

**March 2024**

## **Thank you for your continued interest in SWCC. Here is our latest news..**

### **High Sheriffs Award**

We are so grateful for the support we have received this year as the chosen charity of the High Sheriff of Devon, The Right Reverend Nick McKinnel. We were delighted to receive an award from him in recognition of 'great and valuable services to the community' as his tenure comes to an end.



*Staff team with the award*

### **Training at its best...**

We could not offer the service we do without the dedicated work of our Volunteer Mentors. Our aim is to encourage their confidence and competence as SWCC mentors by offering regular, relevant training. This can be challenging as they are spread out across Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. One of the most helpful things for them, is to hear from those with lived experience. So in early February, 22 of the team gathered for a great day where the training was largely delivered by people who have personal experience of not only the topics presented on addiction and social inclusion, but of the justice system and reintegration into the community following a criminal conviction. SWCC is committed to encouraging clients to contribute to the shaping of what we do and how we do it, so we were delighted the individuals concerned were willing to take on this daunting task and to do it with such professionalism and courage.

### **Leaving a legacy...**

Many thanks to all of those who made a donation towards our work on Giving Tuesday, which was in Late November last year. It's the first time that we've joined in with this worldwide day of philanthropy, and we appreciate every donation that our supporters have made to us, both in response to that appeal and throughout the past year. We are delighted to receive donations at any point during the year, via our website or through sending a cheque to our offices. It really does help us to continue to provide this life-changing support for around 150 individuals each year.

Another way of supporting charitable causes like South West Community Chaplaincy\* is through leaving a gift in your Will. March happens to be Free Wills Month, where certain firms of solicitors will help you draw up a Will (or update your existing Will) to accurately reflect the wishes of you as an individual, or a couple, without charge. There is no obligation to leave a gift to any charity of course, but if you are considering reviewing your Will, now is a good time to do so! Visit '[www.freewillsmoth.org.uk](http://www.freewillsmoth.org.uk)' for more information and to find a participating solicitor. If not this time, the campaign runs again in October '24.

\*If leaving a gift to SWCC, the solicitor will need our registered charity number, which is 1128372.

Thank you so much!

# Chaplains Chat

## SWCC Cornwall - Partnering for transformation

As we continue to recover from the pandemic in terms of how most not-for-profit organisations function, a new landscape is emerging in Cornwall that requires new thinking, to find ways to work together that are more flexible. Ways of offering opportunities to engage and partner with the work of South West Community Chaplaincy that reflect the changes that we are experiencing in the 'Land of the Saints'.

In response, we are excited to have launched the Partnering for Transformation 2024 programme that offers three stages of partnership, initially to churches to reflect our faith-based ethos, and then potentially wider afield in 2025. In the simplest terms, Stage One builds a foundation of prayer and relationship, looking for partner churches to champion our work, pray for us and offer a relational link to the spiritual life of Cornwall, thus embedding what we do within the life of the universal church. Stage Two offers opportunities to partner through our well-respected mentoring programme, establishing redemptive communities based around a locally supported volunteer mentor, that can offer wider community and support for those who feel isolated on release. Finally Stage Three looks towards the creation of rehabilitation hubs (the first to be trialled in Falmouth) that can become a cost effective and time economical focal point for offering more general support to all those that have served custodial sentences and looking to make a fresh start, partnering with the SALT Network.

It's been a challenging first six months in role as Community Chaplain for Cornwall, but it's a challenge well worth pursuing as we look to serve some of the most vulnerable and marginalised of our community. For any further information, please do get in touch so that we can work together to build a strong and flexible approach to the amazing work that is already being undertaken in Cornwall!

Ben, Community Chaplain

### So you have a dog now?...

I think it would be true to say that in the work we do as Community Chaplains, we are rarely surprised. That said, when a client who was released from prison in December and is currently living in emergency accommodation in our region, announced that he had got himself a dog, I did wonder how things were going to work out! Well, several weeks later it is a matter of 'so far, so good.' The client in question is very good with animals and had done his homework to the point that the hotel he's staying in welcomes dogs - even in the bedrooms!

However, the most important thing is that his new four legged friend is just that - she is his friend! Quite literally, other than myself and my colleague Avril, he has no social or family network in the community. So, whether it's day or night, rain or shine he has company to help reduce his stress and anxiety, which in turn is helping to prevent him from self-harming and keeping him from re-offending.

So please join us in praying that his move-on accommodation will allow a dog and that our client will stay on track as he continues to move away from the criminal justice system.

Ps. This dog he has is not a Chihuahua, it's an American Bulldog who has the most gentle of natures!

Rowland, Community Chaplain

