

# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

*A Christ-centred, Bible-based, 12-Step programme for any struggle*



## Celebrating Jesus-centred Recovery

Many of us came to Celebrate Recovery doubting that life could be any different, and yet week after week on Monday evenings, we hear people sharing that their lives are indeed changing. We are finding hope in Jesus' promises of love and forgiveness, healing in following His directions, and strength to make better choices.

*"[The Lord] restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness"*  
Psalm 23:3a

Being honest about our struggles allows us to turn to Jesus for the power to overcome them. And when we have victories, we love to celebrate them at Celebrate Recovery - through testimonies, worship, and our monthly chip nights.

Our favourite night of the year is our annual Celebration Evening when we get to share victories with our Jesmond Parish Church (JPC) family and friends. Read more inside.

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## First Steps

Hi, I'm Dave, I'm a Christian looking to recover from procrastination.

My wife, Anne, had been coming to Celebrate Recovery (CR) for some time and had encouraged me to consider it. I had been to previous Celebration Evenings, so had some idea what it was about. I'd thought that it wasn't really for me, that my issues weren't serious enough to have to deal with in this setting. But then I realised that these thoughts were just ways of not dealing with the issues I had and not recognising their impact.

I love the worship, the lessons and testimonies, but most of all the small groups. In the first group, when the leader explained that you were to keep your sharing focused on your own thoughts and feelings, that felt very different from what I'm used to, e.g. leading bible studies where you're encouraging people to discuss what each are saying and link things together – but in CR you're able to share your thoughts and feelings without being challenged or asked to explain yourself. It's a real privilege to participate and to be part of other people sharing their lives.

I still struggle with procrastination and other issues, but I'm on the journey, and I'm learning to rely more on God with the support of others, including my sponsor.

## Extended Family Events

In 2023, we embraced the opportunity to connect with the wider Celebrate Recovery network.

Sarah attended the CR Summit hosted by Saddleback Church in California online. She says,

*"For 3 days I had the wonderful opportunity to watch and listen in to exciting worship. One of my favourites, contained the line "breakthrough will come in the name of Jesus". It really spoke to me, as a year into my CR journey, I was beginning to see breakthroughs in my own life. Hearing people's testimonies made me aware that God's grace is changing lives whenever and wherever people are encouraged and supported to move past their hurts, hang ups and habits."*

Claire says of the Celebrate Recovery UK's autumn conference, *"It was an amazing experience, people from all over the country coming together to share the difference God has, and can make in people's lives through CR. It was full of people who were already involved in CR groups and people looking to set them up. The wealth of understanding, wisdom and enthusiasm was inspiring. I enjoyed the testimonies, hearing what others are going through and how they and God are tackling it together, people's honest sharing about their lives has always been one of my favourite parts of CR."*



## RAMZI'S MESSAGE FROM PSALM 121

*Ramzi Adcock, clergy oversight for Celebrate Recovery, unpacked Psalm 121 at the 2023 Celebration Evening. Hear his full talk on the Celebrate Recovery Celebration Evening livestream on Clayton TV's YouTube channel.*

God's help is not about avoiding life's challenges but facing them with the assurance of God's watchful care. Our problems are real, but God's help is profound and accessible through Jesus. Will you trust in the Maker of heaven and earth?

Will you journey on in dependence on him, confident that God's watchful care extends over you now and forever? He will guide his people through all uncertainties and challenges in our life's path until we reach our eternal destination.



## Our Celebration Evening

Our November Celebration Evening is perhaps the highlight of each Celebrate Recovery year.

Through worship, testimonies and more, we celebrate Jesus-centred recovery, and invite our friends and church families to celebrate with us. We held the 2023 Celebration Evening on Monday 13th November.

It was wonderful to be joined by the Celebrate Recovery Country Representative for Kenya, Wendy Kinyanjui. Wendy said,

***"The evening was filled with celebration, heartfelt conversations, shared stories, and a genuine sense of camaraderie. The chilly air outside was no match for the warmth and compassion that filled the room, creating an atmosphere where everyone felt accepted and supported."***

We were delighted that the JPC Music Group organised a fabulous team of musicians to lead our times of worship. They introduced us to a new song, "I Speak Jesus" by Charity Gayle, which they sang while many of us wrote our personal sins and struggles on a card which we nailed to the cross, trusting Jesus to forgive and help us.

In three parts, Catherine and Alison showed us the Celebrate Recovery journey that takes us to 'Recovery'. As Alison applied each of the eight biblical recovery principles in turn, she was able to leave her hurts and struggles at Christ's cross, and move forward into healing and freedom.

