

## ***Gap Supported Housing, Easter message to St Andrew's, March 2024***

**Gap** has been helping homeless adults, and those threatened with homelessness in Hexham and the surrounding rural area and villages since the mid-1990s. This part of Tynedale is often perceived as affluent. For many it is, but not for all.

*We have been supporting their work financially since 2018.*

**The big news** is that we were successful in our bid to the Big Lottery Community Fund for another five years funding. We are so pleased; it ensures we have a secure foundation on which to continue to build. As you know it doesn't meet all our funding needs, but my goodness it helps!



**The last few months have seen a few changes** in the way we staff Links House, we have halved the Project Manager time and



increased the direct support staff. *This has really helped increase the 1:1 time available for those that need it.* We're also looking at developing more in-house targeted support, particularly around money management,

managing a tenancy and addressing addiction. We want to really develop this as we go through the year, and increase day time support even more. To this end I continue with our funding programme of grant applications and fundraising. So your support is most certainly still much needed and welcomed!

We continue to build a positive working relationship with **NDAS**, the domestic abuse support charity based in Hexham. This has really helped us provide the additional



support many of the women in the service need. NDAS are about to refurbish and internally rebuild their offices so will be based temporarily in Links House whilst this work is completed. Another opportunity to build a strong working relationship.

**We continue to succeed in helping people address their support needs, gain employment and move to a home of their own.**

Whilst having a home is always the goal, many people find independent living both challenging, and quite a daunting prospect. We do continue to offer support when we can, by home visits or offering telephone support, and people can, and often do, call in for help, or just a chat.

**Please continue to remember those people in your prayers,** as they take the first steps towards a new life. Those who have moved on to their own home, that they may have the strength to continue their journey away from homelessness and forge a new life free from the hurt that may have resulted and that they may feel the gladness and grace of Easter.