

Walking With...

Jo-Ann & Simon Eastwood, part of the Northern Rural Mission Hub at Scargill House, share something of their work at Colburn near Catterick Garrison.



In the spring of 2022, after several years of supporting the local community to which we had been called, we laid down our previous roles in teaching and running a Christian retreat/holiday centre. It was time to step away from those careers and use our skills in our community, predominantly a 1950's council estate on the edge of Catterick Garrison, the largest army base in Europe, and bordering the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Our vision was to walk with individuals, families, businesses and groups, sharing hope and God's amazing love through practical & admin support, budgeting & financial advice, pastoral support and being advocates in varied situations.

Colburn Community Support is built on Christian foundations. It is a 'faith-based' organisation, but we are not 'faith biased'.

We use the following verse from the book of Proverbs as one of our aims and objectives.

**"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
Proverbs 31 v 8-9**

The deprivation indices for the area are very challenging with low scores overall but especially regarding health, education, and child poverty. These also highlight relational poverty. Someone in relational poverty may

have no friends or family that they can call on in times of need. Many of us gain a lot of support and encouragement from being part of a community or family unit. Sadly, many of those we support, do not have this.

Ultimately, we desire to be an organisation who offer a listening ear and friendly face supporting our lovely community.

We aim to be compassionate, personalised, and empowering, receiving referrals from a range of organisations, individuals, and local services.

It has been a step of faith, both financially and personally opening up to this often-hurting community. We sold our family car



to purchase an adapted van to assist the daily practical tasks, providing hospital transport, delivering furniture, collecting items for the food bank etc.

Highlights of our first year

- Building strong relationships across the community.
- Supporting the bereaved both practically and pastorally.
- Establishing links with local groups and agencies who are keen to work on joint projects supporting families.

It has been challenging, humbling, and rewarding to 'Walk With' those around us. Our prayer for our beautiful, but often broken community is that they will know God's love, hope and blessing for themselves. Friends doing life together.

It is great to receive regular feedback from one of the homeless guys we supported during the pandemic and who continues to thrive in his new home.

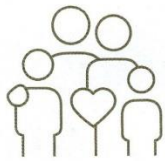
"Hey, I'd really like to thank you both for today, it really did make a huge difference. You left me with a huge bag of sunshine and optimism which I'm going to use wisely. First thing tomorrow I'm gonna get an appointment with the doctor for the 1st time since my move for a start. Still got a smile on my face, THANK YOU"

We also received this text from a single mum with a young son who we helped carpet her house.

"I can't thank you both enough. Honestly, I feel like a massive weight has been lifted from me. Both such amazing people. You've turned my house into a home. Thank you to you both again."

This year marks Simon's 40th year of full-time employment and the following verse, has been a source of strength and encouragement recently in our new ministry together.

"The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything." Deuteronomy 2 v 7



And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6 v 8



To find out more about Colburn Community Support visit www.colburncommunitysupport.org.uk