

How to help someone who is homeless

If someone phones up or presents themselves as homeless at your church, here are some guidelines on how to help them.

For emergency medical help, call 999.

Put them in touch with local homelessness services:

StreetLink helps connect anyone sleeping rough to local services.

You can contact them via their website: streetlink.org.uk.

Once on their site, you will find further instructions.

Or, if you don't have access to a computer:

The Compass Centre is Bristol's assessment centre for homeless people.

It's at 1 Jamaica Street, BS2 8JP (just off the Bear Pit). Tel. 0117 9440581.

Assessment times for rough sleepers are on Mon, Wed, Thu + Fri at 10:00.

The Methodist Centre, Lincoln Street, BS5 0BJ, hosts assessments on Tuesdays at 11:00.

There is a first come, first served basis, so people need to turn up on time to be assessed.

Emergency food:

The Wild Goose Drop-in Centre, 32 Stapleton Road, Easton, BS5 0QY.

Hot breakfast, lunch and dinner. 10:30 – 15:00 Mon, Wed, Thu + Fri.

20:00 – 21:45 all evenings except Saturday.

Bristol Soup Run gives away soup and sandwiches 365 evenings a year.

Pip n Jay church, Tower Hill, BS2 0ET at 21:15, and Redcliffe Wharf around 21:30.

The Methodist Centre, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, BS5 0BJ.

Breakfast and lunch. Mon 13:15 – 15:30 (lunch only), Tue, Wed + Thu 10:00 – 15:30.

Emergency shelter:

The Julian Trust, 16 Little Bishop Street, St Pauls, BS2 9JF. Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat.

This night shelter for men and women operates on a first come, first served basis.

Queuing for one of their 18 beds typically begins outside the shelter at 5pm.

Spring of Hope is a women-only night shelter, open all nights except Saturday.

To find out if there's space, contact Val Thompson on 07990 715691.

Find out more about helping homeless people in Bristol at bristolhomelessconnect.com