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• WARM WELCOME SPECIAL EDITION

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Thrive commissioned Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies, (BCAT) to facilitate the evaluation project.

Over recent months they have been visiting Warm Welcome Spaces across Birmingham to discover what difference these have made for people who attend them.

Participants were given their own personal tile to decorate, expressing what their Warm Welcome Space means to them.

BCAT then formed these words and feelings into a vibrant and moving exhibit which they installed in St Martin's in the Bull Ring.

A Very Artistic Warm Welcome!

Warm Welcome Spaces Launches Art Exhibition

On Monday 24th July a special art exhibit was launched at St Martin's in the Bullring, celebrating and expressing the impact that Warm Welcome Spaces are having in Birmingham.

Warm Welcome spaces are vibrant local groups bringing people together and strengthening community ties. Spaces are open to all, are non-judgemental and inclusive. They provide free, safe, comfortable and welcoming places where people can come together to take part in activities, access services, get practical advice and support, as well as meet members of their community.

As part of Thrive Together Birmingham's role we have been liaising with the National Warm Welcome Campaign, co-ordinated by the Good Faith Foundation, who have secured funding for evaluation of the impact of Warm Welcome around the UK. Thrive was funded to undertake this activity in Birmingham.

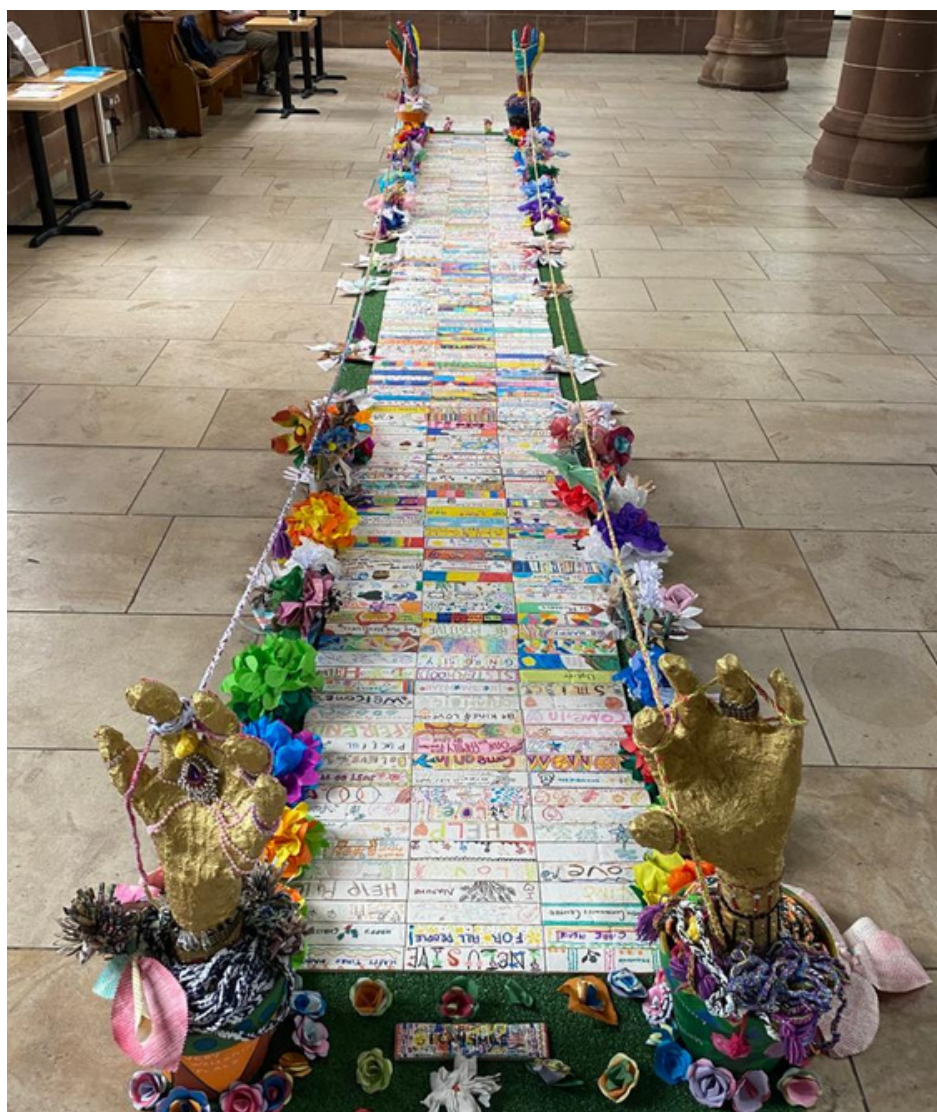
Please join us for a celebration of Warm Welcome in Birmingham and the launch of our art installation showing the impact Warm Welcome is having around the city



Monday 24 July 2023
11.00am - 12.30pm
St Martin in the Bull Ring
Edgbaston Street B5 5BB



www.thrive-together-bham.org



447
hand
decorated
tiles,
from
32
Warm
Welcome
Spaces,
have
formed
this
exhibit



Launching the exhibit...

