

Support for the Simon Community Scotland.

On Sunday 29th July the East Kilbride and Hamilton Joint Pastorate raised £395 for the Simon Community Scotland in response to the Youth Forum's challenge at Synod. During our joint service we were introduced to Matthew's Rule, a concept based upon Jesus parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25.31-40) which challenges us to think about how as a nation we ensure everyone has food, shelter, clothes to keep them warm and dry and has a caring relationship with others. We then focussed on homelessness and Morven Sanderson, from Rutherglen URC, shared two presentations with us – one from the Homeless Simulation night held by Rutherglen's youth group and the other from the Synod Youth Forum in March. During the Homelessness Simulation night the young people built shelters from cardboard in the church garden, which they then slept in, they heard about the work of the Lodging House Mission and the Simon Community Scotland and made up hygiene packs to be given to people by LHM. They also experienced having very basic meals, their shelters being destroyed and the soup van turning up at 3.30am! Morven spoke about how the experience has helped her to understand more about the challenges faced by people who are rough sleepers. The Synod Youth Forum also looked at homelessness. Morven talked more about their programme and the challenge issued to each congregation in Synod to do something to support a homeless charity in Scotland. Following the service we shared a sandwich lunch together and people were asked to make a donation to the Simon Community. Our support will help them to continue to provide emergency support for rough sleepers, help people develop personal skills and support people moving into tenancies.