



Spring News & Prayer Letter 2021

Crossline is still here for you!

As all our listeners are home based and as part of the National Christian Helpline, Crossline is still open to callers every day from 9am till midnight on

0300 111 0101.

(Calls are charged at the standard landline rate and included in any mobile or home phone call package which includes landlines).

Caller Issues Change.

As we mentioned in our last prayer letter, calls have increased by over 50% over the past year. While prayer in agreement is still our number 1 call category, the ongoing lockdown has seen a growing number of callers suffering from 'cabin fever', loneliness, depression and anxiety.

It has become evident in our calls, that a number of our callers had existing or newly developed mental health conditions. Many readily volunteer this information which is a major change from our experiences before the pandemic. It appears that people are more willing to acknowledge their condition which is a blessing in itself, as many now are not afraid to seek help from a situation which a few years ago they would try to hide.

Not only have mental health calls increased in the general public, but the healthcare sector as an example has, according to Nursing Today, seen 48% of staff suffering from depression with 22% suffering from PTSD. Please do lift our healthcare staff up in prayer.

To help our listeners we are now noting the reasons for calls from people identifying as having mental issues so that we can provide targeted ongoing training to better deal with these caller's needs. In a pilot scheme we ran from January to March, the call categories varied quite markedly from the standard callers, therefore from March onwards we are assessing how this can help us to deal with this upsurge. We will post an update in our Summer Prayer letter.

The Christian Listening Pathway 2020. Course Update.

This event postponed from May 2020, will be re-planned for late 2021. Dates will follow.

Call5 and Call & Share

Following the article in our Winter prayer letter over 4,200 people have signed up to join the initiative, we hope a number of you have managed to call 5 people, we would really value your input by reply email or letter to crossline. (For details of the scheme go to www.call5.co.uk.)

£££ Each call we receive costs us around £1:50. As most of you will be aware, we are a totally voluntary charity with no paid staff. Could you help us reach hurting people? A gift of just £15 helps us to comfort 10 people! To send a one-off gift or set up a standing order and become a Crossline Angel our bank account details are.

CROSSLINE (HULL) - Account no:- 41381765- Sort Code 05 05 27.



CHARITY NO –1073515
 e-mail prayer@crossline.karoo.co.uk
 web-site www.crossline.org.uk

Crossline

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 Hull, HU3 1BH

Office Calls ONLY - 01482 610054
 NCH Listening Line 0300-111-0101

Time to See Behind the Mask!

Thankfully, the next few months will see a rapid improvement to the Covid pandemic we have all been subject to over the past year. Of course, it is not a crisis anyone wanted, but it does give us the opportunity to displays who, as Christians we really are.

In the fourth century AD, Eusebius Pamphili, who was a historian of Christianity, recounted that an epidemic swept through the Roman Empire. Far from fleeing the cities or shutting off their homes from others, Eusebius records that "All day long Christians tended to the dying and to the burial, there were countless numbers with no one to care for them. Others gathered together the starving from all parts of the city and distributed bread to them all." As a result, Eusebius concludes, "The Christians deeds were on everyone's lips, and the Romans glorified the God of the Christians."

Faced with what was most likely a far more deadly pandemic than our own and without drugs, medical facilities and PPE, 4th century Christians demonstrated faith that was truly outstanding. That pandemic revealed who Christians really were — this one will probably do so as well.

Who are we, followers of Jesus in 2021? *Are we those who show and share the love of Jesus in the midst of this crisis? We believe serving and loving others as Christ himself has served us through his death and resurrection is central to our faith. The point is simple. **Social distancing is currently necessary, relationship distancing is not.***

We certainly are not recommending going out to care for the Covid cases but let's seize the opportunity to check on our neighbours' friends and family. Let's build a relational bridge which will cross and be remembered when this situation is over! Let's show who we really are, as Christians. This is our moment. Soon the masks will come down and with God's grace show who we as Christians really are.

May God continue to bless and protect you and your family over the coming months.

Prayer Requests for Crossline;

Please pray for the continued protection for all staff, especially at this time for our listeners who are taking so many extra calls and putting in extra shifts, our trainee listeners, our finances and for all our callers, whose needs are real and many!

- I am interested in telephone listener training.
- I enclose my donation to support the ministry of Crossline.
- Please add our church to your prayer support list to receive your quarterly prayer letter.

Name

Address.....

Postcode.....

Tel No.....

Church