

VINEYARD HOUSE HUNGRY ROCK

My name is Bethanie Keeling and I am a student at Leeds Beckett University studying International Relations and Peace Studies. I have been part of Leeds Vineyard since September 2017 and now consider it my church family.

After being part of a charity for homeless and vulnerable people: the House of Bread in Stafford, I see the problems of homelessness and social vulnerability that are around us in Headingley and really have a vision for a work and an outreach which can be an opportunity to serve in the area.

We really have an opportunity to minister to those in the community around us and hopefully begin to lift them out of their need in a sustainable and long term way. Providing a meal for those that are in need and having a food bank with an emergency supply of food for those facing crisis would be a wonderful way for Vineyard House to serve our community.

I believe that when serving people it is very important that we come alongside them in their journey to overcome the challenges they may face in their life and also build friendships. Feeding people is a massive part of this, as not only does this answer a very real and physical problem: food also provides the opportunity to talk over a meal or a cup of tea in a comfortable and easy way. Through conversation we would really aim to get to know the person and to understand what can be done to encourage them in life because there is very often a deeper and disguised reason for the situation they may be in. We may be able to support them in this, whether its reconciling with family, finding safe accommodation or recovery from drug and alcohol abuse.

Conversation around food also gives us the opportunity to share our testimony, the presence of a church family and most importantly the good news of Jesus. The fruit which I would really like to see grow as a result of Vineyard House is people being given food, thus physically providing an answer to their need, but also spiritual food and thus seeing people coming to Jesus.

BETHANIE KEELING
JANUARY 2018