



West End Refugee Service
strength through support



Issue 71: October 2017

Bishop Christine raises over £5,000 for WERS hardship fund - a fantastic result and the donations are still coming in!



Bishop Christine with Bishop Mark, the Lord Mayor and someone else who runs a bit too!

Wearing a purple T shirt – what other colour T shirt would a bishop wear? – Bishop Christine completed the course in an impressively respectable time and clearly very much enjoyed the amazing atmosphere. People were saying hello and even giving her money en route!

WERS has the greatest respect for anyone who can run 13½ miles! Bishop Christine raised a staggering amount of money - £5,006.92 to date - and given encouragement to the many asylum seekers and refugees who come to WERS for support. A huge thank you to Bishop Christine and all those who have so generously supported her run!

Just before the big day, WERS sent Bishop Christine a good luck message to spur her on:



Italian night at St James's, Riding Mill

A delicious 3-course meal, quiz and raffle were enjoyed by 90 people in the parish hall at the fundraising event for WERS which raised over £1,400. Thanks to St James's Church fundraising committee, the local businesses which supported the event and, of course, everyone who attended. Grazie mille!



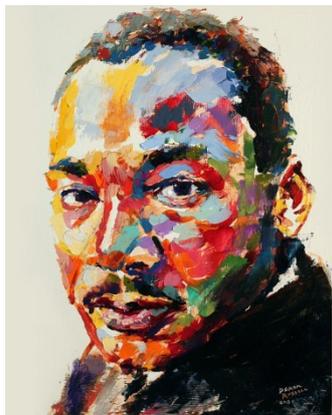
WERS AGM



Our AGM took place on Tuesday 3rd October at Westgate Baptist Church and around 50 people attended and heard a wonderful talk by Prof. Brian Ward.

Brian is Northumbria University's first Professor in American Studies. Previously, he held the Chair in American Studies at the University of Manchester (2006-2012), served as Head of the Department of History at the University of Florida (2000-2006), and taught at the Universities of Newcastle upon Tyne (1991-2000) and Durham (1990-91). He is also currently Chair of the British Association for American Studies.

His most recent book, *Martin Luther King in Newcastle upon Tyne: The African American Freedom Struggle and Race Relations in the North East of England*, tells the inside story of Dr. King's 1967 visit to Newcastle in the context of the broader history of racial, religious and ethnic relations in the region.



Brian's research, which led to the discovery of the film of King's 'lost' Newcastle speech, forms the foundation for much of *Freedom City 2017*, a city-wide programme commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King being awarded the honorary degree.

FESTIVE WEEK 2017: 11-15 December



As usual we hope to give the destitute asylum seekers that are being supported by our hardship fund some gifts at Christmas.

This year we are collecting men's toiletries, biscuits and chocolate and also are hoping to give them a little extra money from the hardship fund.

If anyone would like to donate toiletries or treats, we would ask that they be brought to WERS by Monday 4th December.

THANK YOU!

MEN'S CLOTHES ONLY, PLEASE

Supporters have been so generous bringing donations for the store that the garage is full to the rafters with baby, children's and women's clothing!

Might we ask just for men's clothes for the next couple of months, please?

Lindsay Cross

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'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.' (Martin Luther King Jr)