

Inspire Awards 2008: Winners honoured at Westminster



L to R - Bob Taylor, John Martin (CMS), Ali Inwood, Nikki LePage, Roydon Loveley

THE KING'S ARMS PROJECT SCOOPS A NATIONAL AWARD!

INSPIRATIONAL! That's the verdict of a team of judges drawn from the *Inspire Magazine* editorial team, its publisher CPO and partners CMS, Church Army, Nationwide Christian Trust and Stewardship. Christians working to change lives for the better were honoured at the Palace of Westminster in the first ever '*Inspire Awards*'

More than 60 representatives from churches and Christian-run projects all over the UK gathered in the 'Jubilee Room', along with MPs, guests and *Inspire Magazine* partners & staff for the prestigious awards event. Guests were welcomed by chair of 'Christians in Parliament' Andrew Selous MP, who paid tribute to the valuable work done by so many churches and individual Christians up and down the UK. Four shortlisted candidates in the *Inspiring Individual* category and four in the *Inspiring Church* section – were whittled down from nearly 150 nominations.

In the *Inspiring Church* section, the **King's Arms Church in Bedford** came out top, nominated for the work of **King's Arms Project**.

The Christian charity was set up nearly 20 years ago to help Bedford's significant homeless population. With the mission of '*seeing lives transform*' the Project runs an 18-bed Nightshelter, the 14-bed Barton House hostel with key working support for residents, a drop-in Friday night meal and Floating Support for clients to help them access suitable accommodation and appropriate services.

The Project was represented at the event by volunteer and former client Bob Taylor, Barton House Assistant Manager Nikki LePage, Ali Inwood, Project Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees, Roydon Loveley. After the ceremony Ali commented:

'It was exciting to be shortlisted, let alone win! I feel privileged to lead such an amazing team and I'm delighted that the dedication and passion of the staff, volunteers and those in the church who serve and give to the Project, has been recognised in such a way. Totally transforming people's lives – that's what it's all about!'

The Project received £500 in CPO resources and a trophy, presented by John Martin of CMS

Inspire is one of the UK's biggest reach free monthly magazines going mainly to churches, with a circulation of 80,000+ and a confirmed readership of 200,000+. Said *Inspire* Editor, Russ Bravo: "*The news is often full of doom and gloom stories, but we know that so much fantastic work is going on around the UK because of ordinary people living out their faith in amazing practical ways. We wanted to tell those stories – and celebrate them.*"

