



Happy New Year from all of us at
COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY NORFOLK

PRAYER NEWSLETTER

Staff Team

The team has changed since the last newsletter, we said goodbye to Joy back in November and welcome Claire Gunn as the new Development & Operations Administrator. Claire has a background in business, finance and general church administrative and organisational skills. Mel, Abby and Claire are well underway with planning how they can best work together to take the charity forward into the next year, and give their thanks to the Trustees for their ongoing support.

Mrs Claire Gunn
new administrator



Give thanks for the staff team and board of Trustees for their gifts and experience. Please pray for them as they seek to take the work of the charity forward, for good communication between them and for more Trustees to be found to help share the responsibility of running the charity. Pray for wisdom, integrity and love to increase as they search for mentors with appropriate skills, and work with clients from difficult backgrounds and situations.



Mel Wheeler &
Lady Dannatt



Celebration of Hope

On the evening of Thursday 9 November we were proud to host our Celebration of Hope evening, looking back over the first five years of the life of the charity and looking forward to a positive future.

About 120 people attended the event and enjoyed canapes, curry, connecting and live music from Sanctuary Jazz. At the centre of the evening we heard reports from Chris Tomlinson—chair of trustees, Mel Wheeler—manager and were very grateful to our Patron Lady Pippa Dannatt, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, and Father Paulinus Heggs for their encouraging words. We also watched a short film created by one of our mentors of one of our clients telling their story and how much CCN has played a significant part in helping them move on positively with their life.



Give thanks for all our connections over the last five years – for those who have given their time and resources and for those who we have been able to help who can now help others.

Pray for increased engagement between mentors and clients and positive outcomes.

Please pray for increased exposure in

organisations where people with the right gifting can hear and respond to our call for mentors, trustees and funding, and pray for our new initiatives in 2024.

Christmas Social

On 11 December, we held our Christmas Social. Staff, trustees, mentors, clients and friends enjoyed a festive buffet, decorating biscuits, working out Christmas conundrums and all taking part in a Christmas Quiz. The mood was light and fun and the evening was a good opportunity for meeting up and engaging with each other.

We want to say a BIG thank you to all our mentors and volunteers, we couldn't do it without you!



Advertising & Marketing

You will have noticed our new logo at the top of the page. With thanks to Wensum Print we have been able to begin updating all our information both in print and on-line and soon we should have a new website too!

We have had articles printed in Network Norfolk and the EDP and Mel has been busy promoting the charity on both Radio Norfolk and Future Radio.

New Training Sessions

The year is off to a great start with a new mentor training programme starting on 23 January. Please do pass the information on to anyone you think may be interested.

Volunteer Mentor Training
23 January to 12 March
Tuesday evenings 7 – 9pm
St Stephen's Church
Norwich

Thank God for the people who have already come forward to take part in the next training. Pray for their blessing as they give of their time and help them to enjoy the sessions as well as increasing their knowledge and skills. Please pray that the right people will see our advertising and come forward to find out more.



Pray for Abby as she looks to keep the training sessions up-to-date and relevant to the specific needs of our mentors.

Mentors & Clients

We currently have 22 mentors and 31 clients. There is a constant cycle of everyone involved, so it's really important we find more volunteers to come forward and take part in our training to see if mentoring is something they could take on. It's a balance of natural ability and training to produce good mentors, and of course we also need different types of people to match with our different types of clients.



Clients can sign up to have a mentor, but they need to know about our services. We are trying to increase our presence in the prisons and ensure that the relevant staff are advertising our services.

Pray for our clients and those considering signing up. It's a big thing to admit that you need help. Pray they can learn to trust the right people and to take responsibility for their choices.



Please pray for our mentors, they are special people. The role takes up not only time but mental and emotional energy too. Help them find time to continue receiving support and training as they carry out such an important role in clients' lives.

Funding

We have received funding from several areas over the last few months and this will help us to operate over the next year: £8k Allen Lane Foundation over 2 years, £3k Alan Boswell Group and just under £20k from the Postcode Places Trust, part of the Postcode Lottery. We are currently looking for funding to employ another Mentor Co-ordinator as our work expands. Looking for future funding and different sources is a constant for our staff, and we never take for granted those smaller organisations who help fund raise for us. Recently St Andrews Church in Eaton and the Cringleford singers held a fundraising event for us, for which we are extremely thankful. If you know of anywhere you are involved with that could advertise what we do and take a collection, that would be great!



Drop-in Support

We are looking to increase and strengthen our team of volunteers to support clients when they 'Drop-in' to see us at St Stephen's Church for advice or with practical needs. We are now recording what help clients need so we can better support them or point them to other agencies.



It's not easy asking individuals or groups for donations; and completing forms to apply for funding can be complicated and time consuming. Please pray that the team can find the most suitable contacts in order to allow the right amount of money to come in to meet the needs of the charity.



Thank God for all the opportunities we have had to help change lives – may that good be multiplied!

Mercy to the needy is a loan to GOD, and GOD pays back those loans in full.
Proverbs 19:17

On the road ...

In 2024 we are looking for organisations where we can take our message! Do you know of a group who would like us to share about our work and how it not only benefits the clients, but their wider network and the whole of society too? Using visuals, a talk and sharing lived experience from mentors and clients we hope to raise our profile, our prayer support and funding.

