

April 2005

Issue number 9

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Your name and address is currently retained on computer for future mailings. If you do not wish to be contacted in future, please inform us by ticking the box and returning this slip to us, together with your name and address. Thank you.

EVERY LITTLE HELPS

Tere are ways you can help us to raise funds all year round

Please buy your birthday cards, wrapping paper and presents from 'WEBB IVORY' catalogues placed in all Centres

If you are a Taxpayer, please remember to give via 'GIFT AID'

NEW - NEW - NEW

You can now help Listening Post by shopping on line! See back page for details!

**LISTENING
POST**

Christian Counselling Service Ltd
YMCA, Sebert Street
Gloucester, GL1 3BS
Tel: 01452 383820
Fax: 01452 412379
email: lpostcounselling@tesco.net
WEBSITE:
www.listeningpost.org.uk

Cheltenham
01242 256060
Stroud 01453 750123
Charity number 1013442



CONNECT

Keeping you in touch with Listening Post news

The Changing Face of Counselling

The Government (through the NHS Executive) is gradually regulating different forms of therapy and complimentary health therapies. This will eventually include Counselling and Psychotherapy and is likely to have a profound effect on Counselling Services such as Listening Post. We need great wisdom to know how best to steer our organisation.

When I entered counselling as a volunteer Bereavement Counsellor some 26 years ago there were no statutory requirements. Although Psychotherapy was well established, counselling training was in its infancy and fairly minimal. In the last 10 years there have been great changes in both counselling training and the Accreditation process.

It seems likely that when Regulation is implemented, the NHS will require an individual Counsellor to have a Diploma or Degree + Accreditation / Registration or, (and this is less clear at present,) a Counselling Service will be Accredited through one of the main Professional Organisations. With this in view, Listening Post now offers placements to mature student counsellors who are on the Diploma stage of their training. There is a rigorous selection process, and the student is required to be in sympathy with our Christian ethos. A number of students have stayed on as Counsellors after qualifying and currently 22 of our Counsellors and Supervisors have either Diplomas or Degrees in Counselling.

Our own service continues to offer training to Christians from all denominations. We have just had 20 enthusiastic students complete our 1 term introductory course for lay people in Listening Skills and basic counselling theory. This course also includes opportunities to learn to "listen to God" and to one's self. In view of its popularity we plan to run it again this Autumn (details below.) Our hope is that we can then run a 1 year Foundation Course which will enable students to transfer to a Diploma at a local college / University.

Listening Post is, and always will be, a Christian Service. We urgently need more Christians to come into counselling training, in order to ensure the continuation of the Service post-Regulation. We greatly value the support of our Member Churches and Individual Friends. We would ask you to pray for us as we continue to meet the challenges ahead.

Sheila Appleton
Director

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Anniversary Thanksgiving service

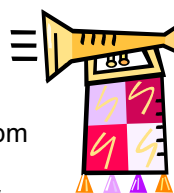
On **Monday 20th June**

2005 at 7.00pm

at St Aldates Church, Finlay Road (access off Reservoir Road) Gloucester) we will be holding a service to celebrate fifteen years of Listening Post. The Speaker will be The Rt Rev'd John Went, Bishop of Tewkesbury and the service will be led by the Rev'd Vernon Godden.

After the service there will be a Bring & Share celebration meal, in the Vicarage garden if fine, or under cover if wet.

We hope as many friends as possible will be able to attend the service. For more details please ring Deidre at the Listening Post office on 01452 383820.



Listening Skills Course

We are pleased to report that we have had an excellent response to the current "What is Counselling? An Introduction to Listening Skills and Theory" course. Twenty people have completed the 30 hour course, held at St Aldates Church on Monday evenings and we have started a waiting list for the course to be run in October - Dec this year. The course was led by Sheila Appleton, John Carter and Sue Ingleby.