



September 2009

Dear Friends of SCC,

As I write these words, my devotional readings for the week are based on the story of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well and her marvelling at the realisation that He not only knew all about her, but accepted and cared about her when others shunned her.

Those in SCC who are involved in counselling haven't the advantage of being able to know about their clients in the same way that Jesus does; but what our counsellors do have is the knowledge that they don't have to rely on their own limited knowledge and experience. What they do have is an awareness that they are supported in their work by the prayers of many in the organisation and beyond; but more than anything else they know they can call upon the power of the Holy Spirit who is ready to lead and guide them.

We rejoice in what we have been able to do in SCC and give praise for the number of people whose lives have been changed as a result of the love and understanding shown by their christian counsellors, listeners, prayer partners and women's group facilitators.

We especially praise the Lord this year for enabling us to reach out in three new ventures in Hattersley, Salford and Gorton. As we move forward, we need the support of everyone who values the way we are being called to reach out to more hurting, desperate people beyond our local area. Please pray and help in any way you can. Will you also encourage your own churches to keep SCC on their list of organisations to support financially.

God bless you for your continuing support.

Joe Hague
Chairman SCC

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

2008/2009

Chairperson	Joe Hague
Director of Counselling	Geraldine Sullivan
Administrator	Helen Stewart
Counselling Co-Ordinator	Jim Townsley
Training Co-Ordinator	Mary Burdett
Assistant Training Co-Ordinator	Anne Kerr
Treasurer	Stephen Pead
Receptionist Co-Ordinator	Grace Anderson
Member	Gordon Hutchinson
Webmaster	Phil Winn

RECEPTIONIST'S REPORT

Our team of receptionists have unlocked doors, locked doors, greeted people, supplied hangers, tissues, literature, put on music, photocopied, washed up, answered the phone, attended to the CCTV monitor and supplied scores of hot drinks.

When all this is accomplished there is time for reading, chatting, writing, stitching and – and – and

The receptionists are so generous with their time – two hours monthly.

Ladies and gentlemen thank you so much for covering a session – as you have all year.

And thank you Anne for designing and organising the rota.

We have extended the counselling hours, so if you know of anyone who would be willing to give two hours of their month to help alongside the counsellors we would be so pleased to meet them.

Grace Anderson
Receptionist Co-Ordinator

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

This year a different approach was tried in an effort to get the CRB forms done, all meeting together with the verifier at the same time and sending them off together. We would like to express our thanks to Peter Wadsworth for supporting us in this way and giving his time to help us.

Many books are still waiting to be catalogued, processed and added to the library; progress on this has been slower than might be wished.

Helen M Stewart
Administrator

HEAR AND NOW REPORT

This Monday afternoon drop-in listening facility is available to all and is greatly valued by those who use it. Some come only once, but others return, sure of a friendly welcome, a listening ear and a touch of God's grace in a peaceful environment. This year we have trimmed the team, working at Hear and Now, to three – a Counsellor, a Listener and a Receptionist, and though sometimes it seems busy, so far we have managed. Almost 90 visits have been made to the service throughout the year. We pray that God will continue to bring people to use the service and use it to extend His love to those who pass through difficult times.

Helen M Stewart
Administrator

WOMEN'S GROUP REPORT

This group was set up to help women recovering from the effects of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). The women's group has completed two series of meetings during the Autumn term 2008 and Spring 2009. These were attended by a committed group of women who have found the group and activities to be supportive and encouraging.

The next group will begin with an Open Meeting on Tuesday 8th September, 2009 at the Town House from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Tea and coffee is served in a relaxed atmosphere, with an opportunity for group discussion, art work and a theme that the group will develop throughout the meetings. We have several women on the waiting list to join the group, so please ring for more details if you would like to be part of this special group of women.

We have tackled many issues associated with CSA such as: low self-esteem, extreme emotions, a sense of loss, loneliness, attachment, relationships etc. Please pray for this group and the recovery and healing that each person is seeking.

Ali Iveson
Gerry Sullivan
Facilitators

WEBSITE

www.stockportchristiancounselling.org

The SCC website continues to promote the service to potential clients. It also has resources for SCC volunteers and supporters. News of training courses appear on the blog and application forms etc. can be downloaded.

By subscribing to the RSS posts you can automatically receive the latest posts on the blog. New features are planned to reflect the addition of the SCC "Satellites" and to make the site more accessible by mobile phones. Changes being made to the site mean that there may be occasions over the summer when things don't work properly; if you experience problems just try again a little later.

