## Homelessness Ministry

### Module 1 - Beginning with us

**M1 Listen**

Kristian and Robin meet with John Canessa, founder of the Cambridge Homeless Community Project to open up the them of our first module. We hear from A, B and C from the homeless community and their experiences of being 'worked with'.

**M1 Make connections**

In the podcast, Jon focussed us on our need to acknowledge what we carry with us when we are looking to respond to other people, and consider carefully the impact of this, and our assumptions about what it means to help and support somebody who is experiencing homelessness.

Key quote:

*“When we don’t do this from a place of genuinely wanting to understand, connect & be compassionate, then the sad consequence of this can be dehumanising for those who we are trying to help”*

Possible Bible background:

Philippians 2:3 (do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.)

Matthew 7:1-5 (do not judge etc including speck/plank)

Romans 12:3 (regard yourselves with sober judgment)

In this first ‘make connections’ activity we invite you to explore some the motivations and assumptions that you are bringing to this area of ministry.

This activity asks you to experiment with at least one method of  journaling, spending some time reflecting on your personal journey and motivation in engaging with those experiencing homelessness.

Recommended methods/tools:

- A journalling app\*

- Paper and ink

- A conversation with a trusted friend

As you begin this course, revisit the moment(s)when you first felt motivated to get involved with this area of ministry. What stands out to you?

Next, consider the following prompts:

- In which ways are you hoping to grow through this course?

- Which of these new possibilities excites you most; new knowledge, new skills, new relationships, new experiences, stronger faith, new direction?

- What are the two things that stand out?

\* Examples of journaling apps (free versions available for all these): Day One, Diarium, Penzu, Grid Diary, Five Minute Journal & Daylio.

**M1 - Safeguarding**

TBC

**M1 - Gather**

Focus on biases and assumptions. Draw these out.

### Module 2 - Trauma Informed Practice

**M2 Listen**

Kristian and Robin speak with guest Dr Andrea Tighe about the nature of trauma and its impact on individuals and relationships. We hear from A, B and C from the homeless community about their experiences of trauma, both ongoing and historic.

**M2 Make connections**

In the podcast, Andrea explained in some detail the nature of trauma and it’s lasting impacts on individuals. Many of those who experience homelessness both have experienced trauma in the past, and most will be experiencing ongoing trauma as a result of their living conditions.

Key Quote

“This isn’t about providing therapy - it’s about being aware of the impacts of trauma and working in ways that enable those may have experienced trauma experience different kinds of relationships.”

Possible Bible refs

Isaiah 42:3 “He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged.”

In this ‘make connections’ activity we invite you to engage your awareness of the impacts of trauma on your observations and interactions with those experiencing homelessness.

Look at a single common resource showing eg ‘somebody kicking off at a bus stop'

Lead learners through three stages of reflection

* What is going on here - what are your initial thoughts/responses?
* Next proved a ‘trauma’ backstory - how does this change your thoughts/judgements/responses?
* Transfer learning - often we don’t know the back story when engaging with the homeless community, but we can assume that they have or are experiencing trauma; what sort of responses are going to be most helpful, most of the time? (Ask learners to draw on Andrea’s insights?)

**M2 Safeguarding**

TBC

**M2 Gather**

Opportunity to talk about our own responses to trauma.

### Module 3 - Being With

**M3 Listen**

In the video Sam reflects on….

**M3 Make connections**

Key Quote

“TBC”

Possible Bible refs

Psalm 1?

Spiritual Practice / Theological Reflection - Robin to write.

(Experiential learning)

*(NB Resourcing ourselves / )*

**M3 Safeguarding**

**TBC**

**M3 Gather**

**TBC**

### Module 4 - The Drama Triangle

**M5 Listen**

TBC

**M5 Make connections**

In the podcast…

Key Quote

“TBC”

Possible Bible refs

Ask Eleanor for a resource

Ask people to draw a drama triangle onto a situation

**M5 Safeguarding**

TBC

**M5 Gather**

TBC

### Module 5 - Deep Listening

**M5 Listen**

What is 'deep listening? Kristian and Robin meet with Natalie Andrews to answer this question and consider the impact of this practice for ourselves and our relationships.

