



The Pact Story

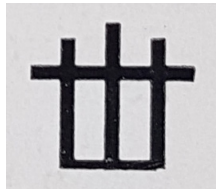
120 years of serving

Prisoners • Families • Communities

A Fresh Start Together



Pact throughout the years





Pact is a national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions and their families to make a fresh start. We work to minimise the harm that can be caused by imprisonment to people who have committed offences, to families and to communities.

www.prisonadvice.org.uk

CCLA shares our vision for a fairer society. They seek to help charities, religious organisations and the public sector maximise their impact on society by harnessing the power of investment markets.

www.ccla.co.uk

Acknowledgments & Credits

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Wilf Weeks – Pact Trustee

Paul Booton – Pact Trustee

Andy Keen-Downs – Pact CEO

Louise Potter – Pact Communications Manager

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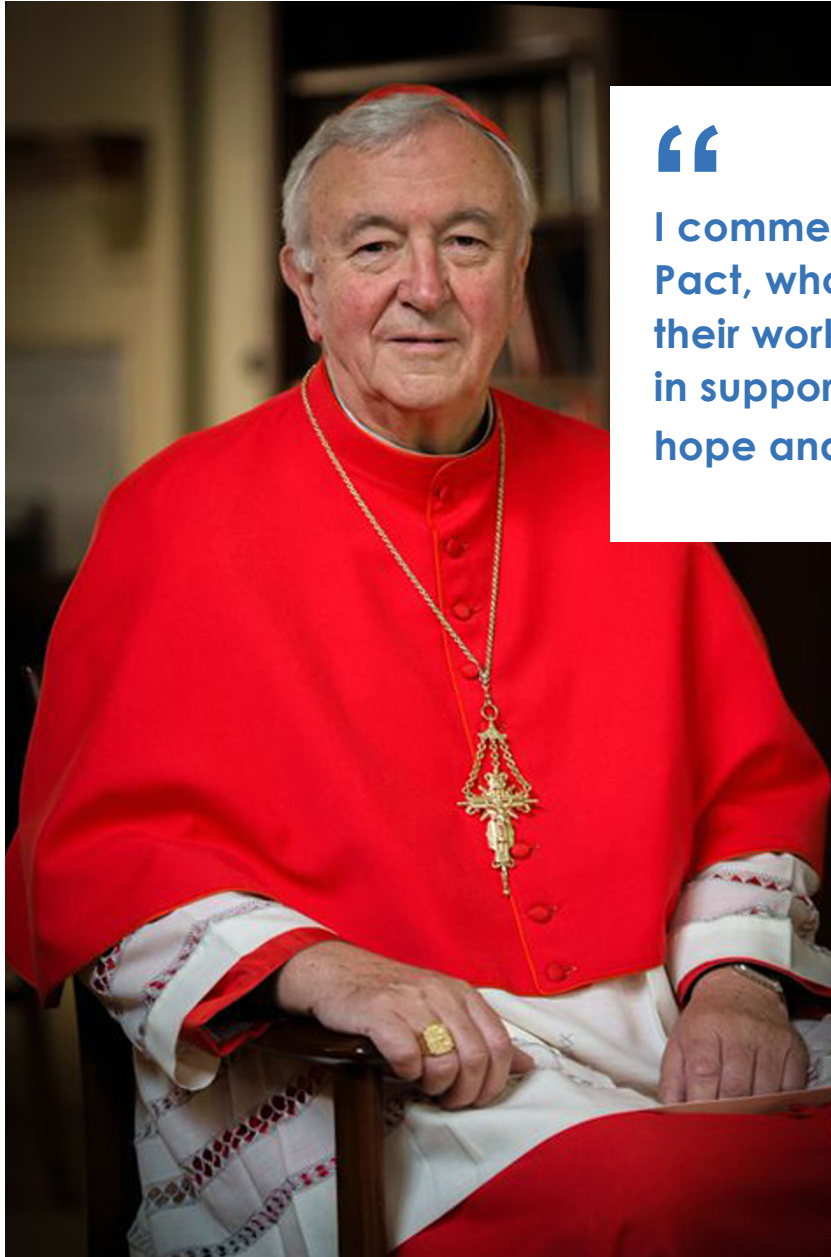
The Pact Supporter Relations Team

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I commend to you the work of Pact, who in every aspect of their work, go beyond their duty in support of those in need of hope and a fresh start.