Monday 24th July

St Martin in the Bull Ring



We were warmly welcomed by Reverend Jeremy Allcock, Rector, St. Martin in the Bull Ring, and would like to pay huge thanks to Jeremy and his wonderful hospitality team, (especially Rich!) who made life so easy for us. Fred Rattley, CEO Thrive, added his welcome, and handed over to David Barclay to share the National Warm Welcome's perspective. Louise White, also from Thrive, who leads on Warm Welcome Spaces, shared some of the story of the growth of Warm Welcome Spaces and interviewed some guests.



Cllr Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities says,

"Birmingham's network of Warm Welcomes has provided a free lifeline for many people as the cost of living crisis continues – whether that's tea and a chat, learning life skills or accessing support. For many, being in crisis can be lonely and isolating so this is not just about being warm, it's about local communities coming together to support one another throughout the year, not just during the winter months."



Guests arriving and looking for their tile!



Fred Rattley (CEO Thrive)
Helen Shervington
(Birmingham City Council
Warm Welcome Lead)
Louise White (Thrive)
Cllr Nicky Brennan
David Barclay (National
Warm Welcome)

Three ladies from Uplift bravely stood at the front and shared with Louise their experience of being part of their local Warm Welcome Space.



Russell and Richard from BCAT, telling us a little about BCAT's work and introducing the exhibit.



Everyone was invited to take part in a flower making activity. These flowers were then placed around the tiles to add the final touches to the exhibit.

JOY'S SMILE

Sanctuary

Therapeutic

Possibilities

Wanted!

Come on In

Friendship

LOVE

GRATITUDE

MAKE TODAY BEAUTIFUL

Floating on air

EMPATHY

A Sense of Community

Mindful

FUN

MAKE TODAY BEAUTIFUL

HEALING

Peace Love happy fun

SAFE

NEW IDEAS

PEACEFUL

Untangled Brain

EXCITED!

Community



One of our city's community centres shared an experience of a visitor to their Warm Welcome Space ...

I'm not invisible anymore!

Warm Welcome Space participant

"One of our regular visitors, an 81 year old lady, is a lively person but before coming to the Warm Welcome her week lacked any structure. She told us she felt lonely and would "go out on the bus and look round the shops just to keep me occupied."

She described our Warm Welcome Space as,

“ Warm and welcoming. I love having a chat.
It gives me a lift for the rest of the week.
The people are lovely ”

She has since joined another activity at our centre too, where she has made more new friends. It was really wonderful to hear her describing how the social contact at Warm Welcome and other activities, has made such a difference to her spirit and outlook on life. Previously she felt very low and didn't have much drive but she actively looks forward to the days she comes along, and it gives her such a lift that she has started doing her hobbies more again at home.

The community centre manager knows that the many groups and activities which are facilitated have a massive impact on the health and wellbeing of local citizens, but she also discovered that it was so valuable to herself to find the time to sit and have a more detailed chat with the lovely folk who visit.

“ I felt quite humbled to realise the enormity
of the benefits that such a simple
'cuppa and biscuits' space could make ”

Watch some videos on facebook, filmed at our event on 24th July:



Warm Welcome tiles at St Martin's in the Bullring



Warm Welcomes and BCAT



Warm Welcome art - Oasis Hub Blakenhale



Birmingham Warm Welcome is **NOT** just for Winter!!!

It has become clear that this is a long-term solution to help strengthen and build resilience amongst Birmingham's Communities. Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces are here for the foreseeable future.

“ Once part of the network,
groups can currently apply for a
micro-grant funding of up to
£ 500 ”

Many different faith, charities and community groups have come together to help create this community safety net during this difficult Cost-of-Living Crisis. They are all different, reflecting their community but all have signed up to the same values and principles charter.



We are looking for more spaces to join in!
If you are already part of a group and would like to join the network, or if your organisation would like to start a Warm Welcome Space, find out more [Here](#)

There are over currently over 220 active warm welcome spaces with over 90% of Birmingham residents now within a 15 minute walk from their nearest Warm Welcome Space. We are delighted that these spaces enable much more than just warmth; each offers a free meeting space, where people can come to meet other people, have free refreshments, take part in activities, access services, be signposted and get practical advice and support.



So far, many lives have been enriched and people helped, thanks to these spaces. To find your local Warm Welcome Space visit this [Register](#)

For further information or support please contact the
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For more information or to be added to our mailing list please get in touch!