

**ALL INVITED!
CELEBRATION EVENING
MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**



**NEW PROGRAMME
MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**



**'TRANSFORMING LIVES'
UK CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER**

CELEBRATE RECOVERY



Sharing Hope

Nine participants - including several from Celebrate Recovery at Jesmond Parish Church - braved the North East coast on a freezing cold windy day in January. Why? Because they wanted to give hope to others by sharing how God has changed their lives through Celebrate Recovery.

Thanks go to Clayton TV for filming the 'Cardboard Testimonies' video which we are using to raise Celebrate Recovery's profile here at Jesmond Parish Church and, through the network of Celebrate Recovery groups, across the UK and indeed the world! You can view it alongside other Celebrate Recovery UK videos at vimeo.com/user49884988.

Celebrate Recovery Principle #8

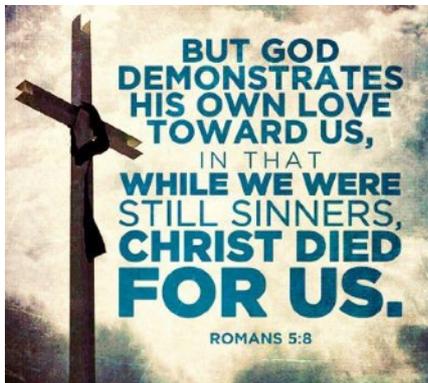
Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others both by my example and by my words.

'Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires.'
Matthew 5;10

Sophie's Story: Accepting God's amazing love

I came to Celebrate Recovery in desperation. I had been struggling in an abusive relationship, became pregnant and had an abortion. I deeply regretted this which I felt pressurised in to by my family and partner, and was consumed with guilt. I became very depressed and felt so guilty that I was convinced there was not a future for me. A friend told me about Celebrate Recovery and I wasn't keen but went along because I felt I had nothing to lose. The first evening I spoke to another participant who had been through similar things to me and had been able to move on. This injected a much needed glimmer of hope in to my life that enabled me to keep on going.

The Celebrate Recovery programme allows you to work at your own pace through your recovery, and uses eight principles, based on the beatitudes to do this. The first big challenge for me was **Principle 2 - 'Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to him, and that he has the power to help me recover'**. Whilst I believed in God, I felt that he couldn't possibly care about me and that what I had done was too bad for his love and forgiveness.

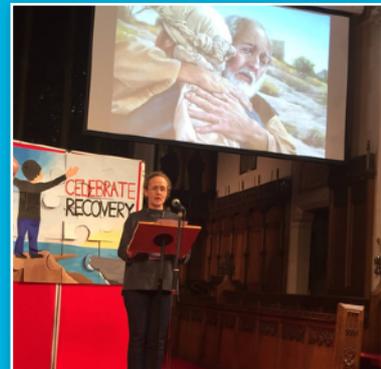


I have now fully accepted God's amazing love for me and the forgiveness that came through Jesus at the cross. I am also much more forgiving and less judgemental of others and their situations. I turn to God in difficulty rather than trying to rely on doing it all on my own.

I get so much out of Celebrate Recovery. Having a small group that you can be totally honest with, free of judgement, is great for support. I have absolutely become a better person through the Celebrate Recovery programme as I have come to understand some of the amazing truths of the bible. It has also enabled me to become more involved with church as I no longer feel like a second class citizen, so feel more able to attend and serve. I would recommend the programme to anyone who is struggling with things, no matter how big or small they may seem. There is hope for everyone, sometimes you just need a bit of extra support to fully see it.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity

*We'd love to see you
at our Celebration
Evening on Monday
17 September*



Celebrate Recovery invites church family and friends to its 'Celebration Evening' to celebrate Jesus' transforming work in people's lives. We want to praise God and bless the church family.

Testimonies, worship and videos ensure it will be an evening to encourage you!

- Refreshments from 7pm
- Celebration presentation from 7.30pm to 9pm
- Cake and chat from 9pm

Hope you can come!

Serving at Celebrate Recovery

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Cor 1:3-4 (ESV)

Those words were written by Paul to those who faced suffering in their lives because they followed Jesus. He reminds them that belonging to Jesus also brings comfort. So, whatever it is that's been your struggle he wants you to turn to *'the God of all comfort'* (v3) for help. If you don't know God there is no real comfort in your life. There is nowhere else to turn.

How do we receive comfort from God? Often, God chooses to use other people: the presence of another Christian to talk to, pray with, just have there so we're not facing our troubles alone. Someone who doesn't try to fix you and who points you to the *'father of mercies'*.

I rejoice because I see God using Celebrate Recovery to do just that – for many people it is a *means* by which God brings his comfort to those who need his help. Celebrate Recovery is not the source of that comfort. God is! But he uses Celebrate Recovery and he uses the team who serve so faithfully there.

