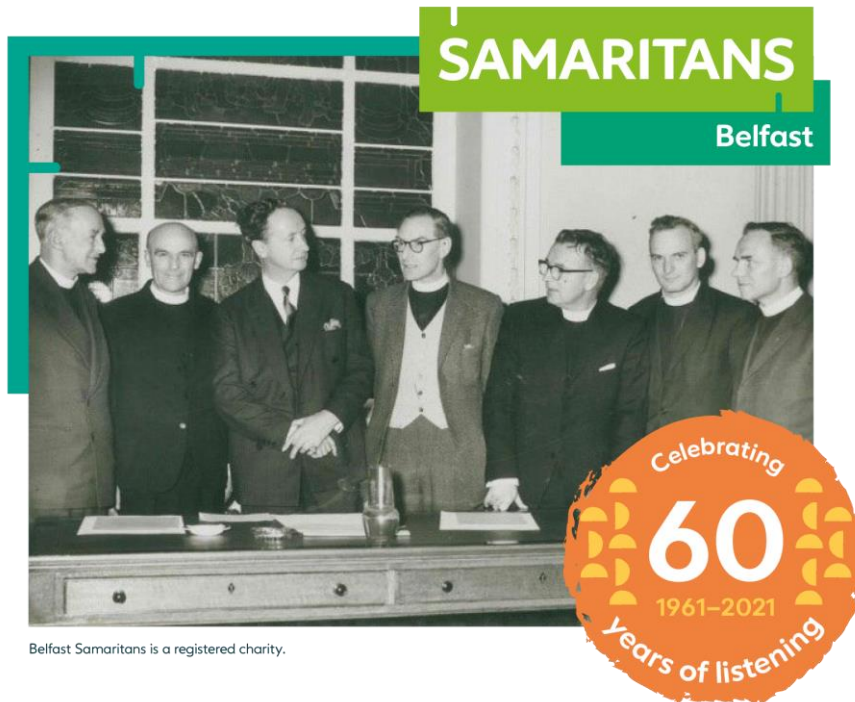




**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
MARKING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WORK OF
BELFAST SAMARITANS
Sunday 17th October 2021**



Belfast Samaritans is a registered charity.

**Meeting in the Chapter House, St Anne's Cathedral in 1961
to establish the first Samaritans' Branch in Ireland**

Face coverings **must be worn** when entering and exiting the building, and when singing the hymns. We request members of the congregation to wear face coverings throughout the service. Please provide your contact details on the sheet provided with your order of service for the purposes of contact tracing. We ask you to leave it on your seat as you leave following the service. This booklet can be retained as a memento.



Photograph on front cover:

Left to Right – The Very Rev C. Peacocke (Dean of St Anne's), Rev Bill Thomson (First Director), Robin Kinahan (Lord Mayor), Rev Chad Varah (Founder of Samaritans) and the first 3 Deputy Directors: Father Hugh Murphy, Rev Sydney Callaghan and Rev Jim Musgrave

Organ Prelude: Prelude on 'Wessex' *Matthew Owens (b1971)*

3.25pm

Please stand for the arrival of the Lord Mayor of Belfast and the High Sheriff of Belfast

Please remain standing for the arrival of the Lord-Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast

*Please remain standing to sing **HYMN 643:***

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.**

**Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart.
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!**

**High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun,
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Words: Early Irish tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931), versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Tune: SLANE Irish traditional melody harmony by Erik Routley (1917-82)

Please be seated

WELCOME by the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast

INTRODUCTION by Sue Cunningham, Director of Belfast Samaritans

THOUGHTFUL REFLECTIONS read by Volunteers, Belfast Branch of Samaritans

Chad Varah, founder of Samaritans:

‘There are, in this world, people who seem to be “ordinary”, but turn out to be extraordinary. They listen and listen, without interrupting. They do not preach. They have nothing to sell. We call them Samaritans.’

Ursula K. Le Guin:

‘Listening is not a reaction; it is a connection.’

G.K. Chesterton:

‘There’s a lot of difference between listening and hearing’

*Please remain seated as the choir sings **Psalm 89:1-10:***

My song shall be alway of the loving kindness of the Lord:

with my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth from one generation to another.

For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever:

thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.

I have made a covenant with my chosen:

I have sworn unto David my servant;

Thy seed will I stablish for ever:

and set up thy throne from one generation to another.

O Lord, the very heavens shall praise thy wondrous works:

and thy truth in the congregation of the saints.

For who is he among the clouds:

that shall be compared unto the Lord?

