

Counselling Annual Report

(for year ending 30 September 2009)

Area of Responsibility

The counselling team aims to provide a listening ear for anyone in the congregation, their friends, and folk from the local community, whether the need is to talk through a dilemma, make a decision, or explore an ongoing problem with trained help. We are also used by some local medical services and other churches. We are involved with training, supervision and liaising with other agencies.

Angie provides a counselling service to pupils at Drummond School which is much appreciated. We hope to raise the profile of the church as a place where people can bring their difficulties and receive a professional service.

Summary of preceding year

During the last year we have struggled with a waiting list that grew faster than we could keep up with. This means that some folk did not get the help they needed and we missed opportunities to make a difference. We have maintained good relationships with other agencies and arranged joint training workshops. We are grateful to many people... our external supervisors, our volunteers, and not least the vestry for funding a service which, although some clients donate generously, some could not afford.

Targets for the coming year

As well as maintaining the counselling service we plan to liaise with Myra Martin and the pastoral care team and join together for training sessions etc. e.g. the listening course in the spring.

Resource Implications for the coming year

We don't envisage any major costs apart from our regular supervision and training budgets.

However we have had feedback regarding the depressing nature of the stair up to No 12 where Angie works (and the clergy). A fresh lick of paint would make all the difference...? Cost..?? a volunteer or two ???

Hazel Beamish,
Head of Counselling Service