

Prayer & News

Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland

September 2023

VCS is now a SCIO

It was always in the plan that Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland would become an independent charity ... but we thought that was all a few years down the line.

Life is full of surprises and situations change, and in the spring of 2023, VCS was officially launched as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It took a certain degree of application ... but we got there and OSCR are satisfied with what we have developed.

We have a new team of Trustees and we will hold our first AGM - 18.30 hrs. Royal George Hotel, Perth, Wednesday 4th October 2023. Do come and join us!

Erskine Midweek Church

For three months now we have been working with the serving Regular and Reserve Army Chaplains Team to deliver a mid-week church service at Erskine.

These have been well received and well attended! Visitors always welcome.

Thank you WPCS!

VCS was launched under the umbrella of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland, and we want to publicly acknowledge our sincere gratitude for the generous sharing of wisdom and resources which was so very important in getting VCS off the ground!

The Footprint grows ...

We have a clear target of recruiting and training a team of Chaplains right across the nation, which will provide a Chaplaincy Footprint so that we can respond well to all request for support all over Scotland.

18 months into our story we are doing pretty well. Our current team of 22 chaplains are well spread out from Skye in the West to Moray in the far North, and from Stranraer in the South East to ... well, there is still a bit of a gap in the North East!!

Church Parades, Funerals ...and Memorials

In addition to a wide range of referrals and other requests for chaplaincy support, our team of chaplains are often asked to lead the funerals of veterans, and to conduct special memorial services and dedications.

Those with a certain footballing interest will know the name Willie Thornton, a famous Rangers player ... but also a distinguished soldier awarded the Military Medal while serving with 80th (The Scottish Horse) Regiment of The Royal Artillery in Sicily.

VCS supplied a 'minister with medal' for a special 80th Commemoration in Winchburgh where Willie grew up.

Prayer Points

We are hugely grateful for the prayer support we receive from members of FOVCS. Prayer is a vital part every ministry, and a reminder that while much of our work as VCS Chaplains has a strong welfare element to it, our foundation is spiritual.

The support we provide to the Veterans Community is delivered in the name of God, and we look to Him for the strength and the skills to share His Love with all.

Please do keep praying ...

PRAY FOR ... The Four F's

The Footprint – we are still recruiting and at the moment are especially keen in appointing a VCS Chaplain in Aberdeen

The Finances – Like all charities we need to keep raising financial support.

The Friends – It is great to have you 'on board'. We want to engage you in our ministry and to benefit from your insight!

The Future – Now that we are 'off the ground' and independent, we need to ensure that we are following the Lord's plan ... and not just ours!!

“Do this in memory of me”

These words were spoken by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper. They are more than a simple command to 'remember'. They are a call to keep alive within us a relationship with the life of the amazing historical figure, Jesus of Nazareth ... a life that left an indelible mark on the world. Historical and eternal!

As we as a nation and as individuals move towards our annual season of poppies, and of remembrance, and of parades ... we are marking once again the importance of memory.

Our memory forms us, shaping who we are as individuals and as a society. The great philosopher, Aristotle referred to memory as being the 'scribe of the soul'. Memory informs and impacts our decision making, and therefore defining our future. It keeps the events of the past effective in our lives.

Each member of the veterans' community carries their own private memories, which defines how we interact with the events of Remembrance Season.

How will you Remember this year?

Perhaps selling Poppies – Poppy Scotland is always looking for volunteers – www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering.

Or attending a Garden of Remembrance - The Dedication Service for the opening of the Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance will take place at 11.00am on Monday 23rd October 2023.

However you take part, we pray that you will know the Grace and Mercy and Love of our God, who for our sakes laid down his life for his friends.

Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: SC052358

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