A FOREWORD

From His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop Of Westminster

President of the Prison Advice and Care Trust



This year is a very special year for Pact, as it marks its 120th Anniversary, and I encourage you to find out more about its inspiring work, and consider how you can become a part of their story. I would particularly like to thank the many parishes and supporters who have taken this cause to their hearts in the generous support they have provided for Pact throughout its history.

Founded in 1898 by Canon Cooney, a priest who provided care to Catholic prisoners and their families in London, today, the charity supports people from every Diocese in England and Wales and works in over 60 prisons as well as in many Courts and local community settings.

Indeed, if you visit Pact's website:

www.prisonadvice.org.uk then you will discover something of the breadth and depth of the charity's work. Pact is the only charity that supports people from the point of sentencing to release and cares not only for those in prison but also for the families left behind. This year, over 200,000 children will suffer

the heartache and trauma of the arrest, trial and imprisonment of a parent.

Pact supports prisoners' children to cope with the effects of imprisonment, and where possible, to maintain meaningful relationships with their mums and dads in prison. To do this, they depend upon the generosity of our parish communities, and the time and talents of volunteers.

In drawing our attention to Jesus' well known teaching in the Gospel of Matthew, in which he identified himself with a prisoner (Mt 25:35), and to the fact that Jesus himself reached the end of his earthly life as a prisoner, Pact's work makes it clear that prisons and imprisonment are not things that the Christian community can lightly ignore or easily forget.

I pray that we may never forget that all people, whoever they are and whatever they have done, are loved by God and called to his Kingdom. I commend to you the work of Pact, who in every aspect of their work, go beyond their duty in support of those in need of hope and a fresh start.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

**Archbishop of Westminster
President of Pact**

FROM LITTLE ACORNS

It all began with the case of the child Roots

Minutes of the Meeting of the C.P.A.S., Friday, September 16th 1898.
The committee met at 5 p.m.
present Father S. John, in the Chair, Mr. Parr, Mr. Bowen Rowlands, Mr. Arving Lloyd, the Hon. Frank Russell, Treasurer, and the Secretary.

The case of the child Roots was discussed, and the secretary was instructed to write to S.P.C.C. ~~and to ask~~ explaining the circumstances, asking that the child might be transferred to The Home of the Good Shepherd, East Finchley and asking also for the grant of 10/- the S.P.C.C. had offered Father Seddon for this case. Mr. Bowen Rowlands and I took at the same time to communicate privately with the S.P.C.C.
In the case of Higgins it was decided to write to the C.P.S.
Several other cases were brought forward of women prisoners and small amounts expended on their account by Mr. Parr were sanctioned.

(After) Reproduction of page one of the first minutes September 1898

The Minutes of the Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society, Friday 16 September 1898

On 16th September 1898, at the instigation of Canon John Cooney, an Irish Catholic priest, the first meeting of the Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society (CPAS) was held. We wasted no time in getting down to the business of supporting prisoners, people with convictions, their children and families.

A different world. The same mission.

Our very first recorded 'beneficiary' was a child who we know only as the 'Child Roots'. We believe the child to have been a little girl, as the minutes tell us that we arranged for her to be placed in the care of the nuns at the Home of the Good Shepherd in East Finchley, and we know that this convent took in a number of girls at this time. We can only imagine the specific reasons why this prisoners' child had no one to care for her. What this record brings to light is that from the very start, we have concerned ourselves with the children of prisoners, who have no voice and who fall through the cracks in the system.



Representative photo of the 'Child Roots'

Adelaide Springett in all her best clothes by Horace Warner, circa 1900, from Spitalfields Nippers published by Spitalfields Life Books

In 2018, over 200,000 children like 'Roots' will suffer the pain and disruption of the arrest, trial and imprisonment of a parent in England and Wales.

The first page of our Minutes also tell us that we assisted a prisoner or ex-prisoner known as 'Higgins', and a number of women in prison.

120 years later, and our name has changed more than once. Yet our mission remains the same. We continue to support children of prisoners, and champion their right to a happy, healthy family life and a bright future. We continue to support both men and women in prison, and on release. And we support prisoners' families, in all their diverse shapes and sizes.

