



**Centre  
33**

*Helping homeless people  
in St Albans*

## **CENTRE 33**

Founded in the 1970s, Centre 33 provides practical support for people who are homeless or otherwise socially deprived. In particular the provision of hot meals for lunch & dinner from their Spicer Street premises and in 2019 alone, they provided over 9,500 meals.

Despite St Albans' affluent image, people rough sleep in the area and others 'doss' or 'sofa surf' on the floor of friend's or in squats.

In addition to meals, Centre 33 aims to provide somewhere warm & dry to meet as well as providing toiletries and shower facilities. The ambition is to be able to move beyond just these services and to partner with other organisations to expand the range of support provided to those in need.

## **What has Lockdown Life been like for your group?**

Unfortunately as a result of the social distancing challenges due to the size of the current premises at Spicer Street, this location has been closed since the lockdown started on 23rd March 2020.

When lockdown was eased towards the later part of 2020, Centre 33 was able to move to a temporary location at the Citadel on Victoria Street, following the kind support of the management of the St Albans Salvation Army team which had enabled us to restart the provision of food for rough sleepers and those in need who require meals.

Unfortunately at the time of writing this, with the third lockdown in place, the decision was sadly made to pause services once again, in part to protect volunteers and those using the service.

However, it is really pleasing that in St Albans, the agencies, charities and Council are working together in a way that means no one is going hungry and food is still being distributed/ made available to those who need it. Centre 33 continues to find ways in which it can support other organisations through various forms of donations such as clothing or financial support.

