

AUTUMN 2026



CELEBRATE RECOVERY



Helping churches bring hope and healing to the hurting



#CelebrateRecoveryTourUK

Celebrate Recovery UK Director, Catherine, has completed a summer tour of Celebrate Recovery ministries across the UK, visiting groups in Newcastle, Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Wokingham and Romford. The visits provided an opportunity to meet with Ministry Leaders, volunteers and participants, gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing local ministries, and gather feedback that will help inform future training, resources and support. Reflecting on the tour, Catherine highlights the faithfulness of local teams, the life-changing impact of Celebrate Recovery, and the importance of strengthening connections across the UK network. Check out the blog at www.celebraterecovery.co.uk/blog/ and see page 3 for more pics!



Conference Reminder...

Join us for the 2026 Conference on **Saturday 24 October**. Newcastle-upon-Tyne in North East England - with an international airport and excellent rail and road links - is relatively easy to reach from wherever in the UK you are.

Go to TryBooking.com and search Celebrate Recovery UK to book your ticket and download our '[Pre-Conference Information Booklet](#)' for full details and city highlights.

Whether you're part of a church pastoral team, already serving in or attending a Celebrate Recovery group, or just want an encouraging day, this conference is for you.

See page 3 for more details...

Returning to the Father's House

I'm a grateful believer in Jesus Christ. I'm in recovery from addiction, reluctance to rest, and anger. My name is Bug.

For a long time, I believed I had it all. I was a believer. I had a family, a wife, stepchildren, and a good job. I built my life on those things and honestly believed they were mine forever - that nothing could ever take them away.

But then my wife ended our nine-and-a-half-year marriage. My world shattered, and my spiral began. I knew God, but I was deeply angry at Him. Like the prodigal son, I turned my back on the Father and departed for my own "far country."

"...the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living..." Luke 15:13 NIVUK

I turned to drugs. I lost my job. I turned to crime and became homeless, spiralling from cocaine to crack. I went from having everything to sitting in a dark place, facing nine and a half years in prison.

At that absolute rock bottom, I finally came to my senses. Just like the son in the mud, I surrendered and gave my life back to God.

"...the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate." Luke 15:22-24 NIVUK

God did amazing things. He brought Celebrate Recovery (CR) into my life. Through CR, I admitted I was powerless and handed control over to God. I started doing the hard work - working through my character defects, my anger issues, my addiction, and even my reluctance to find rest. Today, the most vital part of my recovery journey is Step 10, which reminds me: **"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12 NIVUK** That verse is a constant, daily anchor for me. I've learned the hard way - including through a relapse about a year into my journey - that the moment I let my guard down and think I can do this in my own strength, I am in danger. I am only safe sober. I'm only whole when I am resting in God's hands and drawing daily on His strength. If you feel like you've wandered too far, or if you're trying to run your life on your own strength, I want to encourage you: the Father is waiting with open arms. Celebrate Recovery isn't just a programme; it's a place where you can finally stop running, come home, and let God rebuild your life.

Thank you for letting me share.

Bug Byrne, Ministry Leader, Celebrate Recovery Romford



A few years ago, I had an image of myself made of broken pieces, some pieces were big, some small, some dark and some coloured. Then I saw bright white/yellow/golden lava running between all my broken pieces and filling all the cracks with lovely warm light.

Until then I always tried in my own strength and with my own ideas to "fix myself". All my attempts worked a little for a short period of time but the hurts and cracks were still there, still dark and hollow.

When I let God in, I asked Him for help, surrendered, and started trusting Him rather than trying to control everything myself. I realised that it wasn't a bad thing to be broken, because God filled the cracks, making me complete and beautiful. Even more complete and beautiful than if I didn't have cracks.

He binds my wounds with His love, He illuminates my dark bits, He makes me shine and radiate light. And it is thanks to the cracks and to letting Him "in" that this is happening.

I haven't heard of Kintsugi before, but when I shared the picture in my small group, one of the ladies told me that it is the Japanese art of repairing broken ceramics by mending the cracks with a special lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Instead of hiding the damage, this technique highlights it, celebrating each object's unique history and honouring its imperfections.

Rather than throwing away a shattered bowl or vase, it is lovingly restored, and the finished piece becomes even more unique, strong, and beautiful than it was before the break.

Psalm 147:3 says, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" Wow! This is what God has done and is doing in me! I feel grateful for my brokenness and cracks, if I had it all together, there wouldn't be space for Him. Thank you Lord for binding my broken pieces.

Eleonora Drago

Hear about the CR UK 2026 Conference...

**Catherine**

Director and
conference church
host

**Kath**

National
Team and
a Rep

**Elsbeth**

Ministry Leader
and workshop
leader

What excites you most about this year's conference?

