

### NEWS FROM ENCS

A **Christians Against Poverty money management course** will be taking place at Rushden Full Gospel Church from 10am to 12 noon on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May**. It's open to anyone who would find it helpful. Donations welcome. Please contact Jo Burns ([jo.burns@encs.org.uk](mailto:jo.burns@encs.org.uk)) to book a place or find out more.

**WANTED: Volunteers are still needed** for the Night Shelter (especially night shifts, where volunteers are able to sleep) and the Cornerfield Café on Monday and Thursday mornings. Items of food for the Night shelter would be helpful, plus coffee, sugar, UHT milk, toilet rolls, household cleaning products. More details: Jo Burns at [jo.burns@encs.org.uk](mailto:jo.burns@encs.org.uk) or on 01933 733001.

We would appreciate **donations** towards new beds for the volunteers who stay overnight. Alternatively, it costs us £7 per week to provide a daily hot meal for each resident. We would therefore be delighted if people could contribute £7 to feed a resident for a week.

**Everyone is invited to the ENCS AGM** – 8pm on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June** in the lounge at the rear of St Peter's Roman Catholic Hall, Higham Road, Rushden. It will be quite a short meeting, looking back at the work of ENCS in 2018,

The Housing Team at East Northamptonshire Council is holding a **consultation event to inform the development of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy**, from 2 to 4.30pm on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May** at Council Chambers, East Northamptonshire Council, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ. Although the strategy will be developed at a North Northants level, this event will be concentrating on the East Northamptonshire district. All are welcome to share their views and suggestions on homelessness and Rough Sleeping in East Northamptonshire. Details from [lbagley@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:lbagley@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)

### Is science compatible with faith?

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**, 10am -12 noon at Christ the King, Kettering: **'How to talk Science and God'** with Rev'd David Jeans. All welcome.

### Recent research reports:

1. The Archbishop of Canterbury has recently launched a **Commission on Housing, Church and Community**, with an associated independent report from the Centre for Theology and Community and the Church of England. The report includes seven case studies of **church-linked housing projects** in rural and urban areas and across different regions of England, including a homelessness prevention project run by St George's Church, Stamford, just over the Lincolnshire border, and building a strong community at Long Marston garden village.  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/COE%204320%20E2%80%93%20Housing%20Commission%20Report%20V9f%20FINAL.pdf>

2. The **Northamptonshire Community Foundation** has recently published research into **hidden needs** in the county:  
<http://www.ncf.uk.com/about-us/hiddenneeds>

**The next East Northants Community Leaders' Lunch** will be taking place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019**: 11.30am for 12 noon, at the Frontier Centre, off Addington Road, Irthlingborough, NN9 5UF. The meeting room is on the first floor of the main reception building. The lunch will follow three short talks:

- **Helen Cameron**, Chair of the Northampton District of the Methodist Church, will encourage those who are involved in serving their communities, as well as sharing about her role within the Methodist Church and the wider community
- **Denise Evans** will talk about the **wellbeing café** that she and others have established at St Giles' Church, Northampton, describing how similar projects can be started elsewhere;
  - An update will be given on the various working groups that are now active following the visit of **Redeeming Our Communities** to the county last Autumn – seeking to make positive differences in several ways, including on social inclusion, mental health issues, and through work with families, youth and gangs.

Those present will have an opportunity to talk briefly about **any new activities/projects** that they are developing, and a **buffet lunch** will be provided alongside welcome drinks and refreshments. There will also be lots of time for catching up with others and **networking**.

Although there is no cost of this event, a donation of £5 on the day is suggested, to cover food costs. The event is for anyone who is interested, whether or not an official leader of anything.

Places can be booked online at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/east-northants-community-leaders-lunch-tickets-60326456054>.

### Update from ROC (Redeeming Our Communities)



The next meeting of the **Raunds & Rushden area Action Group** will be taking place at 7pm on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**, at Rushden Salvation Army lower hall. Groups are currently working on **family support, elderly isolation and youth engagement**. Others are welcome to get involved too, including on other areas, such as homelessness. Groups are also active elsewhere in the county – e.g. the Kettering group is meeting next on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**, and the county-wide group is soon to be carrying out a survey of church leaders' needs for mental health training. Nick Amis has more details on 07979 366654.

**Public consultation event on the Rushden East housing development:** 3 to 7.30pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at Higham Ferrers Bowls Club, Saffron Road, Higham Ferrers: an opportunity to find out more about the plans and meet the developers

Please contact Andrew Presland at [andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com) or by phone on 01933 316927 if you would like any more information on anything mentioned on this sheet.