

SALT Council of Reference

This last year has brought a change in our Council of Reference with three members either retiring or moving away from the Plymouth Area.

Both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops of Plymouth are no longer part of our Council of Reference. Bishop John Ford has moved to Australia and Bishop Christopher Budd has now retired. The Reverend Andy Caldwell has just moved to East Sussex to a church there. We wish them all well and pray that they will know God's blessings in the new chapters of their lives.

Bishop Mark O'Toole, who has recently become the new Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, has kindly agreed to join our Council of Reference as has the Reverend David Martin of Plymouth Methodist Central Hall.

We are thrilled at their interest in our work.

Gary Streeter, MP remains and we appreciate his ongoing support of our agency. Kerry Cole is another of our continuing members and you will see a book review of her latest publication on page 2 of this Newsletter.

We are always grateful for the fact that such well-respected members of our community appreciate the value of our work and demonstrate it by serving in this role.

STOP PRESS: We are extremely grateful to have received a grant of £5000 from The Souter Charitable Trust. Another answer to prayer!

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Council of Reference: Bishop Mark O'Toole, Rev David Martin,
Gary Streeter MP and Kerry Cole.

Charity No 1010424

SALT South West

Sexual Abuse Listening Therapy

Newsletter 11

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Hello everyone,

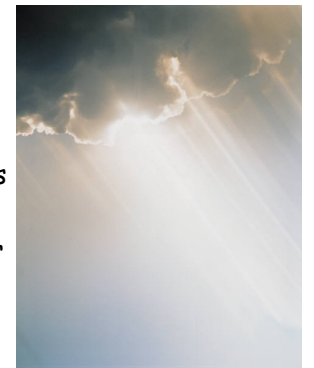
It seems no time at all since our last newsletter was produced and what a busy time we have all had. Our glorious summer weather has been so appreciated and yet the darkness in the world is increasing and as Christians we need to remember the power there is in the blood of Christ.

A recent sermon I heard spoke powerfully of the church becoming anaemic and listless because we have neglected the fundamentals of our faith. It would be so easy to become discouraged by all the issues that surround us but, friends, remember Satan is overcome by the power of the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, Revelation 12. Keep close to Him, Psalm 16. In His presence is fullness of joy, hide yourself in Him and rejoice in what He has done for us all at Calvary. He has placed eternity in our hearts—**PRAISE HIM.**

Josie

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

Philippians 4, 4-7.



Sexual Abuse Awareness Christian Training Days with SALT South West

Saturday 18th and 25th October: 9.30am to 3pm.

Covering: What is Abuse? Problem Periods; Loss; Dissociation; Consequences; Male Issues, and much more!

Both days need to be attended (in our rooms at 142 Union Street), and the cost is £30 per person.

Please bring a packed lunch – other refreshments will be provided.

This training will enable you to be better equipped and understand more about supporting adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and you don't have to be a counsellor or on a pastoral care team – though if you are, you are welcome too!

If you have a concern for understanding anyone with sexual abuse in their childhood, and would like to offer a firm hope for healing, come and spend these two days with us to increase your knowledge and understanding.

Please call 01752 600599 or email email@saltsouthwest.co.uk to request an application pack.

Book Review - EXIT DARCUS

This novel by Kerry Cole is a refreshingly truthful insight into the shipwreck of people's lives caused by a casual attitude to relationships.



Beautiful, yet troubled, runaway, Alice trespasses onto the grounds of the ancient estate Beulah to escape her circumstances. A safe haven is hard to find but is shown possible by the disclosures of a young artist who has also had a tortuous journey that has brought him to work on the estate.

With its many twists, turns and layers this book is hard to put down, wonderfully demonstrating the beauty that is to be found in faithfulness and the cleansing and redemptive power to be had in Christ.

Although a novel, this story carries a clear message of spiritual implications to a life lived outside of God and ends with a powerful gospel message.

A brilliant read!

A Client Testimony

My healing journey started thirty years ago when I was suffering from severe post natal depression, and I first began to realise God's love was unconditional. Ten years later I started to accept that the things I told myself were imagined, were actual events. The next few years were a blur of flashbacks, coping with a difficult family situation and finally accepting my marriage was over. I felt as if God had deserted me, but looking back I can see how He carried me through it all.

In 2005 I moved to the Tamar Valley and started to seek God again. After my mother's death the flashbacks started again. I felt despair and guilt that I was still not better. Through a series of "co incidences" I was put into contact with SALT. I felt accepted and loved, and challenged as well. It was painful, but through the individual sessions and group I learned to care for, and take responsibility, for the little child within me.

I experienced much healing but still felt alienated from God as Father, and every so often fell apart.

Earlier this year I realised I was still denying my father's part in what happened to me. I was trapped by the words "if your mother finds out it will kill her". I felt as if her finding out about the abuse had precipitated her sudden death in 2007.

Jesus says "The Truth will set you free", but initially it didn't feel like that. I was devastated and raging. I poured this out in my journal (which now looks as if it has been shredded).

At my local church there was opportunity for healing prayer. In a very simple prayer, with anointing of oil, we asked for God's touch.

Gradually the words "My love has no beginning, my love has no end" (from an advert of all things) took root in the empty place in my heart. I can finally say that "Yes, God is my Father". There is a peace and contentment that I have never known before.

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