

## Mission Partner of the Month – February 2018

Founded over 30 years ago by a group of concerned Christians from local churches in Bristol, Network has grown to become one of the largest voluntary counselling agencies in the South West, with over 40 volunteer counsellors who are professionally trained to offer affordable counselling to those who would not otherwise be able to access this much-needed help.

## A new home

Having rented property in a number of places throughout the city, Network has recently moved to new premises attached to St Andrew's Church in nearby Filton. A generous gift by a trust enabled Network to purchase part of St Andrew's and money was raised to refurbish this as office and training accommodation and to build eight new counselling rooms on the site. A gift of £15,000 from St Michael's Heart of the Community (HOTC) tithe fund was donated to fund one of these counselling rooms, the Woodland Room.



This room is used for counselling, supervision and also provides space for quiet reflection and prayer for counsellors, clients, students and staff. We are so grateful to St Michael's Church for their generosity and support.



Work is on-going to complete the training suite with money raised through the Big Give project, which has enabled Network to partner with Bristol Together who provide opportunities for ex-offenders. We are hoping that there will be sufficient funds left over to landscape the area around the counselling rooms.

Since opening one month ago over 100 clients have attended sessions at the new premises, 29 students have returned to develop their counselling skills on the Advanced Certificate and

Diploma courses, 18 students have started a twelve-week introduction to Person Centred Counselling and 23 professionals have attended a one day Continuing Professional Development Course on Eating Disorders. So the building has already benefitted over 170 people from all walks of life. Network is now looking forward to strengthening its connections with local churches, including St Michael's, and building links within the immediate community in Filton.

## Thank God with us

- For His amazing provision that has enabled us to make the dream of our own premises a reality.
- For the patience, support and flexibility of the staff, counsellors, clients and students during a period of uncertainty and transition.
- For St Andrew's Church, for welcoming us to their community and ministry.

## Please pray

- That we would be able to raise the funds to pay off the short-term loans we have taken out within the next 18 months.
- That we will quickly build strong and lasting relationships with the local community, benefitting and blessing those who live there.
- For strength and refreshment for the Management Team and Trustees, as they seek to consolidate and seek God for a fresh vision for the coming years.

## Learn to Listen



Network will be running a training day with the pastoral ministry team at St Michael's on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – this day aims to inform and equip individual church members with some basic listening skills, to enable them to come alongside others to offer the gift of listening. If you would be interested in attending please contact the Church Office or e-mail Julie Hobbs at [jahobbs@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jahobbs@blueyonder.co.uk)

St Michael's Church link: Revd Julie Bradley  
Network link: Louise Mill

Website: <https://network.org.uk>

Join us at our official opening – Friday  
April 20<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm