



Aberdeen Straight-Way Ltd

The Way Trust was started in May 2001 to help male ex-offenders and ex-substance misuse addicts into employment and also to introduce them to a stable lifestyle through the strength that Christ can give.

Aberdeen Straight-Way Ltd was formed to support the men through a work employment programme. We are involved in most types of landscaping and the business has developed over the last five and a half years to a point where we can handle contracts of several thousands of pounds.

We also carry out work for Aberdeen City Council installing disabled access equipment and minor modifications to existing premises.

Since Straight-Way started approximately 80 men have passed through the project. Some have moved onto a more structured life, unfortunately some have fallen by the wayside as their addiction overcame them. Each day starts with a thought for the day followed by a short prayer – in this way the men are introduced to the Love of God and why Jesus died for each one of us.

2007 has started with new work premises becoming available for us. This will come in handy for poor weather work and help to avoid a loss of working time. We hope to build sheds and other timber items at this new site.



Wanted Christian Tradesman

Come and work with us and share the vision.

If you are interested or would like to know more please e-mail us.
stan@straight-way.co.uk



New appointments



Andrea Balfour joined the Gateway@Credo project in January 07 as project co-ordinator. Andrea has recently moved to Aberdeen from Edinburgh where she worked with Bethany Christian Trust for 12 ½ years. Most recently she was deputy manager at

Bethany Christian Centre which is a residential

recovery centre with specialised support for homeless men with addiction issues.

Andrea is excited to be following her dream to help set up and run a Christian café. Her role in Gateway @ Credo will mainly consist of recruiting and supporting volunteers and clients. Andrea is keen that the coffee shop reflects the love of God and that it will be a happy place in the community for workers and customers to spend time. It is the hope that through Gateway @ Credo many women will gain access to meaningful employment

and improve in their skills, experience and education.

There will be opportunity to work in the Coffee Shop, kitchens and Craft/Gift shop. Women will be supported through a personalised structured programme to learn different aspects of the work place from cooking and cleaning to customer service. This training will hopefully improve the quality of the clients lives, self esteem, experience and skills, giving confidence to help them to move on to access full time employment.



Profile of Alfie Cordiner Project Manager Gateway @ Credo

Alfie was born and educated in Aberdeen. On leaving School he completed a course in Business Studies at Aberdeen Commercial College and then went

to Langside College in Glasgow where he completed a two-year Catering and Hotel Management Course. Alfie was fortunate to be offered a Traineeship with Scotland's largest popular Catering Company –

MacVitties Guest where he gained skills and experience in all aspects of the catering industry from opening and operating a small snack bar to help in supervising a Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House.

On returning to Aberdeen, Alfie ran his own Restaurant in the centre of Union Street for nearly 30 years. Latterly this business also provided secure bedsit accommodation for female Christian students. On selling the business, and after recovering fully from a heart attack, Alfie accepted the post of Retail Manager at Aberdeen's Gordon Highlanders Museum where he worked for six years. During this time the Museum became one of the most popular visitor attractions in Aberdeen and gained 5star status from Visit

Scotland.

Alfie became a Christian at a young age and he and his wife are founder members of Deeside Christian Fellowship Church in Milltimber Aberdeen. They both take very active roles in the life of the church and Alfie has served as deacon, Junior Church Superintendent, and is a member of the Care Group. Alfie and Edna have two daughters, a married son and a granddaughter. Alfie says, "I feel I have been training all my life for this exciting but demanding job. I know that great things are going to be achieved through Gateway @ Credo and am sure the Christian community will give the project their support."

Gateway @ Credo Shop Manager

Shenagh Walker, married with two daughters. One daughter married and living in Edinburgh the other travelling in Australia at the moment.

An Aberdonian but was brought up in Nigeria until school age. Went to Aberdeen High School for Girls. Married and then went to live in Kuwait for 5 years.

Have done a variety of jobs from Secretarial, salesperson and in Kuwait I was a teaching assistant.