"I'm especially excited that we're featuring several mini-testimonies instead of just one or two longer ones. It will showcase the many ways Jesus works through Celebrate Recovery."

"Having the opportunity to meet with the wider CR family and hear all God is doing in transforming lives across the UK."

"We recently started Celebrate Recovery ministry, and I'm really excited to have the team come along and see what God is doing through this ministry further afield."

Which part of the day are you most looking forward to?

"Even as someone who's not naturally a big hugger, I can't wait to catch up with familiar faces and meet new members of the CR family."

"Catching up with CR groups from across the UK and understanding how we can best support them."

"As a new Ministry Leader, I am looking forward to meeting others who are leading, to be encouraged and to learn from one another."

If you could encourage delegates to do one thing on the day, what would it be?

"The conference is a great opportunity to build relationships and strengthen our shared ministry. Be sure to meet your Regional Representative too. They'd love to meet you!"

"Chat with people from other CR groups and hear what God is doing in their communities. You'll be inspired, encouraged, and gain a true sense of family."

"Talk to people from other groups, lend a hand if there's a job to be done, speak up in the workshops - in summary, come with a servant heart and live out Principle 8"

Finish this sentence: "I'll know the conference has been a success if..."

"...even one existing Celebrate Recovery group is strengthened, or one new group begins because of what God does through the conference."

"...people are encouraged in their ministry and/or encouraged to start - so that more communities can experience healing from their hurts, hangups and habits."

"...those attending leave with renewed passion to tell others of the hope they have in Christ and how Celebrate Recovery, as a Christ centred recovery programme, can be a key ministry in our churches and communities today."



Pics from CR UK ON TOUR


 **BRISTOL**

 **WOKINGHAM**

 **NEWCASTLE**

 **ROMFORD**

 **BATH**

 **BRISTOL**



Meet our new communications and admin coordinator...



Hi, I am Freddie, I started this new role of communications and administration coordinator in July and it consists of a few different things, from managing social media, creating content, newsletters and other communication to coordinating admin such as posting resources and emailing information.

A little bit about myself: I have grown up in Newcastle in a Christian family and never really left the North East, going to Northumbria University to do a 4-year degree in Design for Industry (product design). After uni I worked for my church for a year as ministry trainee within the student team, where I did a lot of visual and physical design as well as 1-2-1s and co-leading Bible studies. I have a love of being creative and enjoy graphic design which means this role is great fun.

There is always lots to do in this role and does require plenty of brainstorming to come up with fresh ideas that can be used to put Celebrate Recovery UK out there. An aim of mine is to establish a solid team that can create, ideate or reimagine content so that we can have a consistent flow of resources that can be used at CRs across the UK.

My goal within this role is to bring together all the content, resources and communications into one clear message to allow CR UK to continue to grow and become an organisation that is well known across the UK for Christ-centred recovery for everyone. If you have any ideas, thoughts or comments about our social media and communication please get in touch, I'd love to hear from you: freddie@celebraterecovery.co.uk

Leadership Toolkit - Finding Testimonies

Testimonies bring recovery to life - turning Steps and Principles into real, relatable stories of change. Hearing others' journeys builds hope, reduces shame, and reminds us we're not alone. Most importantly, it helps people believe that lasting recovery - in Jesus - is possible.

In Celebrate Recovery, the "Yearly Lesson and Testimony Schedule" includes testimonies every other week, making them a consistent and essential part of the programme. With that in mind, how can you find the right testimonies for your group? Here are a few helpful ways to source them.

YOUR TEAM

Each leader can share a testimony annually, helping participants get to know the team's recovery stories, and helping leaders grow in their own journey.

OTHER CR GROUPS

Ask Ministry Leaders of other UK Celebrate Recovery groups to connect you with people from their groups who are willing to share.

LEADER'S GUIDE TESTIMONIES

The latest edition of the CR Leader's Guide includes three sample testimonies that can be read out in the Large Group meeting.

BRITISH VOLUME OF TESTIMONIES

Order and download testimonies from the Celebrate Recovery UK online shop: celebraterecovery.co.uk/shop/

TESTIMONIES TO GO (U.S.)

There are several American CR volumes of "Testimonies to Go" purchasable from celebraterecovery.com/resources/

PARTICIPANTS

...who have completed a Step Study and experienced life change.

CR COMMUNITY

The church license gives access to testimonies in the video library. celebraterecovery.mn.co/

MORE INFO

Website: celebraterecovery.co.uk
Facebook: [/CelebrateRecoveryUK](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateRecoveryUK)
Instagram: [@celebraterecoveryuk](https://www.instagram.com/celebraterecoveryuk)
YouTube: [Celebrate Recovery UK](https://www.youtube.com/CelebrateRecoveryUK)

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TO GIVE

