

JUNCTION⁴²

Issue
#19

Supporters' Newsletter

May 2019

Employability

"I have worked with every agency and support service in the world over the last 50 years, from care homes and borstals, to prisons and drug and alcohol services, but Junction 42 are the best I've ever encountered..."

Quote from Phil, one of our Work Out clients.*

Employability 2019 - QUARTER 1

ACTIVE CLIENTS

68



**ONE-TO-ONE
MEETINGS**

322



**PAID
JOBS**

20



**VOLUNTARY
JOBS**

25



**TRAINING
COURSES**

23



SALVATIONS

7



Chris' take on Kingsman.

Chris is currently on our year out programme and gives us thoughts on delivering *Kingsman*, our entrepreneurial training programme...



I have felt very privileged to be part of the Kingsman team delivering our entrepreneurship course to the men of Holme House prison. Not only did we equip and inspire many of the men to set up their own businesses, but I feel that we steered many of them on the path to God. The mission was simple. To set up a card making business in prison in order to raise money for charity. The first stage involved designing a logo, business name, catalogues and order forms. Then, stage two - production. This proved to be the more challenging aspect of the course. Having personalised cards combined with some cantankerous printers did cause a little stress.

I was incredibly impressed by the diligence of the men we worked with. I think that many of them felt (perhaps for the first time) the satisfaction that comes from working hard for a good cause. It was also really lovely for us as a team to show God's love to these men. We were able to create an environment of joy and encouragement in a place that is so often devoid of such things. I think that this might have been a more valuable gift than any of the entrepreneurship lessons we gave. Finally, for me the crowning moment of delivering Kingsman was when two men from the course came to Alpha. They both had very intimate experiences with God. Seeing them and others from Kingsman in chapel after the course was proof for me that we did a good job.

Faith

Connect

The Connect Network has experienced rapid growth over the last year. A recent audit of the Connect community was greatly encouraging in demonstrating that participants are being rooted in faith, community and transformation. When asked 'what does Connect mean to you?' participants responded:



Good community with God!

***I really love how great Connect is and
the help Connect brings to people.***

Best thing I've been involved in.

***I love how accepting they are, and
welcoming.***

Family, purpose, love, support.

***A place to go where I'm not judged.
Means the world to me as I felt lost
without it.***

It has changed my life.



We have seen an increase in female participation and an increase in reaching out to more middle-aged individuals - therefore making a greater impact on families. We are also delighted to see an increase in people participating in more than one Connect group. Connect attendees cited their enjoyment, the encouragement of their faith, a sense of belonging or pure curiosity as the main reasons for additional participation.

James*

James* was on the Alpha course in HMP Edinburgh but was taken off for security reasons after a search of his cell. After hearing this, one of the Junction 42 team went to visit him. Initially he was angry and

ranting about everything, but eventually he started to talk about why he had come to Alpha. He opened up about his very unhappy childhood and that the only time he felt loved was when he attended a Christian children's club. When the missionaries who ran it went back to the States he felt God had abandoned him. In later years, kicking back against God, he became involved in Satanism and so now felt he was beyond forgiveness. As God revealed to him that He had never once left him when he was a child, and that all could be forgiven as he repented and trusted completely in Jesus, something broke. The Lord was present by his Spirit and a new life had begun.

James* continues to grow in his new faith and the anger seems to be broken. He seemed particularly struck by the realisation that he is now the light for his wing. He has found hope and forgiveness – now he can pass that on to others.

Engagement

Otis' Story

We first met Otis when he joined the Junction 42 Barbering course back in August. He engaged really well and used his natural leadership skills to help others on the course, as well as learning all the basics of cutting hair which he really enjoyed. At the end of the course, the men put together a pitch which was delivered in front of the prison Governor and Otis wrote a poem (below) about the course which he read out during their pitch.