Phil Winn
Website Manager

DIRECTOR OF COUNSELLING REPORT

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11

We celebrate the end of another year in the life of SCC and the achievements of this Christian community working together in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every year I thank our volunteers through this report, and it never seems enough to show the gratitude for the amazing commitment and hard work that goes on quietly each week through the counselling service, the Listeners at the Hear & Now Drop-in centre, Receptionists, Prayer by Appointment Team, Supervisors, Trainers, Prayer and Management groups. Thank you to each one who shares in this ministry.

It seems that doors are now opening for us to move into new areas with the services we offer to the community and the churches. Firstly, Leila Hill started counselling in the Hattersley area on Friday 27th February 2009 in partnership with the Eden Project workers. This is the first of our satellite counselling services. Secondly, Nicky Hutchings, Manager of the Life Centre, Salford is developing a counselling service under the SCC umbrella and this is already up and running. Last, but not least, by the time this report goes to press, Susan Braddock will be managing the counselling service in Gorton, sited at Trinity Baptist Church. These satellites will be supported and developed along the lines of the SCC founding service and it is expected each will be self-sustaining within three years. What an amazing time for us to be engaged in the development of the next generation of Christian counselling services.

All our counsellors and listeners attend training events organised within SCC and this year we were pleased to have Tricia Munn leading on 'Listening to Anger' and Sue Crookes on the subject of 'Bibliotherapy'.

Our move on 20th April 2009 from Hazel Grove Clinic to Great Moor Clinic went smoothly thanks to Jim Townsley, our adaptable counsellors, Alistair Rutherford from Stockport PCT and Linda Herhenteris who manages the clinic and has helped us settle in.

We have been delighted to welcome new volunteers including counsellors: Nigel Greaves and Steven Bayliss, Jean McLaren returning to join us on the Supervisors team and receptionists/listeners: Libby Elleridge, Liz Gwilliam, Deborah Summerton and Lyn Tonks. We were sorry to see Martin Elder leave due to family and church commitments. Gordon Hutchinson is now part of our management group and we value his many years of experience as counsellor and supervisor. My dear friend and colleague Jim Townsley formally resigned from his post as SCC Counsellor in March of this year, but thankfully continues in his management role as Counselling Coordinator. We thank him for ten years of professional counselling work mainly undertaken at Dean Lane Medical Centre, Hazel Grove.

The Women's Group ran for two series of meetings throughout the year and will start again on 8th September 2009 at 10.30am. We begin with an open meeting at the Town House and then continue for 10 sessions. Please ring if you want further details: 0161 428 7388.

We always welcome new volunteers who share our vision and can offer support in areas of counselling, administration, prayer and management. Please contact us, or call, Mondays 1-3pm at the Town House, for a cup of tea and chat if you are interested in our work. As SCC is growing we would value any financial contributions towards the extension of this work and we hope that many will join us and share in the joy of serving the Lord in this way.

Geraldine Sullivan
Director of Counselling

TRAINING REPORT

Counsellor Training

As you will have read in this AGM Report already very exciting things are happening which will guide SCC into new ventures. Our counsellors, who give their time and expertise week after week to many clients, are still our greatest asset. Throughout the year the Management team under the Director of Counselling organise training to enable the counsellors to improve their knowledge and last year was no exception. Two training evenings took place as follows:-

Autumn	Listening to Anger	Tricia Munn Northwest Co-ordinator for Acorn Christian Listening.
Spring	Bibliotherapy	Sue Crookes SCC Supervisor

Counsellors appreciated these training sessions and they were very well attended. Listeners involved in the Hear and Now Drop-in are also invited to attend and many have found the events extremely helpful and they feel valued by the organisation itself. Preparations are already in hand to organise the trainings for next year.

Mary Burdett
Training co-ordinator

Acorn Listening Courses

We had hoped to be able to run the Acorn Listening courses (Learning to Listen – Stage 1 and Time to Listen – Stage 2) in the Spring this year but were, unfortunately, unable to do so. However, in the Autumn, Tricia Munn, the Acorn Christian Listener Co-ordinator for the North West, will be leading Listening Courses at other venues. We hope those people who had expressed an interest with us to do these courses will be able to attend with Tricia.

SCC will be taking names of anyone interested in Acorn's Listening courses for 2010. When we have the right number of people we will set some dates and let people know. In the meantime if you would like to register your interest in either of the courses or would like further information, please write to either Mary Burdett or Anne Kerr at Stockport Christian Counselling, The Town House, Hope Terrace, Thomson Street, Stockport SK3 9DU.

This year SCC has acquired a computer which will help to consolidate the general administration for the service.