Our belief in the innate dignity of each and every person, regardless of what they have done, remains unshaken, and at the core of our culture and practice. As does our conviction in the potential of every person to make a fresh start. We continue to champion strong, stable families, and the rehabilitative power of loving, affirming human relationships. We work with prison governors and others of like-mind, with the vision of a justice system which is restorative, focused on rehabilitation and learning, and which harnesses the power of families, communities, volunteers – of all of us – to ensure that when people leave prison, they not only stay out but have the opportunity to rebuild their lives, raise children who will avoid offending, and contribute to the common good.



Our belief in the innate dignity of each and every person, regardless of what they have done, remains unshaken

In this document, we will take you through just a few of the key moments in our 120 year history, including some pivotal milestones that shaped us as an organisation. We pay tribute to the thousands of people who have made Pact what it is today, and whose legacy lives on in our work.

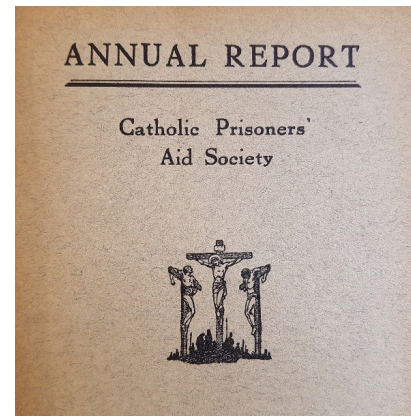
Britain and the Criminal Justice System in 1898

In 1898 Queen Victoria had reigned for 61 years. Prisons were grim and forbidding places with the rule of silence enforced and all communication forbidden.

However, there were some reforms made during the 19th Century which enabled prisoners to get

support in prison and after release. Prison visiting by Lady Visitors had become an influential cause following the pioneering work of Elizabeth Fry at Newgate prison, and by 1823, statute provided for Chaplains to attend prisons and for the inspection of prisons.

In 1898 the Prisons Act gave wider responsibilities on Prison Commissioners for administering and inspecting prisons. That Act also abolished the use of the treadmill - a machine that felt like a never ending staircase to the prisoners who had to operate it, which was used to grind grain or generate power. However, hard labour was still used as a punishment at this time. This was the world into which Pact was born.



Our first Annual Report and logo

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Our vision is of a society in which justice is understood as a process of restoration and healing, in which prisons are used sparingly and as places of learning and rehabilitation, and in which the innate dignity and worth of every human being is valued.

1898: THE CHARITY WAS BORN

On September 16th 1898 our first recorded meeting took place at Archbishop's House in Westminster – where our office would be based for the first three years of our existence. Pact was then known as the Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society (CPAS).

The first Secretary was Mr Henry Davison who was appointed at a salary of £2 per week. The charity was founded thanks to the efforts of John Cooney, a Catholic priest who was born in Ireland in 1861.

Lord Russell of Killowen was CPAS's first Treasurer. As recorded in our 1952 Annual Report, Lord Killowen "collected money from his own friends and professional colleagues

... to provide the money that was needed for clothes, tools, food and other necessities until honest work could be found." He was a lawyer who became a judge of the Supreme Court and then in the House of Lords.

The charity was founded thanks to the efforts of John Cooney. Canon Cooney acted as a chaplain to the men in HMP Wandsworth prison. He was described as 'not only a saintly priest but also an active citizen'. He recognised 'the necessity of help being given to prisoners on their discharge and to their families while they were in prison, if these unfortunate men were to make a new start in life.'

1902: OUR FIRST VOLUNTEERS GET TO WORK

The CPAS was officially certified by the Home Office Prison Commission as a recognised Prisoners' Aid Society. For most of our history, the number of employed staff could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and most of our work was

carried out by volunteers. Amongst the first were Sisters and lay friends of the Sisters at St Vincent's Convent, Carlisle Place. Today, the St Vincent Centre in Carlisle Place is headquarters to The Passage.



Never was a parish priest more beloved by his flock



John Cooney (1861-1939)
The founder of CPAS/Pact

The Very Reverend Canon John Cooney,
Southwark Diocesan Archives.

In 1902 the Sisters at Bickerton Road and Rotherhithe agreed to take in "inebriate women" discharged from the Ashford Reformatory if recommended to them by the charity.

