

Information

Firstfruits is fully supported by donations and volunteers!

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Texts are free (except for the donation!) and 100% goes to Firstfruits

Recent events

3rd December - Birth of former resident Mel's 2nd baby, Bella

17th December - Becky's fundraising bungee jump

29th January - Vision Day

11th March - Fundraising cake sale

24th - 25th March - Prayer weekend at the house

To come . . .

April/May - Parenting classes

Kitchen refurbishment

News from Firstfruits - March 2012



Tempting treats for the sweet toothed supporters.

Firstfruitcake Sale

On 12th March, Firstfruits held a fundraising cake sale in Glenwood Church. Cakes on offer ranged from Jill's delicious fruit loaves to Sharon's now infamous chocolate rock cakes. Becky and Cerys became very competitive over whose chocolate brownies received the highest praise!

This successful event was the first event organised by our newly appointed fundraising officer, Rosy. The event was well supported and we raised a grand total of £188.80, which will go towards our kitchen refurbishment project.

Thank you to all our sweet toothed supporters!

'My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest' Isaiah 32.18

**£188.80 was raised to go towards refurbishing our kitchen.
Thank you to all our sweet toothed supporters!**

Babies of the Moment

Ex-resident Mel, gave birth to her second baby, Bella on 3rd December 2011 weighing 9lbs 5oz. Leona is a very proud big sister. Leona chose Bella's name and it suits her well.

After an initial slow start Bella is now gaining weight nicely. She's got thick curly black hair, a beautiful smile and big brown eyes. Bella enjoys playing 'peepo' with her big sister. She recently found her voice and has not stopped singing since!

Faces

Cat (Live-in Support Worker)



Becky (Live-in Support Worker & Development Officer)



Andrew (Volunteer)



Cerys & Tim (Volunteers)



Rosy's Round-Up

I've been involved in Firstfruits for around one year now, and it has generally been a great experience. I have enjoyed getting to know the girls in the house, the wider team and seeing how the project runs. In particular I have found it really inspiring to see God's work in action and how everybody involved in the project really lives out their faith. To me, it seems that it is a great example of what Jesus taught - loving our neighbour and loving God. It's brilliant to see how God's love is shown in such a holistic way in the Firstfruits house in caring for the girls and their babies, not just through words, but also in sharing in their whole lives.

Stories from Members of the Firstfruits Family

Cat's Corner

Since the last newsletter I have moved in and then out of the house. I feel that it is God's timing that brought me to Firstfruits. Just as I was looking for a new challenge, a space became available in the house. I was looking forward to supporting, loving and getting to know the girls in the house.

During my six months in the house I experienced many ups and downs, but nothing compares to the amazing people that surround the house and the family I became a part of. The girls of the house, past and present, and their children are inspirational and I have come to see the incredible journey that Firstfruits has allowed each one to make. The way they grow as people and as mothers is amazing and it has been a gift to be part of this.

God has been there in the hard times, carrying everyone through, and highlighting the positives over the negatives. I have been taught the true meaning of unconditional love and I know that the love shared between this family of people is never ending.

Overall, I have loved my time with Firstfruits and have been very sad to leave. However, I am off to work with children next in a medical centre in India for five months and then I will be back to see the progression that has been made and the new phase that Firstfruits will be in.

Andrew's Account

It was with some trepidation that I joined the Firstfruits house group about six months ago. This is the house group that supports the Firstfruits project with prayer and practical support.

However my fears were totally allayed as they were very welcoming. I was impressed with the way they support the residents of the Firstfruits home as well as keeping in contact with them after they have left the house.

The 'stars' of Firstfruits must be the live-in support workers who live in the house to be with the young mums and provide a homely atmosphere.

The sort of help that's provided to the residents includes cooking, money management and parenting skills. Much of this is provided informally by the live-in support workers who live in the home plus welcomed input from other volunteers.



* Donation amount £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10.

Becky's Job

Having already lived in the house for a year previously, after a year's break, I felt a stirring to think about moving back in! During a prayer time for Cat when she came to live in the house, I felt that God was saying to me that He wanted me to move back in for a slightly longer time.

As we are starting to feel our roots are firmly being put down, it seems to me now is a time for consolidating and confirming the direction we are going, and it seemed that to do this it would be good to have someone in place for a longer period of time for constancy and consistency. Although it has worked really well so far having people as live-in support for up to a year, often it seems that the things we learn from the time spent in the house are not then applied when living alongside the next mother because of changes of live-in support. So hopefully I can help to further cement our roots by being here for longer!

