

Community Stars – Crisis Support Group

Support you can bank on

Located on the outskirts of Bishop Auckland in County Durham, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre is helping people of all ages. Its Crisis Intervention Project offers vital support to people who are experiencing extreme hardship, financial or domestic crises.



Members of the church congregations across the area donate items for the foodbank, and when there is a particular need then a call goes out for more support.

People can also visit the Community Centre for advice on benefits or housing, with specialist advisors available at certain times of the week. More and more people come along for support, or sometimes just to feel part of something.

The Church Centre also provides a furniture project for people in crisis, such as people fleeing domestic

violence or having to move somewhere at short notice. The project has become a vital part of the community, and a number of people who have been helped by Woodhouse are now volunteering to help in turn.



Some of the people we've helped, once they're on their feet again they'll send an anonymous donation or bring in a bag of food, thanking us for helping them in a time of need.



Anne Ramshaw
Church Centre Manager

Church details

- Woodhouse Close Church, Bishop Auckland
- Bishop Auckland and Shildon Circuit, Darlington District
- Average congregation: 25 to 35

What you'll need

- A core committed group of volunteers
- Regular avenues of donations
- Plenty of storage space
- Sound knowledge of the benefits system
- Signposting mechanisms and networks

Crisis support by numbers

- 334 people helped during January to March 2018
- 226 of those were adults, 108 were children
- 7 volunteers running the foodbank



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