**M5 Make connections**

In the podcast Natalie opens us up the vital skill of listening well to others, and the power and relevance of this when engaging with those who are experiencing homelessness. She draws our attention to themes of helping, rest, acceptance, boundaries and valuing others as deserving of attention and hospitality.

Key Quote

“This is about listening to the whole person, rather than just their words. Listening to them as a person - their personality, character and story”

Possible Bible refs

Genesis 2:18

Genesis 18:1-15

Psalm 139:13-14

In this ‘make connections’ activity, we invite you to explore these themes further in practice.

Activities - b) practicing listening skills c) our support systems.

Resources to build from:

<https://asana.com/resources/active-listening>

* Improve communication
* Boost collaboration
* Truly understand what the other person is saying
* Connect on a deeper level
* Demonstrate empathy
* Resolve conflict
* Build trust
* Establish rapport

4 types of active listening

Ready to become a better listener? Here’s how. There are four different types of listening:

- Empathic listening is when you listen to understand. Think of listening when someone shares a personal story. In this type of listening, you’re focused on the other person, instead of yourself.

- Appreciative listening is when you listen to enjoy yourself. Think of listening to music, a motivational speaker, or attending a religious ceremony.

- Comprehensive listening is when you listen to learn something new. This type of listening happens when you listen to a podcast, the news, or an educational lecture, like a class.

- Critical listening is when you listen to form an opinion of what someone else says. This type of listening happens when you’re debating with someone or when you’re listening to a sales person.

**M5 Safeguarding**

Section from Natalies podcast

**M5 Gather**

TBC

### Module 6 - Addiction

**M6 Listen**

**M6 Make connections**

In the podcast…

Belonging, purpose.

Key Quote

“TBC”

Possible Bible refs

Trust, action repeat

In practice

“Is the activity costing more than the activity. (Or something along these lines)” - ref. Tracey and sport.

**M6 Safeguarding**

**M6 Gather**

### Module 7 - Good Practice

**M7 Listen**

**M7 Make connections**

In the podcast…

*(Steer towards community and the moral goods of participation in terms of responsibility, accountability, belonging, contributing etc)*

Key Quote

“TBC”

Possible Bible refs

Activity:

Work with ladder of participation - choose a setting, choose someone to assess in relation, figure out how to move them up.

**M7 Safeguarding**

TBC

**M7 Gather**

TBC

### Module 8 - Theological themes

**M8 Listen**

**M8 Make connections**

In the podcast…

Good samaritan

Theology of the cross

Suffering?

Equal in humanity

Key Quote

“TBC”

Possible Bible refs

Activity (SD suggestion)

Exploring around the theology of the cross, and how this impacts our understanding and practice in ministry. Eg ‘what’s my theology of the cross and how might it influence my approach/my churches approach to engaging with the homeless community?

This could be explored by the learner having 1 or 2 conversations with church members/volunteers, family member or trusted friend - *“what do you think the Cross means to you and why?”*

***As personal atonement*** (ie in Jesus God took on the punishment in place of sinners)

***As victory over evil*** (ie in Jesus death (and resurrection) a victory is won on a cosmic, historic and societal level) - **@*Robin this connects with your ‘structural sin’ angle I think :-)***

***As moral example*** (ie the cross reveals God's nature and calls people to live lives of love, compassion, and sacrifice)

***As suffering transformed by love*** (ie Jesus enters fully into human suffering—not to punish or conquer—but to *redeem it from within* by radical, divine love. His mercy doesn’t erase suffering, but transfigures it)

**M8 Safeguarding**

TBC

**M8 Gather**

?How might the cross be ‘good news’ to those experiencing homelessness? How might they experience this through the services we provide?

### Module 9 - Bringing it all together

**M9 Listen**

TBC

**M9 Make connections**

In the podcast…

Key Quote

“TBC”

Possible Bible refs

TBC

**M9 Safeguarding (do we need this in this session)**

**M9 Gather**