It's exciting to think what might be next for Firstfruits and I'm looking forward to being a part of it.

Please pray for . . .

Everyone in the house - for protection, security, unity and a real sense of God's presence and guidance.

The whole team - that God will continue to give them what they need, bless and protect them as they continue to invest so much of themselves in Firstfruits.

Another live-in support worker to move into the house.

Enough funding to refurbish the kitchen.

Mel's New Chapter

I got my own council property last year with Leona and we settled in well. The Firstfruits house group now meets at mine once a month and I am becoming part of the local community.

Last summer I found out that my family was expanding and I gave birth to Bella in December. I have been told and feel that I have adapted really well to being a mum to two gorgeous girls. Leona is a great big sister and getting used to having a new baby around. She regularly attends nursery five afternoons per week and enjoys playing with water & sand, riding bikes and playing with all her friends.

I keep myself busy learning about healthy cooking and doing training courses. I recently started the street pastors training and I am getting a lot from the course. I am really looking forward to going out for the first time on to the streets to help, care and listen to people I meet there.

The next few weeks and months look exciting for me. Bella is about to start weaning and Leona turns 3 years old soon. How fast time flies!

Thanks!

For the healthy arrival of another two Firstfruits babies. Isabella Rose was born in July 2011 weighing over 9lbs and Bella was born in December 2011 weighing 9lbs 5oz.

For Anna and Cat, our live-in support workers that have recently come to the end of their time with us. We wish them well with the next step of their journey.

Vision Day

We recently held a 'vision day' for volunteers and residents to evaluate what our vision is for Firstfruits and what we can do to achieve that vision. Before the day we asked people to fill in a short survey with their opinions and experiences of Firstfruits. When asked what three words people would use to describe Firstfruits, the top five most popular words were: loving, caring, community, family and hope. These were encouraging words to hear!

When asked what people thought Firstfruits would be like in five years time, there was a range of responses! A few ideas are listed below:

- ^ A second house, so more space for more women with their babies
- ^ A 'bridge' house, somewhere to move on to after living in the Firstfruits house but before moving on to live entirely independently, perhaps sharing with another mum or with occasional support.
- ^ Funding to enable a full time paid live-in support worker so they would not have to work at the same time as living in the house and would therefore be able to commit more time to the house and the development of the project.
- ^ Better structure for post-house support, with people specifically in place for this role.

These are just people's ideas and not definite plans, but we would be interested to hear what you think, or add some ideas of your own! Get in touch though the contact details on the next page.

How You Can Support Firstfruits

We are currently looking for another live-in support worker to move into the house and provide support to the residents. Please contact us if you want to find out more about this exciting opportunity.

We are concentrating our fundraising efforts to refurbish the kitchen to make it a safer and more pleasant environment for residents and their babies. If you would like to help practically with this project, please get in touch.

If you want to find out more about us see our website: www.first-fruits.co.uk. If you have any thoughts regarding fundraising or just want to get involved, email us on: info@first-fruits.co.uk. We also have our own group on Facebook. Supporters can sign up and be updated more easily through regular messages.

If you would like to support us financially you can donate online www.justgiving.com/first-fruits; via text "FRUI75 £(amount 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 10)" to 70070; or alternatively please fill out the form below and send it to our office at:
Firstfruits, c/o Speakeasy, 166
Richmond Road, Cardiff CF24 3BX.

Thanks from Rachel

The space I am given in this newsletter is never enough to express the amount of gratitude that is needed for all the people that contribute so much to the Firstfruits family. But this time I would specifically like to thank Anna and Cat. Anna has been in the house for a year and has given of her time and energy continuously and with perseverance. Cat has been in the house for six months and has brought a huge amount in that space of time. Both girls will be missed but will always be a part of the family!

Thank you too to Dave and Jan for their decorating - the blue room is looking lovely! And Andrew and Jill, our newest additions to house group, are kindly opening up their home to support those living in the house - thank you! Tim and Cerys - food and hospitality are definitely your giftings! Thank you for 'keeping us together.'

I am very aware I have been poor at communicating the progress that has been made in the last year. For that I apologise, and thank all our ongoing supporters for your ongoing support (!) and your patience. We could not do it without your prayers and money. Thank you.



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