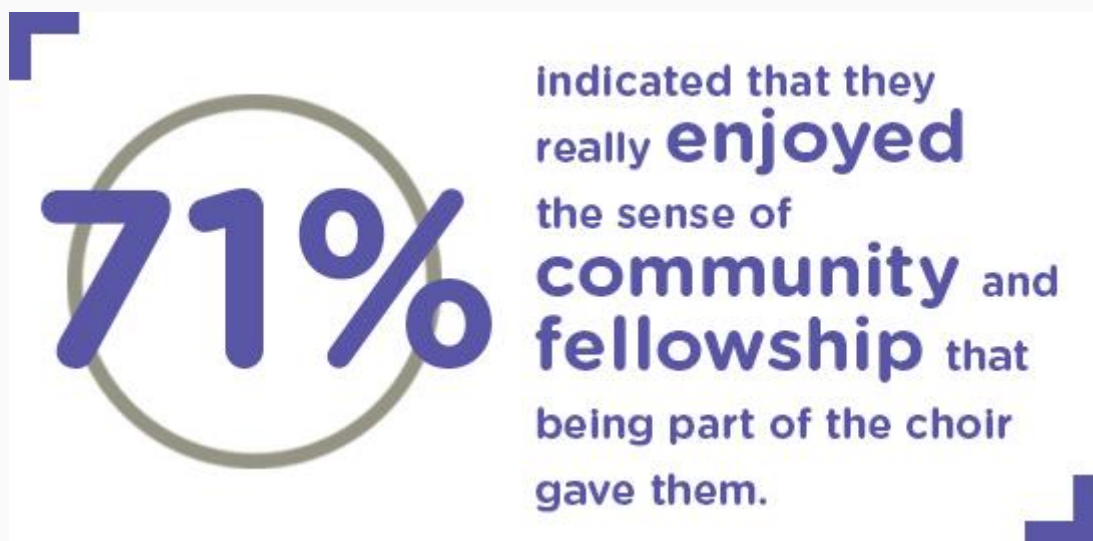
He spoke to us about God while engaging with us and then a while later we found out he was on the Alpha Course and had been baptised in the chapel by one of the prison chaplains. When Otis was given a release date and it was clear that he was returning to the Darlington area, Junction 42's Teesside team were invited to meet him at the prison to discuss supporting him upon release, particularly with a view to support him in his faith. Since he has been released, he has been going to church and even shared his testimony one Sunday! He also attended Connect, which is the faith group that we help run in Stockton on Tees.



*When you come to jail
Because you have committed a crime
Here is a good way to spend your time:
Pick up a comb, some clippers too
Learn how to cut and watch them queue.
You must be patient and take your time,
Don't go too high, watch your line.
Trim them up, but watch your blend
Do a good job and make a friend!
High blends, low blends, Afro curly,
Single crowns, double crowns,
hair that's swirly.
To be a barber takes much skill,
Upper cuts boys have got that still!*

Choir

Feedback from the 2 weekly choir groups that we ran in HMP Northumberland was astoundingly positive!



A common theme was that participants discovered that they enjoyed singing and could actually sing

well. There was a strong link between this and self-confidence. 36% of participants indicated that they had found new confidence in themselves. 21% of participants suggested that they had discovered new teamwork and social skills.



“I enjoy singing and it brought back memories of happier times and I forgot I was in prison.”

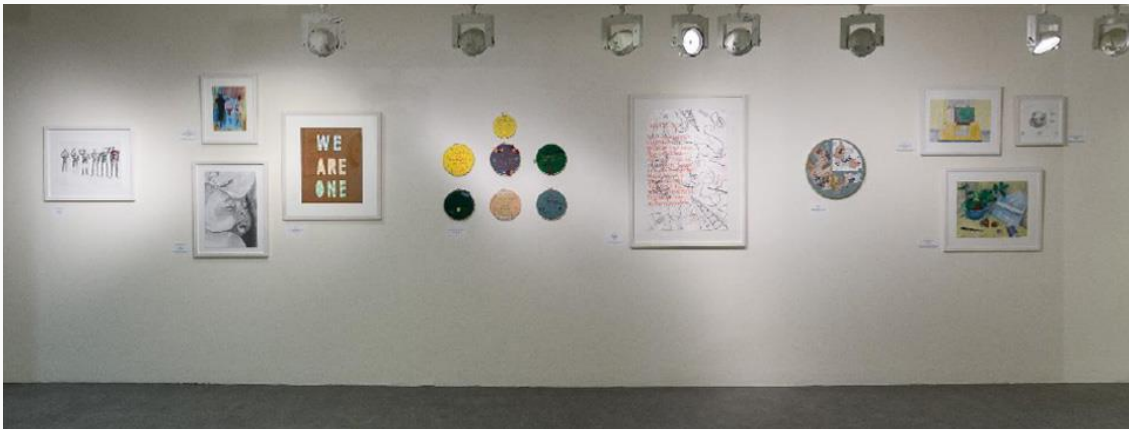
“I have more courage than I thought”

Koestler Awards

We are delighted to share that many of the talented women participating in our arts programme at HMP/YOI Low Newton have received awards from the Koestler Trust. Eight participants won “highly commended”, “commended” and “bronze” awards. The Koestler Trust provides an avenue to celebrate the women's talents and to highlight their hidden skills. The women involved produced some brilliant art work and enjoyed seeing their ideas through from conception to completion.

Winning pieces were exhibited at the Southbank Centre in London! Here is some of the winning work...





Thank you so much for supporting the work of Junction 42 as we see lives visibly transformed by the hope of the gospel. We hope you are encouraged by reading about the amazing things that God is doing!

*Some names on this newsletter have been changed to protect confidentiality.
