



## Spring News & Prayer Letter 2019

### Humber Bridge Signage

The Humber Bridge is an iconic landmark for our city but unfortunately has also become a major site for suicide attempts.

Since its opening in 1981 over 200 suicides have taken place including in recent years the deaths of a 14 year old boy, a mother and child, a head-teacher and a social worker.

What is more incredible is that over the past few years the number of reported incidents of people considering action and intervened by the police amount to around 130 each year... **around one every 3 days!**

According to bridge sources people will often visit the site, sometimes multiple times, before making their decision.

Following a double suicide by two people in unrelated incidents in January we decided to write to the board offering to place Crossline details and signage on the bridge in addition to the Samaritans signs. The offer was rejected as they felt that the Samaritans signage was adequate and 'Did not want to draw attention to the bridge as a location for them (Possible suicides) to come to...' Seems that they are just trying to bury their heads in the sand!

We feel that people having more than one option to call could only be a good move and certainly would not have negative aspects, so we have arranged a prayer walk over the bridge in April asking for favour with the signage and also praying for all victims of suicide.

Please do hold us up in prayer.

### Thank you and Farewell

We are sad to report the passing of one of our longest serving listeners.

Dr. Andrew Williamson passed away in late December 2018. Andrew had served with Crossline from 2002 – 2014.

During that time Andrew was a Listener and a Prayer Minister and also taught at many of our On Going training meetings on Medicines, alternative medicine, and similar topics.

Andrew was always so caring of others and wanted to help them, walk with them whatever they were going through. A lovely, solid, dependable, man now experiencing his heavenly reward in the company of angels.

His celebration was at a packed Howden Minister and his eulogies from people he had encountered were so uplifting.

We are so fortunate to have encountered this powerful man of God. We shall miss him, but knowing where he now resides we rejoice!

££££ 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 but could you help us reach a lost generation? 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.

### Save a Tree & Cut Our Costs



We currently mail around 40 Newsletters with an additional 160 going by e-mail. With postage costs increasing and to reduce this cost, we are hoping to send more Prayer/Newsletters electronically.

To receive future Prayer/News by email just email [prayer@crossline.karoo.co.uk](mailto:prayer@crossline.karoo.co.uk) with your full name and in the message line type 'email please'



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**Abuse The Hidden Epidemic.**

A couple of years ago our prayer letter covered Suicide, the hidden epidemic. Recently from our calls and in the news every day we are seeing more and more cases of abuse.

Be that sexual, physical or mental it is taking its toll on our society. A recent event we attended showed some incredible statistics. Some of the more disturbing facts showed that in the UK;

- 19.8 million children will at some stage be sexually abused by someone they know.
- 72% of girls aged 16 have been emotionally abused by a boyfriend.
- In the UK a woman is physically abused every 6 seconds.
- Of 23,000 allegations of abuse against elderly or vulnerable people only 15 came to court!

Incredible and sad statistics, which affect all ages, races and genders. Abuse is, like suicide, often glossed over because of embarrassment or to protect friends, spouses or relatives.

Quite often abuse can be picked up by outer signs, lack of confidence, bruises or excuses for injuries, personality changes, low self-esteem constantly checking in with their partner, never having money on hand, overly worried about pleasing their partner, skipping out on work, school, or social outings for no clear reason, wearing clothes that don't fit the season, like long sleeves in summer to cover bruises.

These are just some of the signs, but, whatever the abuse we know that we serve a God who loves the abused. In Psalm 72:12-14 (ESV) the bible states, *“For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life and precious is their blood in his sight.”*

Real words of love, support and strength from the God that made the heavens and Earth. It also says for those who follow God, in Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) *‘But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’* So, whatever any person is facing we can be confident that God is there to support them through the situation and see them achieve new heights on the other side.

We are so honoured that God uses us for this ministry as a conduit to take His words of comfort and allow them to quieten any distress they may be feeling. Please do hold the abused up in prayer.

...Until our next prayer letter in the summer, we wish every blessing to you and your families.

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**Prayer Requests for Crossline;**

**Please pray for the continued protection for all staff, listeners and trainee listeners, for the abused, for favour with signage on the Humber Bridge and for all our callers, whose needs are real and many!**

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- 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.....