And what is he among the gods:

that shall be like unto the Lord?

God is very greatly to be feared in the council of the saints:

and to be had in reverence of all them that are round about him.

O Lord God of hosts, who is like unto thee:

thy truth, most mighty Lord, is on every side.

Thou rulest the raging of the sea:

thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA:***

Glory be to the Father:

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Chant: Edward Hopkins (1818-1901)

Please sit for the **FIRST LESSON:** I Corinthians 13:1-13

Read by Pamela James, Former Director, Belfast Samaritans (2013-16)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Please remain seated as the choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT:**

My soul doth magnify the Lord:

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth:

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:

throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Please stand for the **GLORIA:**

Glory be to the Father:

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Setting: Wessex Service, Gary Davison (b.1961)

Please sit for the **SECOND LESSON:** St Luke 10:25-37

Read by Robert Bell, Former Director, Belfast Samaritans (2016-19)

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Please remain seated as the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS:**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:

thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared:

before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Please stand for the **GLORIA:**

Glory be to the Father:

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Setting: Wessex Service, Gary Davison (b.1961)

Please kneel or sit for **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** by *Volunteers, Belfast Branch of Samaritans*

For the vision of Chad Varah, our Founder in setting up Samaritans, and Bill Thompson, our First Director, whose inspiration and leadership have helped the organisation become what it is today.

We thank you, O Lord.

For those who across the years have given leadership and undertaken responsibility in order that the Branch might offer effective service to the suicidal and despairing. For the success of their efforts we praise you.

We thank you, O Lord.

For those who have shared the work with Samaritans, in their financial support and the giving of encouragement; for partners and families who have supported volunteers and for all who have made it possible to accomplish what has been achieved and especially during such challenging times.

We thank you, O Lord.

For the advances in methods of communication which enable us to reach out to the wider community every hour of every day.

We thank you, O Lord.

For all those who feel the need to contact Samaritans in their time of crisis, sharing their pain and entrusting volunteers with their innermost thoughts and feelings.

We thank you, O Lord.

COLLECT OF THE WORD:

God of unchangeable power, when the heaven and earth were made, the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy: open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honour of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THOUGHTFUL REFLECTIONS read by Volunteers, Belfast Branch of Samaritans

Maya Angelou:

'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'

Anonymous:

'Helping a person will not necessarily change the world, but it can change the world for that person.'

Please remain seated as the choir sings the **ANTHEM:** Ubi caritas et amor

Ubi caritas et amor,

Where charity and love are,

Deus ibi est.

God is there.

Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor.

*Love of Christ has gathered
us into one.*

Exsultemus,

Let us rejoice in Him

et in ipso jucundemur.

and be glad.

Timeamus, et amemus

Let us fear, and let us love

Deum vivum.

the living God.

Et ex corde

And from a sincere heart

diligamus nos sincero.

let us love one.

Ubi caritas et amor,

Where charity and love are,

Deus ibi est.

God is there.

Simul ergo cum

At the same time, therefore,

in unum congregamur:

are gathered into one:

Ne nos mente dividamur,

Lest we be divided in mind,

caveamus.

let us beware.

Cessent iurgia maligna,

Let evil impulses stop,

cessent lites.

let controversy cease.

Et in medio nostri

And in the midst of us

sit Christus Deus.

be Christ our God.

Ubi caritas et amor,

Where charity and love are,

Deus ibi est.

God is there.

Simul quoque cum

At the same time we see

beatis videamus,

that with the saints also,

Glorianter vultum tuum,

Thy face in glory,

Christe Deus:

O Christ our God:

Gaudium quod est immensum,

The joy that is immense

atque probum,

and good,

Saecula per infinita

Unto the world

saeculorum. Amen.

without end. Amen.

*Words: Ancient hymn of the Western Church, long used as one of the antiphons on Maundy Thursday
Setting: Maurice Duruflé (1902-86)*

ADDRESS by the Reverend Dr Lesley Carroll, Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Please stand to sing **HYMN 499**:

**When I needed a neighbour, were you there,
were you there?**

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

**I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,
were you there?**

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

**I was cold, I was naked, were you there,
were you there?**

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

**When I needed a shelter were you there,
were you there?**

When I needed a shelter were you there?

