

Jottings from Jimmy's

Autumn 2011

Dear Friends...

Steve Jobs, the Apple founder who invented and masterfully marketed ever-sleeker gadgets that transformed everyday technology, from the personal computer to the iPod and iPhone, has died, aged 56.

Some have felt the loss most acutely; losing him has resulted in something like an act of worship. However, when I was young my Father used to tell me that when I grew up technology would mean that we would have three day weeks and loads of leisure time due to the advancement of technology. This has not happened. Just as motorways seem to generate more traffic so computers seem to make more work. We are bombarded with emails, questionnaires, policies and assessment forms of all sorts. Jimmy's is subject to this world of information, be it digital or paper based, and has to survive in an ever increasing market type economy of charity work.

The challenge facing all of us in this situation is not to lose sight of why we are here, "for those who would otherwise sleep rough." Not to lose sight of the homeless

individual for whom homelessness is normally but a symptom of deeper problems that need to be faced and sorted out. Not to lose sight of a world where we could show compassion by spending time with needy individuals, as Jesus did. The new assessment centre may be a challenge, but our hope and prayer is that it will be an opportunity in terms of the vision of Jimmy's, where we might be better able to help folks over a 24 hour period, in a much better environment with their own sleeping space etc.

*For everything
there
is a time*

We are grateful that the building works are going so well, I have the privilege of visiting the site every week and can see that it will be an extraordinary facility with wonderful space available, let's hope and pray that it will be used well to fulfill the vision of Jimmy's.

*Rev Richard Blyth
Minister of Zion Baptist church, chaplain to Jimmy's and
Jimmy's board member*



Hurrah for harvest!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to Jimmy's this harvest. To all of the schools, churches, nurseries, colleges, local groups, businesses and individuals, from all of Jimmy's guests, staff and volunteers, we really cannot thank you enough. The food donated will keep us going for months, ensuring that all of our guests are able to have a hot meal each evening.

Pictured left are Henry, Iain, Ros and Jane from Jimmy's with just a tiny fraction of donations.

Jimmy's Night Shelter

Cambridge

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We're getting there: Jimmy's is shaping up!

After months of looking just like a building site, the new Jimmy's is beginning to take shape. Walls, floors and ceilings are starting to look like walls, floors and ceilings — and we can even recognise a room or two! Our photo album this issue shows a little order being restored.



MP for Cambridge, Julian Huppert (above left, and photo below), and deputy leader of Cambridge City Council (above right), recently inspected our building works. They are pictured with chair of Jimmy's, Jane Mann (centre).

Jimmy's 2012: your questions

How many beds will be available? There will be 20 beds in total, including one with disabled access.

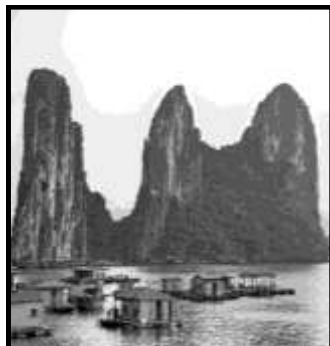
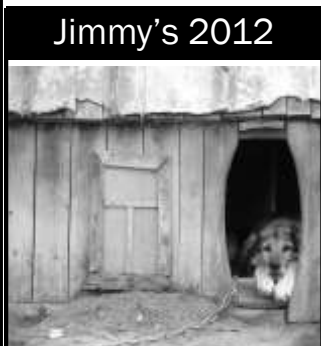
What activities and facilities will be available? All bedrooms will be single, with private shower rooms and loos. In the communal area will be a lounge and dining room and kitchen (as at present). More meeting rooms will ensure better confidentiality, and space will be available for daytime activities such as visiting professionals, learning opportunities and leisure interests.

Why spend money on the homeless — surely there are more deserving causes? It's been proven that providing homeless people with a better living environment gives a greater likelihood of breaking out of the homeless lifestyle, finding work and regaining independence. This can only benefit everyone.