Anne Kerr
Assistant Training Co-ordinator

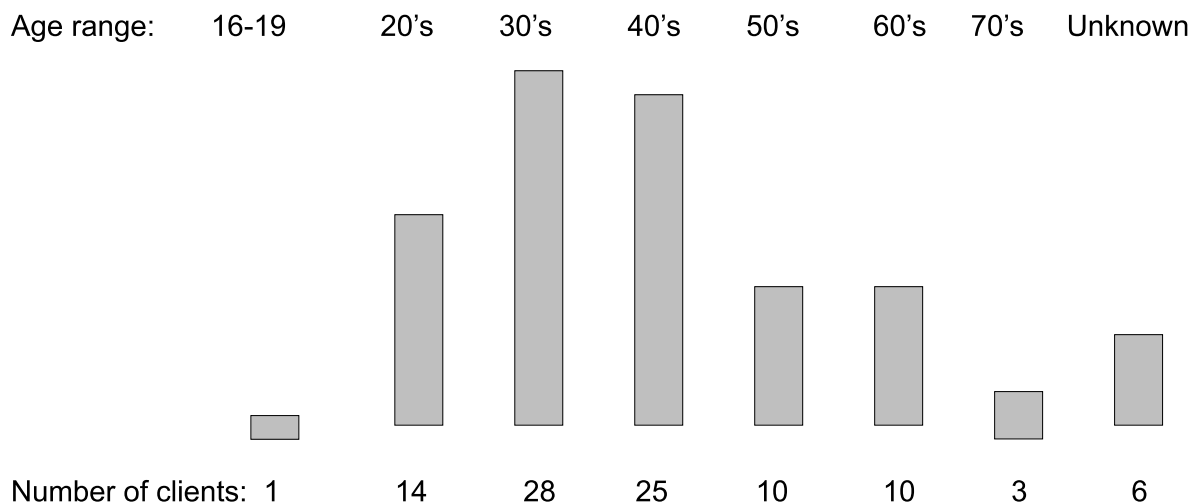
COUNSELLING CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

SCC counsellors started working at Hazel Grove Clinic seventeen years ago. Early in 2009, Stockport Primary Care Trust asked us to move from Hazel Grove to Great Moor Clinic, located in Store Street off the A6 and not far from Stepping Hill Hospital. Our counsellors moved there in April and settled in quickly, helped by the co-operation of the Clinic Administrator.

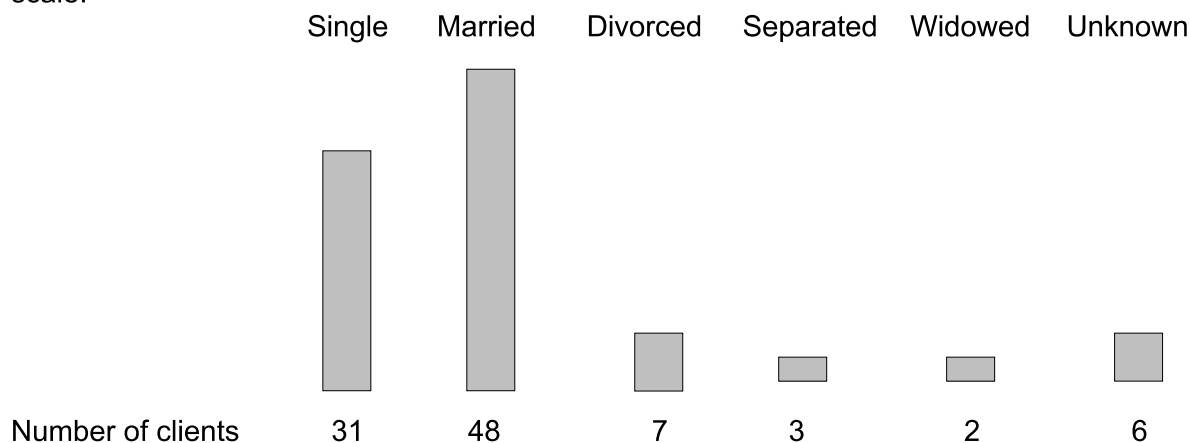
Client Profile

From 1st August 2008 to 31st July 2009 we counselled 97 clients, 60 women, 21 men and 8 couples, for a total of 611 sessions.

The age distribution of clients is shown in the diagram, which is only approximately to scale.



The marital status of our clients is shown in the diagram below, which again is not strictly to scale.



This year 72% of our clients live within the Borough of Stockport. The remainder live in surrounding areas such as Cheshire, High Peak, Lancashire, Manchester, Tameside and Trafford.

As in earlier years, our clients work in a wide variety of occupations. Most of these can be summarised under the headings of business and commerce, building trades, carer, education, engineering, healthcare, housewife, information technology, local government, retail, retired, self-employed, social work, student, transport, unemployed, volunteer and youth work.

The majority of our clients (59% this year) continue to come to us by personal recommendation from friends, relatives, GP surgeries and church contacts. An increasing number of clients are finding us from visiting the SCC website, overtaking the number who find us in Yellow Pages.