1903: STEPPING OUT INTO THE LONDON COURTS

The Sisters of Charity set up a 'Lady Visitors Group' to attend the police courts, and to provide support and guidance to women and girls whose loved ones were facing a custodial sentence. During the first month, the Dowager Duchess of Newcastle, one of the first members of the group, supported families at West London, Bow Street and Westminster courts.

1905

Close links were formally established between the CPAS and the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP).

1908: THE CREATION OF BORSTALS

In 1908 we saw the creation of Borstals. For the first time, young prisoners were to be treated separately and not mixed with older prisoners.

At the time, boys and girls who were released on licence were more at risk of reoffending than adults with convictions. The primary aim of the Borstal was to ensure that, on release, the boy or girl was placed under the supervision of an Association

whose first priority was their rehabilitation. At this time, a number of boys were assisted by the CPAS in learning to read and write and in finding employment as seafarers.

There were also reformatories for those convicted of drunkenness. This was a very challenging issue in our early days, and was frequently mentioned in our Annual Reports and Annual Meetings.

The National Archives, Kew, PCOM 2/290/53



A ten year old boy who was sent to HMP Wandsworth for stealing two rabbits before the creation of borstals

1910

Speaking as Home Secretary in the House of Commons on 20th July 1910, Sir Winston Churchill reflected “that the mood and temper of the public with regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilisation of any country”, and he urged the importance of having “unfailing faith that there is a treasure, if only you can find it, in the heart of every man.”

WWI

War was declared on 4th August 1914 and more than 70 million people worldwide are mobilised by global armed forces. The war continues for four years and more than 41 million people lose their lives.

1914:

THE CHARITY GOES TO WAR

Within a few weeks of war being declared, one member of staff and three members of our committee enlisted. Our work continued, and our volunteers and staff carried on supporting prisoners and their families during this time of uncertainty and fear.

1916:

A TALE OF GALLANTRY

In 1916, our Annual Report talks about a prisoner who was supported by the charity, who went on to fight in WWI and was awarded a Military Medal.

“A convict who had been discharged to our care the previous year, gained the Military Medal by distinguished gallantry, coolness, and resource, in a bombing attack.”

Russian Civil War

In 1918 the Russian Civil War begins, and rages on until 1921. The Bolsheviks secure power and defeat their enemies, and Communism is established in Russia.

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In the Annual Report for this year, we give a special thanks to the Sisters of Charity whose dedication and support acted as a lifeline to three-four hundred women prisoners.



A Prison Van in the early 1900s at HMP Wormwood Scrubs

Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick with permission from the Howard League for Penal Reform.

1922: ON THE RUN FROM THE BOLSHEVIKS

In 1922, our Annual Report told the story of a young man we were supporting, who was on the run from the Bolsheviks and found himself in HMP Brixton.

“A young Russian subject, to evade the Bolsheviks, against whom he had been fighting, landed in England without permission. He was found in Brixton prison awaiting deportation to Russia, and, as he feared, to execution as a rebel. The Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society investigated, and appealed to the Home Office that he might be allowed to join the French Foreign Legion, which was accorded.”

Pioneering support for women

In the Annual Report for this year, we give a special thanks to the Sisters of Charity whose dedication and support acted as a lifeline to three-four hundred women prisoners. "Turning to the three or four hundred women dealt with during the year, thanks are due to the Sisters of Charity and other ladies who regularly visit Holloway ... Without the Hostel for Discharged Women Prisoners at 497 Kings Road, Chelsea, we should be hard put to it for the disposal of the majority of the women we help. ... On the other side of the Thames, St Anne's Catholic Settlement, Harleyford Road, Vauxhall, has given hospitality and generous interest in every case for which appeal has been made."

It was during this period, when we were pioneering our services for women in prison, that the Suffragettes were imprisoned at HMP Holloway. Their campaigning and protesting for women to have the right to vote landed many of the Suffragettes in prison, where they suffered appalling treatment, including being force fed. The imprisonment of the Suffragettes made HMP Holloway an important and symbolic landmark in history.

The Great Depression

In the 1930s, Britain was experiencing the largest and most profound economic depression of the 20th century.

1932: THE CHARITY IS HIT BY THE GREAT SLUMP

During this year, we were facing severe financial difficulty. Tensions were high, and emergency meetings were called when the Hon. Treasurer resigned due to a nervous breakdown.

