

# Newsletter

## January 2023

Welcome to the round up of our latest news

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### NEW YEAR - NEW LOOK SWCC!

2023 begins with some changes within the Trustees and Staff Team at SWCC. We said goodbye to Community Chaplain Seumus in December, and hello to two new part time Chaplains to the team - Pam & Avril. We also welcome Jackie who is going to be working alongside us as an Acting Community Chaplain in the Cornwall area for a time.

We are indebted to John Wiseman for all his amazing work as Chair of Trustees for over 10 years as he now steps down from the role. We are delighted that he is continuing as a Trustee, and that Nick (formerly Vice Chairman) is stepping up as Chair. We do thank both Seumus and John for all their hard work and service to SWCC. We also remember with great affection Matthew, a Trustee who sadly passed away recently. We are so thankful for his wisdom and contribution to SWCC over the years.



### INTRODUCING NEW CHAPLAINS...Avril

For the past twenty-five years I have had the pleasure of working alongside families and local communities. I have had many roles over this period of time, from volunteer to family pastor to community worker and all of these roles have enriched my life personally. I am passionate about people, and nothing gives me greater joy than seeing others achieve.

I am studying for an MA in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, and trust my studies will inform and enrich my work, enabling me to gain a deeper understanding of the role of a community chaplain. I am excited about being part of South West Community Chaplaincy team as I see it as a real privilege. I know without a doubt, that I will be challenged but equally, I am looking forward to helping others as they overcome the challenges they are facing and begin to find hope and build a new future for themselves.



### ...and Pam

The ethos and values of SWCC are what attracted me to train initially as a Volunteer Mentor. I then joined the staff team in mid-November 2022 as a Community Chaplain. My background is in nursing and in my retirement years I have worked in the voluntary sector in addiction counselling. I belong to a church ministry team and am the pastoral care co-ordinator.

### News in brief...

#### SALT project

We are hoping to launch this in the next few weeks, to offer extended, light touch mentoring to those who need it. This will enable us to offer longer term support, to help people feel a sense of belonging long term, and promote ongoing positive rehabilitation.

#### New induction training pattern

We are aiming to offer our Core Induction Training Course from 2023 to new Volunteers 4 times a year, depending on interest. This regular pattern of training new volunteers will help us to promote courses as they are anticipated in a more intentional way.





## FUNDING →

### ...changes!

Money – love it or loathe it we can't do without it, and that applies to SWCC just as much as it does to us as individuals! Our financial year finishes at the end of March 2023 and as of the beginning of January we are delighted to have now secured 100% of the money we need to raise by the end of the year. Also, thanks to some generous grants from the likes of the Henry Smith Charity, Lloyds Bank Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation, we have a significant proportion of the expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year secured already.

Whilst this is great news we do also have to face up to some loss of regular funding in the coming year. The income stream that we have enjoyed from Probation over almost four years has now come to an end and this does leave a significant hole in the charity's finance – a hole that we need to fill.

We're looking at a number of ways of replacing this income, such as specific appeals reaching out to a wider audience and exploring opportunities with other funders, but we're also asking you, our current supporters, to consider whether you might be able to commit to supporting SWCC with a monthly gift throughout 2023? It's really easy to set up through our partner, Stewardship – click on this link: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20235628> to get to our dedicated page, They'll even reclaim Gift Aid on your donation if eligible. Or, if you're not able to support us on a monthly basis would you consider a one-off gift in 2023? Again, the Stewardship website can take one-off donations, or you can send a cheque to us at the office. Your gift will really make a difference in the lives of those we help. Thank you so much.

## Clients

It is not unusual to find our relationships with our clients unexpectedly ended if they are recalled into custody but when this happens due to their sudden death, it is hard for their families, friends, our mentors and their Chaplains. Sadly three of our clients have recently died. Yet even in the shadow of death hope can be found. See T's story below...



### Chaplains Chat

As has been highlighted in this news update, in recent months we've had three of our clients die. Death is never easy at the best of times, but the reality is that for some of us as mentors, we feel the loss of someone we've got to know quite well. For me, this was the case with T. He and I first met in February 2020, just prior to his release from prison. As you'll recall, lockdown was announced in March 2020, something that proved challenging for us all. This was certainly the case for a number of our clients, especially those who had spent several years in custody. T and I would often talk about the 'R' word – resilience. Not only did he have to face lockdown, he also had the challenge of regular visits to hospital due to his various health challenges, so building resilience was key to his resettlement in the community.

With great support from his family and I dare to say our regular mentoring sessions, T managed to cultivate significant levels of resilience, both mentally and physically. Albeit that progress in fulfilling set goals and objectives was limited, he achieved some significant wins over the many months we worked together. This was to his credit, whilst he also acknowledged God's hand on his life.

Last November, yet another bout of sepsis sadly proved to be a step too far and he passed away peacefully with his family by his side. Although his wish was not to have any fuss made of his passing, through the relationship I had built with his family, I was invited to be involved in his funeral service. It was a great privilege to be able to support them at such a poignant time, together recalling how much he had changed for the good over recent years and it was a privilege to walk T's journey with him.

Rowland