

Caring For Life

'THE BENEFIT OF WORK'



SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS • SEPTEMBER 2024



JP'S JOURNAL

BY JONATHAN - CEO

'THE BENEFIT OF WORK'

Dear Friends,

Thank you again for reading this bulletin and for your love for this ministry.

Our earnest prayer is that these bulletins not only inform you and your prayers, but also inspire you, as like-minded people, to go and reach out with the love of Christ to those living within your own churches and communities.

We also pray these bulletins inspire more prayer, more giving and new support as we can't do what we do without God's faithful givers providing for our needs. If you receive this bulletin and have not yet started to give, we would really appreciate your help in considering doing that.

Over the past few weeks, we have had the privilege of getting out and about to visit a few of our supporting churches. We were also blessed to visit a couple of new churches too. It is always so humbling to share fellowship with God's people, and we hope our visits will be a source of encouragement.

"At CFL we are given wonderful opportunities to engage with folks through offering projects to work and be active on"

If you were one of those churches or support groups we visited, thank you so much for your welcome.

In this month's bulletin, we wanted to think about another key element of this ministry. It is one which we believe to be a biblical mandate for us all, and that's the call to work, or at least, do something constructive with our time and gifts.

In 2 Thessalonians 3 v 10-12, we read *"For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.' We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat."*

At Caring For Life we are given wonderful opportunities to engage with folks through offering projects to work and to be active on. From the early days, we realised that to house someone or to find someone a safe home was one thing, but to get people to do something constructive with their time was equally beneficial.

Over the years, we have seen many people come and go from our daytime projects.

They have been people who have come without any structure to life and with very little motivation. But through direction and through being given tasks and responsibilities, they have grown and developed so that they have been able to move forward using their new-found skills and purpose.

For many, the projects have given people a place to fit in and thrive, as they have been encouraged to take part in the things we



“...we are trying to instil God ordained plans to a body of people who would struggle to motivate themselves to do it on their own.”

have on offer, no matter what their abilities or perceived disabilities.

One of the wonderful things about Caring For Life, is that it takes people who, in the world's eyes, have very little to offer in relation to output, but over time they become crucial cogs in a working engine, vital and valued members of teams.

At Caring For Life, we have expert Farmers, Horsemen, Poultry workers, Chippies (woodwork), Horticulturists, Artists, Conservationists, Caterers, Film makers, Photographers, Shop keepers, Computer whiz kids, Gardeners... the list could go on.

Giving people responsibility and holding people accountable, brings about massive blessings to each individual. Whether we are doing it for a short time or a lifetime, we are trying to instil God-ordained patterns of behaviour to people who would struggle to motivate themselves to do it on their own.

I remember one young man we helped many years ago. He had come from a tragic and abusive background, and he had found

himself embroiled in a life of crime. He started to attend the farm projects and over a period came to realise his need for the Lord and he gave his life to Him.

Following that he asked to be baptised and to become a member of my father's church, Leeds Reformed Baptist Church. At the Baptismal service he read this verse; Ephesians 4 v 28 *“He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those who are in need”.*

Caring For Life didn't think all this up. It wasn't our good idea to get people to do something with their time. It wasn't our idea to help give people who don't fit easily into the world, a place to fit. Or to help people who have no skills to gain skills. It was the Lord's, and that's why it benefits them so much.

No one who has ever taken part in a project at CFL has been forced to do it. No one has ever been made to 'work', but whenever a person decides to engage and have a go, they are encouraged and 'enthused over' for

JP'S JOURNAL

"Come and see how our men and women are proud to show you what they have done..."



doing it, and the benefits are there for all to see.

Come and see how our men and women are proud to show you what they have done. Come and listen to them speak about **their** farm, **their** animals and **their** pieces of Art, come and walk around **their** gardens, that they want you to enjoy. It's just wonderful.

"Our works, as staff members, are works of compassion, done in obedience to God as commanded in scripture."

Being able to work, be active and be involved, is not only a blessing to the individual, but is also a way of benefiting society in general. It's a way we can help others through caring, providing, and being a part of a community.

For those of us who are members of staff at Caring For Life, we work not just because we need a job. We work to share the compassion and Gospel of Christ with those who live, or should I say, survive on the margins.

Our works, as staff members, are to be works of compassion, done in obedience to God as commanded in scripture. As Alistair Begg says; "Our words and works are evidence that our faith is true and not fake." His words echo James' message in chapters 1 -2.

To work for the Lord is a delight and not a duty, and the desire to help motivate those who have very little in their lives, or very little that thrills them, is a duty we take seriously.

