In January, February and March 2017 over 200 volunteers are trained to take part in the Swansea Night Shelter. These volunteers come from the churches, people who work with the homeless services but give their time as volunteers and the wider community. The project started 7 years ago, when Swansea Hope introduced the idea to the churches in Swansea, working alongside the statutory bodies and the voluntary agencies who work with the homeless in the area. I have been involved as a volunteer from the beginning, I co-ordinate Christ Well URC, a church venue that has been used since the start. Running of the shifts in the Shelter is done by individual shift leaders. The following comments show how C.R.C.W ministry is perceived by those involved in the Shelter.

“The Swansea Night Shelter has been operating now for 7 years. Broadly, 7 churches open up their doors at night to welcome homeless/rough sleepers who have been referred to us by agencies in the city. At each venue they receive warm and nourishing food, good company and a warm, dry and above all, safe place to sleep. Each venue has a coordinator to oversee the premises and the team of volunteers who are required to keep the Night Shelter operating. It is in this capacity that Rosie excels. This is my first year managing the running of the Night Shelter, and it has been so helpful to have someone of Rosie's knowledge and experience to relieve me of the worry of at least one of the venues each week. Rosie has been a great example to me of showing how the church can actually have a significant impact in a community. It has also been good to work alongside someone who, whether she acknowledges or not, exhibits so many of the Fruits of the Spirit in ways which are not pompous or 'spiritual' but earthed in reality.”

Paul Mort
Swansea Night Shelter Manager
“Rosie has been a huge factor in the successful development and ongoing provision of the church night shelter scheme in Swansea. Many of the men and women who have gone through the doors of Christ well have very quickly stabilised during a period of chaos and uncertainty. This has meant the homelessness services have been able to engage and assist much quicker than would normally be the case and has undoubtedly saved lives. Rosie’s role in this service has been one as a welcoming host, but also very much in control and ensuring clear boundaries for all the guests and volunteers are adhered to at all times. Guests have previously said in their feedback that they respect and appreciate the service as a whole, but have particularly identified Christ well as an outstanding venue in its provision and operation.” **Martin Whatty. Team Leader, Tenancy Support Unit. Housing Policy and Public Protection. Swansea.**

“I met Rosie through the Swansea Night Shelter and quickly found that she is about so much more than giving homeless people food and shelter. Rosie has a great gift for facilitating communication and partnership working between services and organisations that would ordinarily be poles apart. Rosie injects positivity and momentum. Working with her has given me opportunities to develop a wider network of care and support for my homeless and vulnerably housed patients and that has been a huge blessing.” **Janet Keauffling RGN QN. MBE. Nurse for Homeless and Vulnerable Adults.**

In Swansea I am the face of Church Related Community Work Ministry. The Night Shelter is just one example of how the ministry makes a difference in Churches and the wider community. All the volunteers make a huge difference to our guest. I want to say a personal thank you to all the volunteers at Christ Well who make our venue such a calm, safe space, where our guest are comfortable and able to relax and share with us.