hearts and hands to respond as you ask us to.



Emma Galloway,
Caring Christmas Trees Volunteer

December

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.
Philippians 2:3-4

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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | | | | | | Christmas Eve |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Christmas Day | | | | | | New Year's Eve |

The idea is simple: purchase a Caring Christmas Tree and all proceeds go towards Bethany's vital work. Every tree bought and every donation made helps to fund our shared vision of Ending Homelessness in Scotland, One Person at a Time.



**Bethany
Christian
Trust** | **Ending Homelessness
in Scotland,
one person at a time**

Illustrations by Fiona Storey

Bible verses have all been taken from the New International Version

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