Why has God allowed each of us to suffer in the ways we have, or the ways we currently are? One answer to that is: to make you a comforter. You have been comforted - by other believers and directly by God himself – so now you can comfort others. What you've been through, what you're going through now, means you have a ministry to others which no-one else can have. Please exercise it, for others' sake.

At the moment we have a particularly pressing need for more **MEN** to serve in Celebrate Recovery in this way. Is that something God is calling you to get involved in? Then come and speak to me or Catherine Robinson.



Ramzi Adcock is Celebrate Recovery's clergy oversight

Ramzi Adcock

Celebrate Recovery's Principle 8

Service or 'giving back' is included in the recovery journey. It's part of living our lives for Jesus. We are encouraged to 'give back' either at Celebrate Recovery or to another church ministry.

Those who serve
feel part of the whole ministry.
Contributing in this way can
support their own recovery.

Sarah Hilton and Ian Coe share their thoughts on serving at Celebrate Recovery. Sarah facilitates the Women's Newcomers' Group. Ian facilitates the men's Open Share Group.

“There is no pressure to serve. Everyone is welcome to come and receive. When people are ready to serve in some way it blesses them as well as those they serve. There are many ways to help - welcome, music, refreshments, tech desk, setting up and putting away equipment and praying. Those who serve feel part of the whole ministry.

Contributing in this way can support their own recovery. I enjoy helping with refreshments before and after the

meeting as it is a good way of keeping in touch with everyone. I am also involved in praying for CR before the meeting which helps us all to focus on Jesus and commit the evening into His hands.” Sarah Hilton

“To ensure that Celebrate Recovery continues to function and grow, it's essential that some people who have been helped choose to give something back to the programme so that others benefit from their recovery experience. From my own point of view serving at Celebrate Recovery has helped me to continue to address some of my hurts and realise how far I've come on my recovery journey which has spurred me on to further progress.” Ian Coe

...it's essential that some
people who have been helped
choose to give something back to the
programme so that others benefit
from their recovery experience.

Is My Struggle Big Enough?

Celebrate Recovery supports people who struggle with a wide range of hurts, hang-ups, and habits. But is it for you?

Some people are concerned that their struggle is minor compared to many other people's struggles. Is Celebrate Recovery the right place for them? Any hurt, hang-up or habit that persists is not too small to seek help for at Celebrate Recovery. You'll find the space to focus on why your hurt or other struggle still persists, and discover the tools and support to help you finally overcome it!

Some people are concerned that their struggle is too big an issue for Celebrate Recovery to help. Is it the right place for them? Celebrate Recovery doesn't provide counselling or therapy and if someone needs professional support, this should be sought outside of Celebrate Recovery. However, Celebrate Recovery still has much to offer a person who thinks their issues are big.

Celebrate Recovery offers a regular safe place within our church for people to be honest with themselves and with others who also know what it is to struggle. It will help you feel less isolated as you meet others with similar battles. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centred programme and will help you keep God and the Bible at the centre of your recovery. You'll learn healthy new ways of thinking and dealing with life.

So what's there to lose? Come and give it a go - you're welcome any Monday. We start at 7.30pm in the main church building.

Important dates:

Celebration Evening

Monday 17 September
7pm for 7.30pm
Jesmond Parish Church
*All church family and friends invited!
Admission free*

New programme

Monday 24 September
7.15pm for 7.30pm
Jesmond Parish Church
Open to all who seek freedom from a hurt, hang-up, or habit.

Transforming Lives Conference

Saturday 20 October
10am - 4pm
King's Church Darlington
*Track 1 introduces Celebrate Recovery to church leaders.
Track 2 equips all involved in Celebrate Recovery.
£20 per person*

What's happening in the UK?

As well as coordinating Celebrate Recovery at JPC, Catherine Robinson volunteers as Celebrate Recovery UK's North East Representative. She is a point of contact and support for church leaders who are considering running the programme and for the region's Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leaders. There are currently six North East groups.

The UK Team of regional representatives used the 2016 visit by Celebrate Recovery's founder, John Baker, to kickstart the laying of some strong foundations for the UK ministry and Catherine is involved in much of the work.

Key to building strong foundations has been prioritising connection and communication amongst existing groups. Celebrate Recovery's UK Ministry Leaders now receive monthly emails from the UK Team keeping them in touch with news and offering support and ministry ideas. Quarterly newsletters are emailed to a network of 'Friends' who wish to stay in touch with Celebrate Recovery UK news and developments. If you would like to join this 'Friends' group, please email catherine.robinson@church.org.uk and ask for your email address to be added.

JPC family have been involved in four recent videos. See them online at vimeo.com/user49884988. These were produced to help UK groups promote their ministry and for use in conferences.

Catherine is involved in Celebrate Recovery national conferences and is also working on other projects including the first DVD of UK testimonies for Celebrate Recovery meetings, and an introductory pack of presentations to introduce Celebrate Recovery to churches.



Catherine Robinson coordinates Celebrate Recovery at JPC and is the North East Rep for Celebrate Recovery UK