It's something we work hard for, because, ultimately, working and being active helps people see beyond themselves and their

own issues and needs. It helps them look to the needs of others, as the passage from Ephesians tells us, "work so that you can share with those who are in need". That doesn't just mean money, it can mean friendship and camaraderie. They are just as important.

This ministry truly is remarkable. It has such a breadth to it, because God is the One who has inspired it into being. And He is a God whose wisdom is deep and wide, as is His wondrous love. That's why we turn everything back to praise and say "Thank you

Lord, that you have created a place where we can find purpose in working for You, but also where we can help so many others by Your grace, to find purpose in working for You too."

Well dear friends, I wish you every blessing, but I must stop writing now, and get some work done!

May the Lord bless and keep you.

JP



TEAM UPDATE

For those of you who have visited Caring For Life on a Supporters Day or have a more in-depth awareness of our team members, you will know the name John Lintern. John has been a staff member working with the Being There team for over 15 years and has been a much loved and valued member of that team.

Sadly, John has been suffering from a heart condition for some time now, and despite a long period away from his work and having treatment for his condition, he has still not improved.

So, it's with great sadness that we must inform you that our dear friend and much-loved colleague will be leaving the team.



John will leave a big hole and will be missed by beneficiary and staff member alike.

His pastoral insight and spiritual maturity has been such a blessing to this ministry. His Brummie humour too, will also be missed ... but maybe not that much... it depends on who you ask!!

We want to say a massive thank you to him for all he has done here, and say thank you to the Lord, for bringing him here also.

So please pray for John and his family, that the Lord would strengthen and restore him. Pray also for the beneficiaries he loved, and who loved him so much too.

WAITING FOR MONDAY

We often hear that stressed, busy people spend much of their working life counting down to the weekend and living for their leisure time. The reality for those we support at Caring For Life is that their lives can be the exact reverse of this.

For many in our care, weekends are to be endured and they are genuinely thanking the Lord when it's Monday again. The start of each new week means they can come back to the farm, be among their friends and join with their team on the familiar tasks of the week.

One lunchtime this week I was sitting having lunch with a young lady who has recently started on the Equestrian Project. She was telling me her plans for the afternoon and said that the team would be involved in her favourite aspect of the work – poo-picking!


Perhaps for many of us that would not seem like an attractive way to spend the afternoon but for this young lady (and surprisingly for quite a few others!) this task is a highlight of the week. This was a reminder to me of the many blessings we all receive from being actively engaged in something useful.

The apparently unlovely task of poo-picking brings many rewards. It gives the opportunity to be part of a team, to belong, to contribute to a common goal, to gain great satisfaction and the visible evidence of a job well done.

It also gives folks the opportunity to care for the land in a place they love and to provide an essential service for the horses they've grown so fond of. Add to that the benefits of fresh air and exercise in a beautiful environment (and sometimes even a sing-song in the fields!) and it's not so difficult to see the appeal.

It's wonderful to see the self-respect, purpose, belonging and dignity that those in our care gain from meaningful engagement in positive tasks on the farm. They begin to use their God-given skills and abilities and can be productive and helpful as their Creator intended.

We are so thankful to God for the provision of this beautiful farm and projects and for the staff who can provide these seemingly simple but absolutely essential opportunities week after week.



“They begin to use their God-given skills and abilities and can be productive and helpful as their Creator intended.”



SUPPORT GROUPS

BY JONATHAN - CEO

Why not join a support group?

For the past 14 years, a number of our supporters and supporting churches have been hosting a Caring For Life support group and at present we have in region of 50.

These groups meet 4 times a year to pray for the work, and to watch a specially produced film focusing on different areas of the ministry.

The groups vary in size and all meet at different times throughout the week. Some still meet on zoom to attract people who may live more remotely.

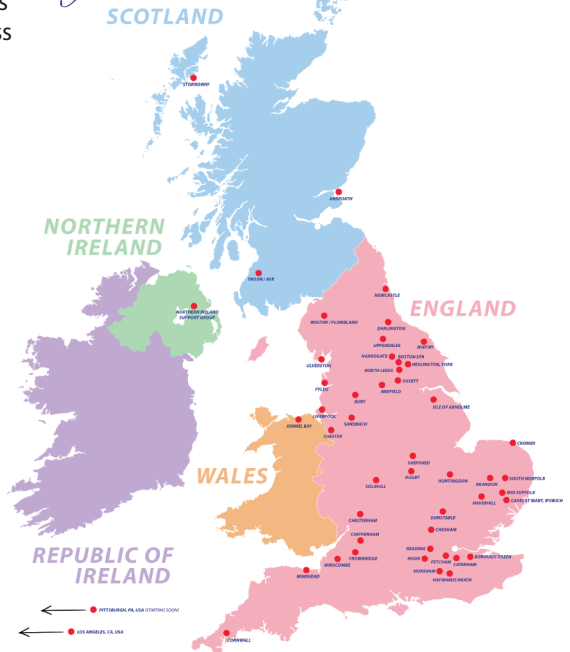
Our groups meet up and down the UK; from a couple of groups in Scotland, down to Wales and a number in the heart of England, across