Staff numbers were drastically cut until only two staff remained, who were able to continue their work after taking a 15% pay reduction. There was a 40% drop in subscriptions and donations and we could not get an agreement from the Landlord for a temporary reduction in rent.

1938: CINEMAS STEP UP TO SUPPORT THE CPAS

As state funding dwindled, we became more dependent on subscriptions and charitable donations. We received a significant amount of financial support from donations from Cinemas, who, as part of the Sunday Opening Scheme, donated a proportion of their ticket sales on a Sunday to support our work. In 1938 the grant amounts to £166 15s. 10d.



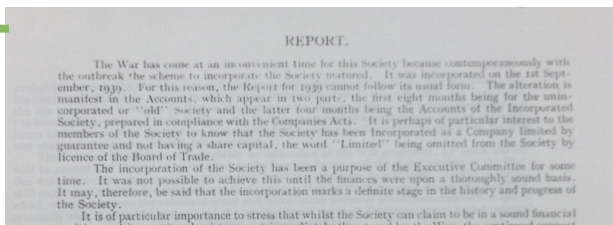
In 1938, people who flocked to see Errol Flynn in 'The Adventures of Robin Hood' on Sundays were responsible for £166, 15 Shillings and 10 pence in donations to the charity, thanks to the 'Sunday Opening Scheme', which required cinemas to donate to charities in return for being permitted to open on the Sabbath day.

The Canopy of the Art Deco Embassy Cinema, Chadwell Heath, London, UK, 1935, Royal Institute of British Architects Collection. Photographer: John Maltby. Architect: Harry Weston.

WWII

On 1st September 1939, World War II is declared, a global war that would last for six years and claim the lives of up to 80 million people.

For the CPAS, the war was poorly timed. Our 1939 Annual Report stated: "The War has come at an inconvenient time for this Society because contemporaneously with the outbreak, the scheme to incorporate the Society matured." On top of the "inconvenient" timing of WWII, we also suffered "the grievous loss" of our founder, Canon John Cooney.



A snippet from our 1939 Annual Report

1939:

PRISONERS MOVED TO THE PROVINCES

When war is declared, great changes take place in the London prison estate. Immediately on the outbreak of war, most prisoners in London are transferred to prisons outside of the city, and only HMP Wandsworth remains open. Later on, Brixton and Pentonville re-open but Wormwood Scrubs remains closed.



Children of an eastern suburb of London, who have been made homeless by the random bombs of the Nazi night raiders, waiting outside the wreckage of what was their home.

Braving the Blitz

Throughout the Blitz, our staff and volunteers, though now small in number due to the conflict and recession, continued to carry out their work, visiting prisoners' families throughout the war years.

The CPAS 1945 Annual Report states: "Throughout the raids, blackout, and other difficulties they carried on our work - at no time was it suspended, even though twice our offices were damaged by enemy action."

The Post-War Years

After a surprise victory for the Labour party in the 1945 election, the Welfare State began to be established. The new government focused on creating a society with social security, a national health service, free education, council housing and full employment.

1949: THE CHARITY BEGINS TO REBUILD

In 1949, we wrote in our annual report "... As a result of recent social legislation much work done in the name of charity, for the relief of distress and suffering, has become the responsibility of the State and some are of the opinion that this means the need for voluntary organisations has been eliminated. This is not so ..."

This would not be the last time that the Government of the day suggested we pack up our bags and leave it to them. Nor would it be the last time that we would politely but firmly decline (see 1965).

1954: A NEW CHAIRMAN IS ELECTED

Michael Gregory was elected to the Management Committee and was Chairman of the CPAS for 22 years. He remained on the Management Committee until his retirement in 1993, a period of almost 40 years.

"His determination, idealism and tenacity sustained the Society through many a crisis, some of which seemed likely to be terminal. It is no exaggeration to say that the existence of the Society today is due to his faith in its cause..."

1955

Lord Longford addressed the CPAS Annual Meeting. "There was", he said, "the need of much patience and indulgence in cases where ex-prisoners let us down time and time again." He was a regular prison visitor from the 1930s until his death in 2001 and a Vice-President of the CPAS from 1964. He is shown holding a portrait of himself painted by notorious gang leader Eddie Richardson, while Richardson was in prison in 1992.

