

December  
2020



# The CORNERSTONE

The monthly newsletter of  
New Kapporet & Christian Helpline UK  
for our Listeners, Prayer Partners and Supporters

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the **cornerstone**, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2: 19-22)*

## Welcome

to our first monthly newsletter. In May 2020, just seven months ago, we launched the first ever, national, multi-denominational and free Christian helpline in UK. It was conceived by the Lord, planned by the Lord (Who else would have seen a pandemic coming two years away?), and is now directed and guided by Him. Of course, we too have been involved in His ministry, but that is our calling, privilege and great joy. He has taught us what we are about. He has shown us how to listen, with one ear ever turned towards Him. He has taught us how to pray with our callers and with one another in direct and loving conversation with Him. He has astonished and delighted us with His presence; a presence revealed in every conversation with our callers and every interaction between ourselves. He has enabled us to grow and develop at a pace, which is has allowed us to learn and follow his leading, and He has stretched us to imagine ever new elements of His ministry. He has taught us to care for those who contact us, with His own compassion and love, no matter who they are or what troubles they face. He has shown us His mercy and love when we get it wrong. And he has built us into a family, an ever-growing family, with Him at the apex.

Christ Jesus is the **Cornerstone**, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple; a temple, where we can find a home for his New Kapporet, a new place where God can listen to his people. How wonderful it is to be allowed a part in His ministry!

*Praise be His Holy Name*

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## MONTHLY NEWS

November saw us launch our new email service on the six months' anniversary of our first watch. Half a dozen Listeners had volunteered to apply their listening skills to the written word, and on launch day, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, our first email duly arrived. Some of our Listeners were reasonably well prepared for this, having undertaken a short email training module and, although our familiarity with the technology was a little shaky, all seemed to go well, and new email correspondents have continued to contact us. We are hopeful that our new email service will provide an opportunity for those callers, who are unhappy to talk on the phone, with an easy way to reach out to us. All our emails go out under the pseudonym 'Niki' ([niki@christianhelpline.uk](mailto:niki@christianhelpline.uk)), which as some of our volunteers had not appreciated is short for New Kapporet.

To coincide with the launch of our new email service, we also launched a new website targeted specifically at our callers – [www.christianhelpline.uk](http://www.christianhelpline.uk) (a web address now also reflected in our new email address for callers). The website outlines the many ways in which callers can now make contact, describes the twin pillars of our ministry – 'Listening and Prayer Support' – and emphasises the essential nature of all we offer, whichever medium our callers choose: *'No judgment, no preaching, no advice or direction, just the love and compassion of Jesus for you, as you are.'* Our other website ([www.newkapporet.org](http://www.newkapporet.org)) continues in a new format and is directed towards all those who might seek to join us as volunteers or support us as partners or donors.

November also saw the development and pilot testing of a new strategy for providing more structured and personalised support to some of our more frequent callers, whose problems appear to be especially severe, complex and long term. For each of these 'Supported Callers' we aim to develop a support plan, which will may well involve regular calls to them, detailed monitoring of their situation and concerns, and dedicated Listeners, who are familiar with their problems.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees in November, Trevor 2013, our Treasurer, was appointed Chair of the Board, to replace Tim 2001. It is good practice to separate the executive leadership of the ministry from the Chair of Trustees, to ensure proper oversight of the charity's activities. We welcome Trevor to his new and important role and are profoundly grateful for the extraordinary time and energy which he devotes to our ministry.

The publicising of our ministry continues to present major challenges during the current epidemic. With many churches closed and Christian magazines and papers in difficulty with circulation, online advertising remains the primary means of publicising our helpline and email services. Facebook is proving the most effective means of telling people about our ministry. Our F/B page now has over 1000 followers, and we have recently launched a F/B group to encourage our followers and supporters to get our message out on the streets and into relevant organisations and services. We have also distributed publicity material to all our Listeners and Prayer Partners in the hope that they will find ways of publicising our ministry in their local communities. There is little doubt that, despite the problems, these efforts are proving effective, as the number of callers is increasing week by week. The helpline is now busy most nights and we really need two Listeners on every watch to ensure no calls go unanswered. Thank the Lord for entrusting us with so many of his precious children.

So, our ministry (or rather, the Lord's ministry) continues to grow and flourish under His guidance and direction. It is such a privilege to be a part of all this.

God bless us all.

**Tim 2001**

## A LISTENER'S TALE

So, Tim says 'Could you write a piece for our first newsletter and I think- yes of course and then I think where to begin because it's quite hard to get my head around how this organisation has developed in the last six months.

Like many of you, I saw Tim's advert on Facebook and thought "that sounds interesting" so I got in touch. Previously, I had launched a helpline for prisoners' families so I already knew, first-hand, what difference a listening line can make. There is something special about being able to speak with absolute honesty to a complete stranger because they don't know you and your words will not come back to haunt you. When I was having counselling, my counsellor said that her job to allow me to hear what I thought, and I think that is what the listeners at New Kapporet enable our callers to do.

