



HOUSE of GRACE

WITHAM

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

for homeless people

House of Grace Supporters Update September 2025

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers. Much has been happening at the House of Grace Witham over the past 3 months. Our fourth resident joined us in February 2025 bringing us to full capacity. Once again God has blessed us with someone who has been able to fit in with the ethos of the house and the other residents have welcomed him into their 'family'. It is so lovely to see them supporting one another, working on projects together, having fun.

Ollie who has been at the house since July 2024 has found full time employment and independent living accommodation in Chelmsford & will have moved out of the house by the time you receive this letter. He has received much love and guidance from everyone but in particular the Bethel church where he completed an Alpha Course and was baptised. He intends to continue worshipping with them and volunteering at the Well Café in Witham where he is much loved by staff & customers.

We are now seeking a replacement resident to complete our complement of 4 and welcome your prayers for this.

Financially we continue to be supported by regular givers & have received some small grants, in particular £1000 from four Witham Councillors. We have also been generously supported by musical events, such as Open Mic and Breakfill Four, as well as a quiz evening held earlier in the year. We are so grateful for these and for those of you who attend to make them successful. Barring large out-lays on the house maintenance, when the house is fully occupied the supported housing benefit we receive covers our costs. However we have & will continue to have times when not all the rooms are occupied (eg between residents moving on & new residents moving in) and once a resident takes up full employment, their housing benefit reduces/stops and we only charge them the level of rent that is compatible with what they earn & the going private rent they will have to pay once they find suitable accommodation. Thus, we will continue to seek means of raising further funds. Watch out for news of concerts and a further quiz in the autumn.

If you have any fund raising ideas, please discuss them with us & if you can organise/help with them, so much the better.

You will recall that the flat roof on the extension was leaking & needed replacing. Thanks to one of our volunteers, Dave Atkinson, we have now sourced the necessary material & a roofing company to do the work. Soon our residents will be enjoying a completely rain-proof house!! It has been a long and costly saga and we are much indebted to Dave for his patience & perseverance with suppliers and distributors.

Helen Carrick joined us as House Manager in October 2024. She works at the house 4 mornings a week & this has made such a difference. She interacts so well with the residents, is a fount of knowledge and the residents know that they can go to her with whatever day to day problems arise.

Please continue to cover the project with prayer. We are still on a learning curve (Ollie's move on was a first for us) and many of the situations we have to deal with are unique to our project. Praise God for all the Trustees, Helen, support workers and volunteers and ask Him to continue to bring us the people we need to keep going forward. To this end we have been blessed with a new Trustee – Antony Timmins (he is replacing Muriel when she stands down at the end of 2025 (although she will continue to work as a volunteer) and our new volunteer Maxine Boddy. We had to say goodbye to Alison Ives who joined as a Trustee at the beginning of House of Grace project. She organised DBS checks and Safeguarding training and wrote numerous policies for the Charity for which we are very grateful. We wish her well on her journey and next phase of her life. To her and all volunteers, donors and supporters:

Sincere thanks & many blessings to you all,

House of Grace Witham Trustees

Website: www.houseofgracewitham.org