Calendars and cards from Jimmy's

Our 2012 calendar is now ready. This year we take as our theme 'thinking of home' (images below), and ask that whenever you think about home to remember those who are homeless. Thanks to everyone who's helped with its production. If you haven't received your calendar, please contact us at jottings@jimmyscambridge.org.uk or call 01223 576085. The calendars are free, but if you would like an extra one, to give as a Christmas pressie for example, our suggested donation is £5.



One of our supporters has kindly given us some Christmas cards to sell in order to help with our fundraising. The cards are available in packs of ten (assorted designs in bright colours, selection below) and cost £2.50 per pack, plus 50p P&P per pack (or you can order some and call in to collect). To order your cards either email jottings@jimmyscambridge.org.uk or call us on 01223 576085. We'll then send you the cards plus an 'honesty' invoice. Please do buy a pack — at least 95% of the income from these cards will go to benefit guests of Jimmy's.



Flack goes live!



Congratulations to Flack — the Cambridge-based social enterprise for homeless and ex-homeless people that provides engaging activities for many of the guests of Jimmy's. Flack recently launched the first public issue of its eponymous magazine. The pages of the monthly magazine were opened at a special ceremony attended by the Mayor of Cambridge, Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith, and many of the contributors. Flack magazine is available from various retailers and locations around the city, and also from street vendors who receive half of the £2 cover price for each sale. It is also available on subscription from www.flackcambridge.org.uk.

Pictured left with the Mayor are Flack contributors — which include Jimmy's current and former guests — and, standing second left — Emma of Jimmy's who is chair of Flack.



**Jimmy's
is given
priceless
work of
art**



A big A+ and a gold star to all the pupils of Monkfield Park Primary School.

Pictured on the far left is a fantastic creation produced by the children to celebrate harvest, and given to Jimmy's along with a mountain of food they collected. The picture is inspired by the work of Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo, famed for creating paintings of people entirely of fruit and vegetables. An Arcimboldo original has recently been acquired by a major gallery for an estimated £7 million. Now in pride of place at Jimmy's, we reckon the Monkfield 'Arcimboldo' to be worth at least a million times that!

Much of our work is only possible with your generous support.

There are many ways in which you can help: you can make a donation on-line through www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk, www.cafonline.org or www.justgiving.com (where you can also set up a fundraising page if you are organising an event). If you wish to set up a standing order, pay through BACS or make a donation through a cheque, please visit our website, or contact us on 01223 576085.

Thank you everyone for your kind and on-going support.

Homeless Headlines

- Housing conditions in Britain are among the worst in Western Europe, according to a major study published by the Pro-Housing Alliance. It says that the 'slum' conditions cost the nation about £7bn a year by adding pressure to the NHS and other public services. The study recommends the provision of 500,000 affordable houses and flats, including bringing empty homes back into use. See www.prohousingalliance.com
- A report by Sheffield Hallam University has warned that plans to end squatters' rights will criminalise homeless people, but have little impact on squatting. The study 'Squatting: a homelessness issue', also shows that squatters have significant physical and mental health needs compared to homeless people who haven't squatted. See www.crisis.org.uk
- The latest findings from the Empty Homes Agency state that almost 740,000 homes across England are unoccupied, and just under a half have been empty long-term. Its survey says that most of these properties are under private ownership and many have fallen into disrepair due to lack of money or repair skills. A significant number of properties – especially of new flats – have been left empty by investors who are waiting for rental prices to pick up. See www.emptyhomes.com

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Cambridge

for those who would otherwise be forced to sleep rough

continuously meeting the needs of street homelessness since 1995

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Jottings Update

It's important that we keep your details up to date.

If you wish to make any changes to the information we have about you, please call 01223 576085, email jottings@jimmyscambridge.org.uk or write to us at 1 East Road, Cambridge CB1 1BD. Also please let us know if you would like to receive more copies for your organisation, or if you would like to receive copies electronically.