So Tim and I arranged to meet (back in the days when you could meet) and we hit it off immediately. I was so excited by his vision and I have not been disappointed. I describe New Kapporet as a flower that I am watching open. We meet as a steering group every Friday morning (at 8.30am!) and I am still waiting for the week when we hear that there is nothing new this week. It hasn't happened yet! We try to move gently and carefully, always, always lifting our plans before the Lord, trying to go in the way He is leading us but always moving forward to make the service the best it can be. Tim's experience at Samaritans is very helpful but our service is slightly different and so we have some lively (but respectful) discussions as we seek our way forward. Being part of this ecumenical, diverse, and geographically spread Christian family is a great joy and I look forward to the day when everyone feels that they can access the love of God through this ministry whenever they need it.

**Janet 2002**

## ODE TO A LISTENER

His words were few and far between  
And never meant to glisten  
But he was a joy to all his friends  
You should have heard him listen.

*(Donated by Susan Walsh Bryant, a new Listener)*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRAYER COORDINATOR

As you probably know, I took over the role of Prayer Coordinator from Tim a few weeks ago. It seemed like a sensible step to me as I am a list-aholic and there is not much I enjoy more than gathering something, tidying it all up, putting it in a list and then passing it on to someone else! So, when no one else had 'applied' by the time I enquired, I assumed it was meant for me.

My role is to gather all the call records and try to pick out each caller's prayer needs. Sometimes they are a straightforward ask 'please pray for' but very often they simply off-load, and the listener may or may not be able to pinpoint an actual request. So I offer a short summary of the caller's situation.

Thankfully, we have a God who is bigger than all of that, and a Holy Spirit who understands us and intercedes for us. I try to keep the requests as non-prescriptive as possible, unless there has been a definite ask, allowing everyone to pray as the Spirit guides them and sometimes pray for things that the caller him/herself were not even aware that they needed.

We have a band of Merry Pray-ers, who do not do watches and do not meet for short Skype meetings between shifts, they are not as involved in the 'day to day-ness' of New Kapporet, but they serve a massive role in praying for all our callers and for the listeners as well. Hats off to all our prayer partners.

We are an amazing team, on a mission, to love and listen to those the Lord brings our way, and I feel honoured to be part of the family... I confess that I had half hoped that I could trade a few hours admin for being a listener, but it didn't happen, and I still sign up when I can, trembling in my boots and trusting in Jesus for whatever comes my way!

Thank you all for your part in the story that we are journeying together.

Many Blessings

**Lesley 2016**

## REFLECTIONS

Every month, we plan to reproduce one or two of the wonderful reflections that are shared around the Ministry by our many volunteers. This month, one reflection in particular seems to capture the essence, both of the Christmas Season and the Ministry itself. It comes from Cheryl 2051.

Jenny 2003 often sends everyone a little note of encouragement or a verse from scripture, just to remind us all that we are one family under one Lord. The short verse, which follows, seems to capture the great mystery of the incarnation and the wonder of the Lord's involvement with us, His children.

This morning I have been reflecting on the life of Jesus and something just leapt out at me that I wanted to share. I was thinking about His birth as we do at this time of year and suddenly it dawned on me that even then He was rejected. There was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay. Jesus was born in a stable after His parents were rejected wherever they tried. Yes, He was rejected throughout His life and especially at His death, but I had never realised before that it was at the start of His life as well. He was born to a very humble beginning, which really doesn't fit the King of Kings.

So many times, we can feel rejected, cast out, by our circumstances but Jesus can really understand this and relate to it. It is nothing new to our Lord. Maybe you feel like this at this moment or have done in the past. I can certainly relate to this throughout most of my life. Jesus comes very close to us when we are rejected, and He will never do this to us. He is there, close by wanting to hold us tight and tell us how much He loves us and will never ever reject us.

Many of our callers feel that sense of rejection due to what they are going through, let us remember that Jesus hasn't rejected them and never will as we listen and share in their pain. Let them go away comforted and knowing they are loved not only by us but by our Lord as well. Jesus is not here to literally take that call Himself, but He has called each of us to be His voice. Let us pray that next time we take a call that we speak the words that Jesus wants us to speak. May we be Jesus to the people we speak to and remember what a privilege it is to share in someone's pain.

God bless you all

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*The darkness has its own starkness  
But in the night a shining light  
From heaven to earth  
Conception to birth  
Jesus  
Will save us.*

*God is truly an Awesome God.*

## VACANCIES

We are currently looking to appoint:

- New Watch Leaders
- A Rota Co-ordinator

If you would be interested in either of these roles and want to find out more, please email:

[tim.harding@newkapporet.org](mailto:tim.harding@newkapporet.org)

# Happy Christmas



It is hard to believe that this time last year,  
we didn't even know one another.

Now, thanks be to God, we see ourselves as  
one family under One Lord, Jesus Christ.  
We all wish one another a truly Christ-filled  
Christmas and New Year,  
full of the Lord's presence, peace and love.

God bless us all!