1959: STATE SUPPORT FOR THE CHARITY GOES FROM BAD TO WORSE

State support for the CPAS had been dwindling since the Great Depression. In 1953, the Maxwell Committee report said:

"Hopes of financial benefit for the Society were dashed when we were later notified by the Prison Commission that the Society would not be included in the grants."

By 1959, state support would hit an all-time low. Our Annual Report stated:

"It is odd that in an era when the State aims to back every form of welfare, this Society, which makes a significant contribution to welfare, must depend almost entirely upon public subscription. Every other member of the NADPAS

(save the Jewish Society) receives a Government grant equivalent to half of their administration costs. But we are told that our work is merely supplemental to that of other Societies. ... The total grant we receive from the Government, paid ex gratia, is £15 a year.

"During the year 8 men and 5 women who were facing despair and misery by reason of attempted suicide, were given assistance by finding accommodation, work and money, but above all - hope. The value of this work is indicated by the fact that in no case have we been notified of a subsequent suicide attempt..."

Despite feeling demoralised and

undervalued by the state, we would continue to fight for prisoners and their families, and thanks to our loyal supporters and volunteers, our work would continue to grow in the face of adversity.



Thanks to our loyal supporters and volunteers, our work would continue to grow in the face of adversity

1964: PROBATION GOES PUBLIC

Historically, probation officers were employed locally to report on people on license who were placed under supervision by magistrates. They worked in local authorities and central government and with voluntary bodies for the welfare of discharged prisoners. Many voluntary organisations had probation officers on the staff, including the CPAS, as late as the 1970s.

However, as the Welfare State developed, probation came to be regarded as an arm of the State, not of local authorities, magistrates or voluntary societies. Reorganisations of probation services led to them being managed, paid and organised more centrally. By 1964 most voluntary organisations had lost their probation officer staff, who transferred to regional probation services, such as the Inner London Probation Service.

1965: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS ABOLISHED

The last executions in the United Kingdom were by hanging, and took place in 1964, prior to capital punishment being abolished for murder in 1965. Gallows remain in HMP Wandsworth.

The Home Office invites the charity to wind up

In 1965, statutory responsibility for the after care of prisoners passed to the Probation and After Care Services of the Home Office. The 'Prisoners Aid Societies', of which we were one, were written to by the Home Office, advising us in effect that our services would no longer be required. Here was our response.



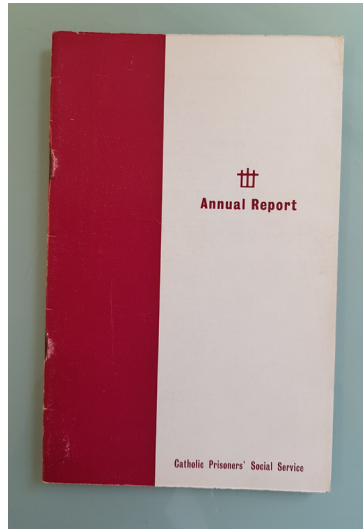
...experience has shown that there will still be need and scope for the Society to continue in co-operation with the Probation service their general welfare work for prisoners and their families.

The CPAS changes its image

1965 was a busy year for the charity, and after 67 years, we had our first name change. As of that year, we would be known as **the Catholic Prisoners' Social Service (CPSS)**.



After 67 years, we had our first name change



Our first annual report carrying our new CPSS logo

1966: HOPE FOR PRISONERS' FAMILIES

Owing to the appalling conditions under which some prisoners' families were living, it was decided that something must be done. We therefore formed a Housing Association under the name HOPE Housing Association Ltd and registered it as a charity. It had an independent committee and was run on non-denominational lines. The first President was Rev. Austen Williams, Vicar of St. Martin in the Fields.

1967: LADY SYLVIA CHANCELLOR CREATES THE 'PRISONERS' WIVES SERVICE'

The Prisoners' Wives Service, which was later to become the PFFS (Prisoners' Families & Friends Service), was the creation of an extraordinary woman called Lady Sylvia Chancellor. Today, PFFS is part of Pact, but for over 40 years it operated alongside us as a separate charity. Sylvia lived in China in her younger years.

