



**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEICESTERSHIRE**



Convenor: Rt. Revd. Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

**To: All Clergy & Ministers in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland**

**Shelter Housing Advice and Research Project (SHARP)**

**CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024**

2024 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the setting up of SHARP as an independent local charity. We continue to help those who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or living in poor housing conditions in Leicester and Leicestershire. Our services are unfortunately needed more now than ever. 2024 has seen the problems of homelessness escalate astronomically. In the summer, there were over 500 homeless families (including nearly 1,000 children) and more than 150 single people having to live in temporary accommodation in Leicester because there was no housing available for them. These are levels not seen for decades. It means that so many families with children are having to live in one room which is totally unacceptable. The number of people turning to SHARP for help has doubled in the last three years and there has been a huge increase in the number living in very poor housing conditions.

We have recently carried out some research using data about our clients which tells us a lot about the nature and extent of the problems they are facing. A copy of this research can be found on our website [www.leicestershelter.org.uk](http://www.leicestershelter.org.uk)

SHARP remains fully committed to Leicester's Homelessness Charter. Our services are free. Originally, we were funded in part by Shelter nationally. We still maintain links with Shelter but no longer receive any funding from them. We receive no financial support from Leicester City Council or any local authorities. We do receive some core funding from the National Lottery but to meet current needs, we must also fund raise via donations from individuals, businesses and other organisations such as churches.

We know many churches have supported SHARP in the past and we are very grateful for this. We are asking if your Church will provide financial support for SHARP this Christmas.

**Donations can be made online by going to the SHARP website at [www.leicestershelter.org.uk](http://www.leicestershelter.org.uk) Alternatively, donations can be sent to the Treasurer, SHARP, 13 Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AD. Cheques can be payable to SHARP.**

**Please give as generously as you can. Every donation really does make a difference.**

**Thank you.**

Rt. Revd. Martyn Snow  
**BISHOP OF LEICESTER**

Rt. Revd. Mgr. Patrick McKinney  
**RC BISHOP OF NOTTINGHAM**

Revd. Dr Sonia Hicks  
**METHODIST CHAIR OF DISTRICT**

Revd. Mark Clay  
**E M BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Revd Dr Rob Hunter  
**CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION**

Revd. Geoffrey Clarke  
**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Major Mark Rose  
**SALVATION ARMY**

Anthony Gimpel  
**THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

Rt Revd Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BRITAIN**

Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly  
**BISHOP OF LOUGHBOROUGH**

Bishop Joachim Kreusel  
**MORAVIAN CHURCH**