to the far southeast and then over to the far southwest. We have a group in Northern Ireland and even two groups in USA.

The support groups are a great way to meet other supporters, and they are also a great way to promote the work to other Christian people who might like to join the group, get the bulletin and become supporters themselves. Crucially, they are also a great way to raise much needed financial support through a variety of fund raisers.

If you are interested in joining a support group or interested in starting one, please contact us for more details.

Find a
**SUPPORT
GROUP**
near you...
or start one
of your own!





SUMMER UPDATE

BY GAYLE - *Pastoral Director*

We are thankful to the Lord for many blessings and answered prayers over this summer period in the midst of just as many battles and challenges.

The summer months give us a wonderful opportunity to host special fun days at the farm and to have trips and outings.

This summer we have been repeatedly blessed with lovely weather, great participation and good times.

“We have been especially pleased to be able to have days out for those supported by the Being There team and their children”

The significance of these events for those in our care is something that we are always humbled by.

There is much excitement as we look forward to what will happen, great fun on the day of each event and many (often exaggerated!) stories told for a long time afterwards.

Highlights of this summer already have included an outdoor art and bonsai day, a day trip with the horses, our very own CFL Olympics and trips to the seaside and the dales.

We have been especially pleased to be able to have days out for those supported by the Being There team and their children. For many of our families, the thought of going on holiday or even on a day trip, would be overwhelming, anxiety-provoking and too expensive.

It has been a great blessing to be able to be able to take care of all the hassles, with each family being collected from their own front door by their familiar trusted support worker and supported throughout the day by them. All activities are planned and taken care of, and lovely picnic lunch is provided.





“We are so thankful to the Lord for the great progress that so many have made and we are amazed that they have the courage to face each day.”

Our beach trip was a particular hit this year. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and all the children who had planned to swim went into the sea in their swimming gear and almost all those who hadn't planned to swim just went into the sea in their clothes! Many of us had a very tired, and soggy but happy carload on the way home.

Alongside the many blessings of good times, growing relationships and spiritually blessed conversations, we also face daily the many challenges that our precious individuals face.

Sometimes it feels as though we are fighting to keep people alive - and it doesn't always seem as though we are winning.

Many of those in our care have experienced significant loss, abuse and trauma in their lives and are living every day with the consequences of this. We are so thankful to the Lord for the great progress that so many have made and we are amazed that they have the courage to face each day. Above all else we are thankful that many have trusted the Lord and now know Him as their Saviour.

The dark days don't always go away, but they can now face them knowing the presence of their dear Saviour.

Please do continue to pray for those in the worst of situations:

- for those whose mental health is so poor that they struggle with the thought of facing another day
- for those who can't escape the memories of abuse and trauma in their home and community
- for those who can be a risk to themselves
- for those who are totally isolated and long for contact with the family that has let them down
- for those whose life has been taken over by addiction, who rely on the numbing effect of alcohol or drugs
- for those who don't see any value in themselves and who don't yet see how God values them.

Thinking through this list brings to mind the faces of many precious individuals. We thank you for your love, concern and prayers for them and we are so thankful to be able to lift them to the God of the impossible and the God of all grace.

Gayle



TIME TO SERVE...

BY **BUFFY** - *HR Manager*

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have time to come and serve here at Caring For Life? Alongside our TFJ volunteers, our wider team of volunteers enable the wheels of Caring For Life to keep turning by offering practical help in a number of different ways.

Right now, we need people who can drive, we need those who can befriend some of the precious folk supported by our Being There team, we need help with practical elements in our supported living homes and we need folk who can join our annual harvest sort. We also need someone who can come to the farm regularly through the year, to oversee our foodbank and food donations.

Are you able to provide volunteer time on a regular basis and give us a hand in any of these areas? We'd love to hear from you!

