

Hospice reopens two charity shops - thanks to help from a different good cause

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It provided safety screens, hand sanitiser and signs

A North Staffordshire hospice has reopened two charity shops after rotary club members stepped in to help it meet Government Covid-19 guidelines.

Stafford-based Katharine House Hospice has reopened its fund-raising stores in the county town and Norton Bridge and is hoping to reopen more shops in the coming weeks.

The Rotary Club of Stone and District, the Rotary Club of Stafford UK, the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot, Eccleshall Mercia Rotary, Rugeley Rotary and the Rotary Club of Stafford Castle joined forces to help pay for hygiene screens, safe distancing decals and hand sanitiser stations.

They have also helped to fund controlled entry for customers and face coverings for shop workers.



Stuart Perren, of Rotary Club of Stafford UK, and Simon Dodd, Katharine House Hospice's retail general manager, oversee equipment installation at the Norton Bridge shop.

Simon Dodd, Katharine House Hospice's retail general manager, said: "We are delighted to be welcoming customers back to our first two newly reopened stores! We're doing our very best to ensure the safety of our staff and customers and we can't thank the Rotary clubs enough for their help. We look forward to more of our shops opening soon and are posting updates on our website and social media."

The Covid-19 safety measures at the shops were jointly funded by local Rotary Clubs, The Rotary Foundation and the International Covid-19 Disaster Fund and form part of a

range of new safety measures also including controlled entry and the wearing of face coverings.

Both reopened shops will open their doors between 9.30am and 4.30pm from Monday to Saturday and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

Katharine House Hospice provides free care and support for adults and their families who are coping with progressive illness across. It relies on the kindness of the local community to help generate more than three quarters of the funds needed to run its vital services.