

The Road To Freedom

“When people judge my clients, I remember Christ telling the priests, ‘prostitutes are entering the Kingdom before you.’”

Karen Sherman, a parishioner in St John’s, Wimborne, trains mentors



for Footprints, a Dorchester-based charity supporting ex-prisoners.

To stay in touch with volunteers’ front line work she also volunteers as a mentor in her spare time.

When a family member was sent to prison, it changed her views and the course of her life.

“My husband and I joined the chaplaincy team in Dorchester Prison. We prayed with broken people, sometimes as the first non-judgemental listening ear they’d ever had. Then we got involved with Footprints.

“We have 17 mentors at present, working with men and women across

three counties. With the help of the Prison and Probation Services, we try to identify people coming up to release who are motivated to change and rebuild their lives.

“Prisoners are released with £46: most have mental health problems and no family support. Some have lived chaotic lives since childhood and just don’t know how to live independently.

“We don’t succeed every time, but we change many lives. Some clients come from multi-generational criminal activity to qualifications and good jobs. That helps reduce the country’s chronic reoffending rates.”

Bishop’s Letter

The Right Revd Dr Graham Kings
Bishop of Sherborne

‘Right wheel’ came a whisper in my ear. Not a problem with the car but the next drill command from the Sergeant Major. I had to pass it on at full volume to the Dorset Army Cadet Force. I did. ‘Same again’ he said. I nearly bellowed out ‘Same again’, but corrected myself in time and shouted, ‘Right wheel.’

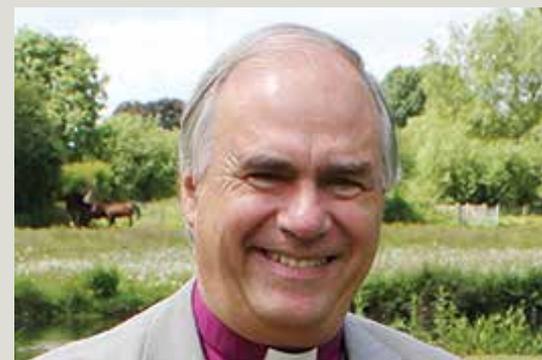
I recently spent a bracing morning at the Dorset Army Cadet Force annual camp, in Longmoor, Hants. On the parade ground, I dredged up memories of 1973, when I had a gap year in the army, between school and university.

I mentioned remembering two long lines of cadets, 50 yards apart, simultaneously yelling out drill commands to their paired colleagues. They grinned, for they had just experienced that exercise that morning.

I was deeply impressed by these young men and women from state schools in Dorset. Discipline, adventure, exercise, rifle practise, time in barracks and out camping and cooking in the open air, all provided skills and mental toughness which stretched them. Several talked about a possible career in the army.

What of the Church and young people? We are encouraging them to think about the adventure of discipleship. Various youth camps, with diverse traditions, take place

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each summer at Lee Abbey, Soul Survivor, Walsingham, Taizé and Hilfield. Archbishop Justin attended Walsingham last year and Soul Survivor this year. He answered questions and challenged the young people to hear God's call for their future, in discipleship, mission and

the priesthood.

Let's pray for young people in schools, uniformed organisations, open youth clubs, and church youth groups for God's future to be opened up for them.

Take a look at this video on YouTube at www.bit.ly/bishopcadets.

A Choral Celebration

Choristers gathered in Salisbury Cathedral for the annual Diocesan Choral Festival with the Cathedral Choir. Every year the Festival gives local parish choristers the opportunity to sing with hundreds of others.

This year, centering on the theme of Life's Pilgrimage, the music contained pieces to be sung at various milestones in life.

Zach Bullock, a chorister from St Peter's, Parkstone said, "This is a great chance to sing in one of our country's



most beautiful buildings - and makes me realise our choir isn't the only one!"

Next year, the festival will be a joint event with the Diocese of Bath & Wells, celebrating eight hundred years of the Magna Carta.

Inspiring Christian Action

"No Christian is called to sit on the sidelines. God wants to use all of us to fulfil the prayer 'thy will be done'."

Chris Mould has worshipped with his wife Angela at St Paul's, Salisbury for 22 years, where he regularly preaches and is involved in prayer ministry.

"I've had wonderful support there", he says, "Clear teaching and good friends in good and bad times. It was a

wonderful environment for our four adult children to grow up in."

After a career in NHS management and police training, Chris' faith led him on a new journey - as Chairman of the Trussell Trust, running foodbanks across the UK.

"I take my lead from the Bible when asking myself what God wants me to do. God in Scripture is deeply concerned about poverty.

"In just a decade, we've gone from the first local foodbank in Salisbury to 430 foodbanks, following the same model, involving 11,000 churches and tens of thousands of Christians. A nation has been inspired - more than 4 million people donated to Trussell Trust foodbanks last year.

"Local projects are vital - you don't need to be rich or connected to make



Help for the Journey

For over 1,000 years, Christians have been making the pilgrimage to the site of St James' burial at Santiago de Compostella in northwestern Spain.

The Confraternity of St. James' Wessex branch exists to help people of all denominations who want to make the pilgrimage today.

Local members have completed pilgrimages on foot or by bicycle on all major routes. They can assist with practical advice and share wonderful memories. Most members have also assisted pilgrims in Spain at one of the *refugios* (pilgrim hostels).

For more information contact Gill Anlezark on **01722 325608** or gillandjimmy@googlemail.com.



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a difference.

"People can't just turn up to a foodbank for help. They need to be referred to us as being in financial crisis by our network of 'voucher holders': people like job centre staff, health visitors and citizens advice volunteers.

"Many of our clients were already in a tough spot when an administrative error left them without money they were entitled to for weeks.

"We provide a nutritionally balanced package of emergency food. Sometimes people need help for a couple of weeks, but a majority only need 3-4 days crisis support. Many of the people we help start volunteering to help others."