You'll need to fill in an application form and chat with us. Some roles may require a DBS check too. At CFL we are called to draw alongside those who desperately need a safe place to be, a place where they are loved and where the love of Jesus is shared. Can you help us do that?

Buffy



For more details, please contact Buffy by emailing hr@caringforlife.co.uk or call 0113 2303600.



Harvest APPEAL 2024

Last year's harvest donations were an amazing provision!

This year, we are again asking churches & supporters to donate **FINANCIAL** gifts wherever possible.

The money donated will buy **FRESH** and cupboard foods for "Being There" food parcels and for our supported living homes and enable us to prepare daily meals at the farm, throughout the year.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

1. SCAN QR CODE

To go direct to Harvest page

Or go to www.caringforlife.co.uk

Click Donate button - Go to Comments box, say it's for harvest, and provide donor details.



2. CHEQUES payable to 'CARING FOR LIFE'

incl. note that it's for harvest

3. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

Phone 0113 230 3600

4. CASH TO CFL RECEPTION

incl. note that it's for harvest

5. BANK TRANSFER to CFL DONATIONS

account: Triodos Bank.

Sort -16-58-10

Acc - 20887361

(give Ref: Harv24)



If you would prefer to give food, then we will still gladly receive and store it.

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS MOST NEEDED:

Coffee & Tea
Juice & Hot Chocolate
Cereals & Long Life Milk
Pot Noodles & Cup-a-Soup
Dried Pasta & Rice
Pasta Sauce in Jars

Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Tuna
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Baked Beans
Tinned Meat Meals

Tinned Rice Pudding
Tinned Custard
Tinned Fruit
Sugar
Chocolates
Biscuits

Harvest Delivery Times. Mon-Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm at Crag House Farm, LS16 7NH
Any Questions? Email pam.parkinson@caringforlife.co.uk or call 0113 230 3610

Upcoming CFL Church Presentations

LOCATION

DATE & TIME

Doncaster Evangelical Church, DN2
Bethel Christian Assembly, Shalford, GU4
Bridge Community Church, LS9
Hayes Town Chapel, UB3

Wed 4th Sept - 7.30pm
Sun 8th Sept - 10am
Mon 9th Sept - 2pm
Mon 9th Sept - 7.45pm (ladies)
& Tues 10th Sept - 7.45pm
Sun 15th Sept - 10.45am
Sun 29th Sept - 10.30am
Sun 6th Oct - 10.30am & 6.30pm
Wed 9th Oct - 1pm
Sun 13th Oct - 10.45am
Sun 13th Oct - 4pm
Tues 15th Oct - 7.30pm
Wed 16th Oct - 7.30pm
Sun 27th Oct - 10.30am & 6.30pm

Cornerstone Church, Bridlington, YO16
Hambleton Evangelical Church, YO7
Stonedge Chapel, S45
Gunnorsbury Bapt Church, W4 (Zoom)
Bridlington Bapt Church
King's Church, Boston Spa
Bradford on Avon Bapt Church, BA15
Spring Meadow Bapt Church, B64
Dungannon Bapt Church, BT71

Please contact Pam, Support Coordinator; 0113 230 3610
or pam.parkinson@caringforlife.co.uk for further information about Presentations.

Upcoming Support Group Meetings

HOST

LOCATION

DATE & TIME

Judy & Terry Smith
Stephen & Kelley Logan,
And Val & Paddy Manning

Fylde
Northern Ireland

Mon 2nd Sept - 2pm
Mon 9th Sept - 8pm

Betty Hunt
Sian and Neil Green

Huntingdon
Brandon

Wed 18th Sept - 1pm
Sat 21st Sept - 3pm

John & Jen Denning
Peter & Sue Richards

Harrogate
ZOOM Cornwall

Mon 23rd Sept - 7.30pm
Sat 12th Oct - 7pm

Christine Robinson
Ann Austin

Ipswich
Chesham

Mon 14th Oct - 7.30pm
Tues 15th Oct - 2.30pm

Roger Oliver
Sue & Chris Morgan

Haywards Heath
Boston Spa

Wed 16th Oct - 2.30pm
Mon 21st Oct - 7.30pm

Rodney & Christine Price

Chippenham

Wed 23rd Oct 2.30pm

Please contact PR; 0113 230 3600
or pr@caringforlife.co.uk for further information about Support Groups.



Crag House Farm,
Otley Old Road, Cookridge,
Leeds LS16 7NH
Charity Reg. No. 1174982

✉ info@caringforlife.co.uk

📘 Caring For Life Charity

🌐 www.caringforlife.co.uk

✂ @CFLcharity

☎ (0113) 230 3600