Throughout the evening's journeying, we heard recovery stories from people at different stages of the recovery process, including from three of the eight women who completed the CR 'Step Study', working through the four Participant's Guides. They acknowledged they'd seen God's power at work through the weekly meetings, bringing insight and healing in areas of their lives.

Ramzi continued our theme of 'journey' when he spoke on Psalm 121, part of the "Songs of Ascents," a group of psalms first sung by Israelites on their pilgrimage, their journey, to Jerusalem. He encouraged us to consider our own journey through life in the light of the Psalm. As we admit our need for help, we take the first step toward the road to recovery, acknowledging our need for a guide, for a saviour.

***"My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."***  
Psalm 121:2

After the main celebration ended, it was great to chat and celebrate together over coffee and cake.

We're already excited for 2024's celebration!

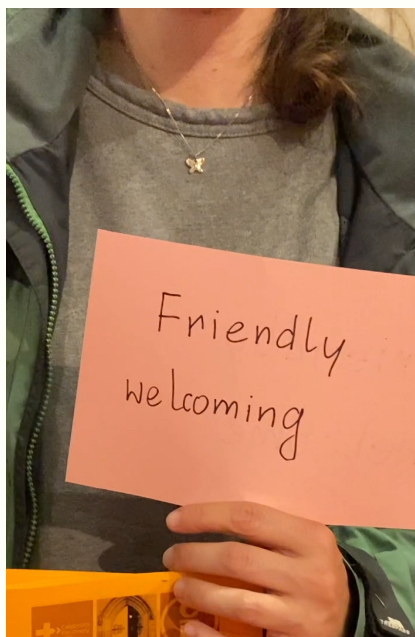


## WATCH IT AGAIN!

It was such a joy and encouragement to have our church family come and celebrate with us at the Celebration Evening. We love to share how Jesus is changing our lives at Celebrate Recovery.

For those who were away or unable to attend in person, we livestreamed the event, and you can still catch up on the testimonies, worship, interviews and sketches on Clayton TV's YouTube channel.





## New Videos

Celebrate Recovery's Principle 8 is **"Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others both by my example and by my words."**

In taking the message of hope in Jesus to others, making videos has featured quite highly, both for individuals and as a CR group.

Lots of us took part in a 'Principle 8 Video' sharing how we are helping to bring the message of hope to others. It's a video we can use again when we get to Principle 8 in 2024 to encourage one another to get involved in serving God and others.

One woman chose to share her story at the Celebration Evening in a video that protected her anonymity.

To help her grasp her true identity in Jesus, another participant wrote a poem based on her reading of Romans. Clayton TV turned the poem into a video, **'I Belong to the Lord'**.

We've also helped other churches to share hope. At the 2023 Celebrate Recovery UK Conference, Abby from JPC filmed delegates - several from our CR group - and produced three promotional videos. You can watch them on Celebrate Recovery UK's YouTube channel or website, [celebraterecovery.co.uk](http://celebraterecovery.co.uk).

## Worship Developments

Sung worship plays an important role in Celebrate Recovery. It's one of the aspects of the programme that ensures our meetings are Jesus-centred. Worship can help us express our pain to God and gives space for the Holy Spirit to minister to us. Great songs can refocus our minds on Jesus and on truth. The time spent in praising God readies our hearts and minds to hear what He has to say through the lessons and testimonies we'll be listening to.

However, trying to follow copyright rules for song usage and not having enough musicians to serve in a weekly band, have made it difficult to make our time of worship as uplifting as we'd like.

We have good news for 2024!

We're making new lyric videos to freshen up old JPC recordings of songs, and introducing a couple of new songs. In addition, we're delighted that members of the music group have agreed to come along occasionally to lead our worship time.

We're looking forward to worshipping our true 'Higher Power', Jesus Christ with renewed energy in 2024.



# STAY IN TOUCH WITH CELEBRATE RECOVERY AT JESMOND PARISH CHURCH

There's more information about Celebrate Recovery on our webpage, [celebraterecovery.org.uk](http://celebraterecovery.org.uk).

We're also on Facebook - CelebrateRecoveryJPC - and Instagram - @jpc\_celebrate\_recovery.

If you'd like to commit to praying for Celebrate Recovery at JPC, you could join our WhatsApp prayer group. Contact Catherine at [catherine.robinson@church.org.uk](mailto:catherine.robinson@church.org.uk)