These are the main client contact routes:

Relatives and friends	22	Other counselling services*	3
GP Surgeries	16	Workplace	3
Churches	15	SCC services**	2
SCC Website	6	Mind Body Spirit Fair	1
Members of SCC	5	SCC leaflet	1
Previous counselling with SCC	4	Social Services	1
Hospital	3	Yellow Pages	1

* Other counselling services = Beacon (1), MIND (1), Women's Centre (1)

** SCC services = Hear & Now (2)

72% of clients reported affiliation to Christian churches (67% last year), covering a wide range of denominations: Baptist, Church of England, various Evangelical, Methodist, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Reformed.

20% of clients reported no church connection (27% last year), and 8% were unknown.

With 72% of our clients reporting affiliation to Christian churches and also 72% of our clients living within the Borough of Stockport, SCC continues to maintain the objective of serving both the community and the churches of Stockport.

Counsellor Profile

In August 2008 we started the new counselling year with eleven counsellors. During the year two counsellors left, one returned from taking a break and we welcomed two new counsellors to the service, so we ended the year with twelve counsellors working. All the counsellors possess or are working towards professional counselling qualifications.

Our monthly case discussions have been well attended and all the counsellors have participated enthusiastically. We thank four of our most experienced counsellors who have taken turns at providing valued and effective supervision at case discussions.

All counsellors receive regular individual supervision and we thank the team of SCC supervisors for their commitment to us and for their help and encouragement. We are grateful too for the excellent training sessions offered this year.

We provide counselling at the following venues:

Great Moor Clinic : Monday morning, Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings

The Town House : Tuesday mornings and evenings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Thursday evenings.

We thank Dr Brian Lightowler for generously offering Dean Lane Medical Centre, Hazel Grove, for counselling on Tuesday afternoons over the past five years.

Finally

As counsellors, we would like to thank all those in SCC who make counselling possible, among them:

Grace, for her invaluable work as both Telephone Receptionist and Co-ordinator of the Town House receptionists.

Helen, for organising CRB checks.

Geraldine, in her day-to-day work as Director of Counselling and her faith and perseverance which has resulted in visions becoming realities.

Joe, as Chairman, offering his wealth of practical and spiritual wisdom.

Every member of the management committee for their unique and valuable contributions to the life of SCC and their support to the counselling team.

In common with all volunteers, 'we work for love, not money'. But as SCC volunteers we share the Christian hope that our love is not limited or restricted '*.....because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*' (Romans 5:5)

Jim Townsley
Counselling Co-ordinator

PRAYER BY APPOINTMENT

Praise my soul the King of heaven!
to his feet your tribute bring:
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Our Prayer by Appointment Group came together in April for an informal teaching session. We were joined by two people who were interested in becoming members of the team. We used the first part of the session to go through "Thus far the Lord has led us". We remembered how God had called us to the prayer ministry and gave thanks for all the words of encouragement given along the way. We then discussed together a set of guidelines for this ministry.

Just recently God gave us another word – the word – 'restoration'. On a visit to Manchester Art Gallery, Jean and I were watching a picture being restored. We saw that it was painstaking work; cleaning the surface, mending broken areas, bringing up the original colour, and perhaps most important of all, the restorer resisting the temptation to add into the picture what wasn't originally there.

So, in Prayer by Appointment, as in all our Christian lives, God is seeking to restore what has been lost. We need to listen carefully to the person and to God so that through prayer, God's Holy Spirit can begin that work. This can be a 'one-off' session or many sessions over a period of time. Since September 2008 there have been 36 appointments for people requesting prayer. We have also begun to see the power that forgiveness brings – forgiveness of ourselves and also of others in this work of restoration.

"For I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten." Joel 2:25.

The second part of our session took the form of us listening and praying in groups of three for one another – always beneficial!

It was with joy that the two new people felt that they wanted to join the team. Welcome Philip and Jean Wilcoxon!

Margaret Batchelor

Jean Jarvis

TREASURER'S REPORT 2008/2009

(Summary of Accounts Table is at the back of the report)

The economic downturn has, as expected, had a significant effect on SCC income this year. Client contributions of £4,372 were 41% down on last year whilst donations of £280 were down nearly 60%.

The interest and tax reclaim total was a little higher and we received a grant of £1,667 from the Community Foundation for Greater Manchester.

Total income of £7,577 is £5,056 lower than last year.

Significant items on the payment account are:

Bursaries	£2,375	(none last year)
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Town House expenses	£1,599	(last year £867).
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Savings were made on printing and stationery, telephone and advertising.

Total expenditure was £11,485. £1853. higher than last year.

Strong surpluses from previous years have enabled us to fund a deficit this year of £3,908 without depleting our reserves to an uncomfortable level.

Our closing balance is £11,078.

Stephen Pead
Treasurer.