Started my own business in

1989. Was owner of a childrenswear and nursery goods shop in Aberdeen until May 2006 when after 17 years in retail felt that it was time for change.

Active church member most of my life. Taught Sunday school from teenager and helped to bring a Sunday school to a church in Kuwait.

Member of Deeside Christian Fellowship church for about 12 years and I have been involved with youth group for local

children in primary 4 to 7 for about 8 years.

Have just started to help out with Scripture union at the local primary school.

Having just got involved with this project I am totally excited and I am really looking forward to doing God's work and being of some help in this wonderful venture. It is going to be such a lifeline to so many people who are desperate for constructive help in this way led by such a team of dedicated, caring people.

Progress at John Street



The photos show the new stair and lift shaft going in, the roof covering replacement underway and a general front elevation.

Progress is good, the Café kitchen has been ordered and we would expect to see things operating in May, all being well.

Why be a volunteer?

A Thought.. "We will never know the power of an encouraging word spoken into the life of one in whom the light of hope has been snuffed out."

Bill Wilson "Crosshairs"

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it FOR ME"
Matthew 25 v 40

Jetton and Joyce, two ladies who volunteer at the Lighthouse say..

"I felt so inadequate feeling I had nothing to give but once I started volunteering and working as part of a team I really felt my confidence growing. I am so glad that I am involved as part of a team which is supporting others."

It's not all smooth going but I get joy out of helping others and showing God's love. It is putting your faith into real action.

What Gateway @ Credo would mean to me

Two girls from the Lighthouse who are looking forward to the new Gateway work training project say..

"If I had something to fill my day it would make such a difference to my life.

You feel so much better about yourself if you have something to get up for in the morning, to have something to look forward to each day. And look forward to getting paid for work rather than living on benefits.

When you don't know people its scary to try and find work. It's difficult to get motivated to look for work when you feel people look down on you because you don't have qualifications. We need help with confidence building. It's difficult when you feel low. Without support I would find life much harder..all areas of support like how to handle money, form filling, housing issues. I look forward to meeting new people at the new project, and getting away from the area where I live. It opens up new possibilities for me" Julie.



"Every day I go to the shop and go back home. sit on the couch with a remote control till the next day. It is pretty boring! If I could learn how to work. something easy to start with. Being an ex-drug addict I'm not sure who would have me.

I look forward to meeting different people. I get support at The Lighthouse and it gives me the will power and belief in myself. It helps put me on the right track. If I am upset there is always somebody there to help me.

Once I get a house I want to do something with my life. and put back something into society. I just want to work and be a "normal person"..even just for my kids." Sharon.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Full-time Cook or 2 Part-time Cooks

With the opening of the Gateway @ Credo Project in May we are looking for either a Full Time Cook or two part time Cooks to look after the kitchen side of the project.

Their responsibilities will be to provide good wholesome food. This will include making soup and sandwiches, baking scones and home bakes, and preparing and serving a lunch menu, which will consist of sandwiches, paninis, baked potatoes, etc.

We hope that the cook(s) will be able to work alongside the girls on the project teaching them skills that will help them in the future. Training will be given if you are unsure about any area of the job.

If you would like to discuss this position please call Alfie Cordiner 01224 732894.

Volunteers Required

We are requiring volunteers to work alongside the girls on the project. You do not need to have worked in a Coffee Shop before; just be willing to learn! We will teach you how to set up, take orders, serve customers, clear tables, operate the dishwasher, help in the kitchen, operate the till, serve in the shop and much more. If you are willing to be involved in any of these tasks we will be delighted.

Along with helping in these areas of the operation you will have the opportunity to work with the girls, get to know them, and give them encouragement. This is Practical Christianity in action and you can be one of the pieces in the jigsaw in the lives of these women.

If you have a spare morning or afternoon each week please think about it, then phone Andrea to arrange a chat when she will be happy to tell you more about this opportunity to serve.

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