

# SAMARITANS

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your interest in Samaritans. I would like to take this opportunity to explain what being a Samaritan entails and also a little about our branch here in Worcester.

The branch opened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1963 in the Tything, remaining there until the move to our current premises in 1976.

- The very first call to the centre was made by the Bishop of Worcester using 21 121, the same number which is still used today.
- Telephone calls received in 1976 = 431, -----12,442 in 2009
- E-mails in 2005 = 0, --- -----744 in 2010

We need at least 80 available volunteers to maintain a full 24 hour 7 day a week service and If volunteers were paid at the rate of £10 per hour, our wage bill would be approx £200,000 per year.

We do of course also need support volunteers in the following areas:-

- Publicity and Volunteer Recruitment
- Administrative Support and Fund Raising
- General Maintenance of the Branch

**SERVICE** We offer our services in different ways as below:-

- Telephone—via both local and national number
- Face to face- Centre open to callers from 9:00am to 10:00pm
- E-Mail
- Prison Visits. (Via Listeners— these are prisoners who have been trained to act as Samaritans for other prisoners, they are bound by the same rules of total confidentiality as any other Samaritan).

**DUTIES:-** *Our volunteer commitment is one duty per week.*

**Either—:**

Day duties of three and a half hours. Rota begins at 8:00am and ends at 10:00pm. --- (4 duties cover the day)

**Or--:**

Night duty of either 5 hours,-- 10:00pm—3:00am or 3:00am—8:00am. or 3hours -----5am---8am

**Volunteers are expected to include all these duty times within their commitment of a night duty every four weeks**

Volunteers should be able to listen uncritically and non-judgmentally and be prepared to make important and sometimes crucial decisions in an emergency in consultation with a colleague.

All shifts are covered by two volunteers in the centre and a leader who can be contacted by phone.

We look for people who are 18 years of age and over and who have a sympathetic/empathetic personality with a large measure of common sense and a sense of humour.

You should be able to work as part of a team and be compatible with colleagues of diverse experience and backgrounds.

It is important that we listen to our callers with care and give them all the time and support they need whilst understanding that we cannot solve their problems.

Whilst you may have personal convictions, these should not be evangelical (in any sense) and you should have an open mind to other people's beliefs.

*Your sex, religion, ethnic origins or class are not relevant to us*

**Please do not feel that if you do not meet all of the criteria above you are not the person for us.  
It may be just the opposite.**

## Volunteering for Samaritans could change someone's life your life ----- Your own!

With Samaritans you grow as a person.

Many of our volunteers say that it is the most rewarding thing they have ever done.

It can be a challenging experience, but we will fully prepare you before you become a volunteer. Your commitment will be recognised and valued and your skills and experience constantly developed,

If you have ever felt the need to put something back, then now is your chance to help us create a stronger, less isolated society

- A society in which fewer people die by suicide
- People are able to explore their feelings
- People are able to acknowledge and respect the feelings of others

### **INFORMATION EVENINGS**

**These are most normally held on the last Wednesday of each month at the above address, however please check enclosed list of dates.**

You are invited to attend on the first available date following receipt of this letter and you are most welcome to bring with you a husband/wife/partner or friend should you wish to do so.

**IF THE FIRST INFORMATION EVENING DATE IS NOT CONVENIENT FOR YOU, THEN PLEASE LET ME KNOW**

**A REMINDER CAN THEN BE SENT FOR A LATER DATE, IF YOU SO WISH.**

**A message can be left at the centre on 01905 21121. When leaving a message please check that it is Worcester office you are speaking to, if our lines are busy you may have been diverted to another office. Should this happen, ask the office you have reached to contact us on your behalf. They will be happy to do this for you.**

The evening normally starts with a short DVD followed by a talk about the role of a Samaritan. This is intended to enable you to learn more about our organisation and to answer any queries you may have. This also allows us to begin to get to know you. At the end of the information evening if you do decide that you would like to join our organization, an application form will be available for you to take home to complete and bring with you to the selection & interview session which is the next step in the process of becoming a volunteer.

**Please do not feel that there is any pressure to join, should you decide that Samaritans is not for you.**

### **SELECTION & INTERVIEW SESSION**

This takes place shortly after the Information Evening and a list of dates and times is included. This also takes place at the address above. The session will be carried out for those people who do wish to continue with the application process and **completed application forms should be handed in during the session.**

The Application form asks for the names and addresses of two referees, these should be people who know you well, *but not relatives or partners*. These references will be taken up. Successful applicants will be invited to attend the next training session convenient to them.

We are now also required by law to request an enhanced CRB check for all volunteers, details of how this is achieved will be explained further at the information evening.

### **TRAINING SESSIONS. :-**

**We hold three training sessions per year. These consist of one session per week over an eight week period.**

**The dates of our next session are included in this pack**

**ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ONE COMPLETE SESSION OF TRAINING.**

If I can be of any assistance in the meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact me by leaving a message at the centre on 01905 21121, I will return your call as soon as I possibly can.

Yours Sincerely

*Maureen 743*

(Recruitment Secretary)

## Information Evenings

**Wednesdays 7:30pm to 9:30pm**

### 2011

November 30<sup>th</sup>

### 2012

Jan 11<sup>th</sup>

April 25<sup>th</sup>

July 25<sup>th</sup>

October 31<sup>st</sup>

Feb 29<sup>th</sup>

May 30<sup>th</sup>

August 29<sup>th</sup>

November 28<sup>th</sup>

March 28<sup>th</sup>

June 27<sup>th</sup>

September 26<sup>th</sup>

## Selection/Interview Sessions

**Tuesdays 6:30pm to 9:30pm**

### 2011

October 4<sup>th</sup>

December 12<sup>th</sup>

### 2012

January 17<sup>th</sup>

July 31<sup>st</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

June 5<sup>th</sup>

## Training Dates and Times

### Autumn 2011

#### October

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 3:45pm

Mondays 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

#### November

Mondays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

### Spring 2012

#### January

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

#### February

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 3:45pm

Mondays 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

#### March

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

### Summer 2012

#### April

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

#### May

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 3:45pm

Mondays 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

#### June

Mondays 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to 10:00pm

**Tea and coffee are available at all training sessions, but it is a good idea to bring a packed lunch on the Saturday session.**