

Penzance Breakfast Project (CTIPA)

The Penzance Breakfast Project is run by the Churches Together in Penzance Area (CTIPA) and provides a valuable service to a group of vulnerable and homeless individuals in Penzance. The primary aim of the Project is to offer a safe environment for people who are sleeping rough or are vulnerably housed for a period in the day when very few other facilities are available. The Project offers a free breakfast to those who wish to partake. The CTIPA is an active group and also runs two other Projects in Penzance – a Food Bank and Street pastors.

Breakfasts are provided on Monday – Friday from 7.00 am – 8.00 am. On an early morning in May thirteen people received a free breakfast, eight of these were rough sleepers. Approximately in total there are 60 people receiving free breakfasts each week.



The project has a long history which commenced in 1999 in premises central in Penzance. At this time clergy from across the town, Anglican, Catholic and Methodists, saw that there was a real need to meet the needs of people who were either on the streets or otherwise homeless. The congregations worked together and the establishment of the service known as the Penzance and Newlyn Churches Breakfast Project began. The CTIPA took over the project in 2008 from the Salvation Army who at this point were involved in the project, and sadly it was a point of closing down owing to the lack of funding. However since this time from when the CTIPA have been running the service, they can claim that the project has been open for every single session to date.

The project saw another move of premises in the town and where they stayed for two years whilst the current home at Breadline was being renovated. Breadline is run by the homeless charity St Petroc's with which the CTIPA work in partnership, and rent the kitchen and cafe area for £1,000 per month. There are excellent kitchen facilities in the building and the cafe area is adorned with bright pictures, painted by the art group for the vulnerable called ROAMing.

The project runs daily like clockwork with one part-time paid manager and a team of 32 dedicated volunteers across the 19 churches of the CTIPA who work on a monthly rota. The manager starts at 6.00 am and pre-cooks some of the food items. The volunteers arrive by 7.00 am and on duty there are three volunteers with the roles of a receptionist, a server and a cook. Customers arrive from 7.00 am and those sleeping rough will receive a free full breakfast (an egg, 2 sausages, 1 bacon, 1 fried bread and baked beans). Those people living in accommodation receive free toast and tea. Breakfast is a good opportunity for people to meet up. Living in accommodation can be lonely which one doesn't appreciate.



The secondary aim of the Project is to try and ensure that people using it are aware of other resources and facilities available to them. The Project is a great place to sign post people to and with its location in Breadline there are shower facilities and a NHS clinic available.



The project is responsible to an ecumenical 'Breakfast Project Management Group' which meets regularly which reports back to the main CTIPA forum which meets once a quarter. As regards funding, the project has run on various sources of funding and donations over the years. However currently one major source of funding has been from Cornwall Council, which has just been withdrawn as part of the recent budget cuts. The CTIPA have just introduced a standing order scheme to boost funds and is geared up to churches and businesses in town.

With the willing hands of volunteers, the future of the Project looks bright. However future sources of funding are being investigated to support the ongoing costs of the project, but the generosity of the food donations by the people of Penzance will keep the actual 'breakfasts' sustainable for the time being.