**Wherever you travel, I'll be there,
I'll be there.**

Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

*And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.*

Words: Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

Tune: NEIGHBOUR Sydney Carter (1915-2004) arr. Donald Davison (1937-2013)

Please kneel or sit for **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** by the Church Leaders and the Dean:

We pray, O Father, for all who are so despairing that they feel tempted to take their own lives. May they have the courage to articulate their fears and to talk about their distress. May they find ready listeners who understand and care.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

We pray, O Lord, for all Volunteers that they may never lose the motivation which prompted them to offer their services and to those Volunteers who also direct and give leadership, keep them focused and strong. Deliver all Volunteers from complacency which could prevent them from seeing each caller as important and unique.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

We pray, for the callers who may be disappointed with what Samaritans have to offer and perhaps did not receive what they wanted or expected. May they find the help and support that they need.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

We pray, O Lord, for the families and friends of those who have taken their own life. Be with them when they are overcome by feelings of great loss. Enable them to know that help can only be offered and not imposed and that you share their sorrow, understanding their hurt.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

We pray, O Father, for our country with its varied traditions and diversity of aspirations. May we as Samaritan volunteers continue to accept people as persons in their own right and judge no one and treat all with dignity and respect.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let our cry come to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ who loves us all. Amen.

Please stand to sing **HYMN 80:**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.**

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

*Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960) based on Lamentations 3:22-23 and Genesis 8:22
Tune: FAITHFULNESS W.M. Runyan (1870-1957)*

*Please remain standing as the Church Leaders pronounce the **BLESSING:***

Deep peace of the running wave to you;

Deep peace of the flowing air to you;

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;

Deep peace of the shining stars to you;

Deep peace of the Son of peace to you:

*And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.***

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary: Trumpet Tune in D David Johnston (1922-87)

The congregation is invited to remain for some light refreshments.

Please use the distribution point on the side upon which you are seated.

With face covering in place, please approach the refreshments at appropriate social distance from the front pews first.

When you have been served please return to your seat before partaking.

Please exit as directed by the Cathedral Wardens.

*There is a **Retiring Collection** at this service,
which will go to support the ongoing work of*

The Samaritans in Northern Ireland.

It is possible to make a Contactless donation.

*The pay point is located at the West End,
and is set at £5 for one tap, £10 for two taps and £15 for three taps!*

Belfast Samaritans have been providing confidential emotional support for 60 years (1961 – 2021)

It is appropriate that the 60th Anniversary Service is being held in St Anne's Cathedral, for it was after a meeting in the Cathedral's Chapter House, chaired by Dean Peacocke, that Belfast Branch of Samaritans was established; taking its first calls on 1st November 1961.

Belfast Samaritans was the first branch to be established in Ireland and now extends to 21 Branches, 8 in Northern Ireland and 13 in the Republic of Ireland. Belfast was also the thirteenth branch to be established within the wider organisation, which today extends to 201 branches with over 20,000 volunteers across the UK and Ireland, supporting approximately 10,000 calls for help every single day of the year.

Back in 1961, the late Dr WGM Thomson, a Presbyterian Minister, was the first Director of Belfast Samaritans. He was a man of great compassion and vision and wanted to ensure this new branch would be established on a sound foundation and be well supported across all communities in Northern Ireland. To this end, he appointed 3 deputies from the other 3 main churches; the late Reverend Jim Musgrave, the late Father Hugh Murphy and the late Reverend Sydney Callaghan. Dr Thomson, or Bill as he was known, was honoured in 1966 when he succeeded the Founder of Samaritans, the Reverend Chad Varah, as National Chairman, a role he performed for two years with distinction.

Samaritans is all about having time for others who are finding life difficult. Those who volunteer are people from across the entire religious and non-religious spectrum, from all sections of the community whom Samaritans aspire to serve and support.

During our 60 years, Volunteers have continued to offer confidential emotional support to anyone who is struggling to cope, providing a safe place for callers to talk openly about whatever is worrying them and without fear of being judged. We listen, encourage exploration of options, and hope callers can find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to take their own life.

The last 18 months has been an extremely challenging time for everyone in Northern Ireland, including Belfast Samaritans. The pandemic forced a significant number of listening volunteers to step back from duties, to close our doors to face-to-face callers, and cease most of our outreach activities. This has put pressure on our branch and similarly the whole organisation. However, throughout all of this, volunteers have gone beyond expectation to ensure we continue to provide our helpline service, every day of the year, just as we have done this past 60 years.

During the 12 months to 31st March 2021, Belfast Branch supported our callers both locally and further afield, by responding to over 32,000 telephone calls, replying to just over 2,600 e-mails and having approximately 290 contacts with callers via our new on-line chat service.

**We're here to listen,
call free day or night on 116 123, e-mail jo@samaritans.org
For more information: Samaritans.org/belfast**

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