

What do I do next?

- Pray. Seek God as you consider your involvement in this opportunity.
- Visit our website for further details and training opportunities.
www.cfeoscotland.org
- Speak with your church leaders. Ask them to recognise and support your passion for this work
- Contact Connect to Community (see details below) to receive a volunteer application form and get information about training



AN INTRODUCTION FOR CHURCHES

CONTACT US

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AN INTRODUCTION FOR CHURCHES

What is Connect to Community?

We seek to support people coming out of prison to help them integrate into a local community. Our support is offered by volunteer mentors from a local church to anyone, regardless of faith, helping individuals build a future that is crime-free and realising their potential to bring value to their communities.

Connect to Community is a project of Bethany Christian Trust, incorporating the work of the former charity CFEO Scotland working closely with Prison Fellowship, Prison Chaplains and Alpha for Prisons.

What does a mentor do?

We seek to link mentors and individuals before they are released from prison so that one or two familiarisation visits can take place helping establish the relationship, its goals and boundaries.

A mentor can play a crucial role in the first few days of release from prison, where possible, meeting an individual at the prison gate, helping set a structure for the challenging first 24-48 hours and accompanying them to necessary appointments on these days.

Over the next few weeks a mentor may support an individual in a number of ways, budgeting effectively, planning their days and engaging in purposeful activity.

A mentor can be a key in introducing a network of positive people into the life of someone seeking a new future – the church community.

How does it work?

Individuals are referred to us by Prison Chaplains or Prison Fellowship. They are looking for mentoring support and have expressed a desire to see their lives changed, recognising the Christian community can support them as they seek recovery from addictions, restoration of relationships and resettlement in community.

Connect to Community does not provide housing or employment. We provide mentoring friendships. Studies continually show that steady relationships are one of the key factors in helping people turn away from crime. We co-ordinate a link between the individual and their local church community providing training and support for small voluntary mentoring teams within local churches.

What does it involve for a Church?

Being involved with Connect to Community may cost your church nothing. We are a voluntary body and we simply refer people to you, while providing you with training and advice as you seek to fulfil this ministry to people leaving prison. On the other hand it may completely change your church as you come to terms with the reality of broken lives in your community, serve their needs, and welcome people in Jesus name into your community.