When the Japanese invaded, she worked with the Jesuit Father Jacquinot in establishing a safe zone and hospital for the refugees who flooded into Shanghai. She was once arrested at a frontier post returning on the Trans-Siberian railway, and was taken first to Korea, then to Tokyo. She demanded, in Japanese,

to be sent to Shanghai, and remarkably, was obeyed by the Japanese troops.

On returning to England, Sylvia was involved in several good causes, but her most important achievement was the Prisoners' Wives Service. The idea came to her when a servant arrived one morning in tears, desperate

because her husband had been arrested and imprisoned for fraud. It seemed to Sylvia that there was a gap in social provision that needed to be filled, and she proceeded to fill it.

Recruiting people she knew to act as visitors, and raising money from the Waites Foundation and others, she established a small office, to provide advice and moral support to prisoners' families. This personal support was good, not only for those who had previously had to cope on their own when a loved one was sent to prison, often not knowing where to turn, but also for the prisoners themselves, who feel

reassured that their families were being cared for. Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, gave the Prisoners' Families & Friends Service, as it was later known, his blessing, and a liaison officer from the Inner London Probation Service was assigned to work with it. In 1973 it received a grant of £500 a year from the Home Office. Sylvia was awarded the OBE for her work for prisoners and their families. Later, Government funds were withdrawn, and in 2014, having fallen on hard times, PFFS trustees approached Pact with the request to be taken into management. Pact responded, and thanks to generous funding

from a number of trusts, rescued the charity's work, and rebuilt its services.

Sylvia's work to support prisoners' families in the community lives on in Pact. Today, our funding for this aspect of our service is entirely independent & charitably funded, and we continue to depend almost entirely on volunteers, many of whom have lived experience of being a prisoners' family member themselves. We now support several thousand families every year, in the courts, through our volunteer befrienders, in peer-support groups, on the telephone and online.

1969:

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER HELPS TO HOUSE YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING PRISON

The Diocese of Westminster loaned the use of two houses to the CPSS, which would be used to house young people being released from prison. Named Newland House, the hostel was home to up to 14 resident young people at a time. It consisted of 2 large terraced houses, completely re-decorated, providing 11 single rooms and a dormitory for three.



Four young residents socialising at Newland House in the 1960s

1971: THE CHARITY BRANCHES NORTH

In 1971, a full-time regional office was opened in Blackpool. The area covered by this office stretched from the Scottish Border to Warrington, with 31 prisons within the region. During its first 5 months, it received 1,800 enquiries for assistance.

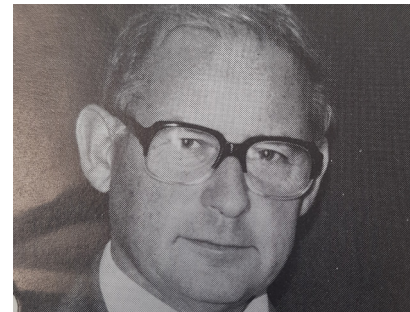
Over the next few years, the Blackpool office dealt with 4,000 clients and gave £600 in urgent financial relief.

1975: THE PRISONERS' WIVES AND FAMILIES SOCIETY IS BORN

A group of prisoners' wives, who had been meeting to support each other, decided to launch a self-help organisation, and in 1975 The Prisoners' Wives and Families Society (PWFS) was born. The PWFS was based in North London, and had close links with HMP Pentonville, supporting the wives and partners of many of the prisoners serving sentences in the establishment.

1981: A NEW DIRECTOR IS APPOINTED

On 5th January 1981 Neil Ockenden joins the CPSS and is appointed Secretary and Director.



Neil Ockenden, CPSS Director and Secretary

Volunteers give prisoners' children a well-deserved treat

In 1981, Sister Dolores, a CPSS volunteer, arranged a seaside holiday for 25 children and 13 mothers. For the next 10 years this summer holiday, together with a Christmas treat, became regular annual events for families.

1982: FINANCIAL PRESSURE CAUSES THE CHARITY TO REFOCUS ITS EFFORTS

Throughout the 1970s and 80s we felt significant financial strain due to lack of state funding and also the huge rates of inflation that the country was experiencing at that time.

We could no longer keep up with the financial commitments of running Newland House, so handed this over to SVP in 1974. In 1982, we

discontinued the use of our London office as a place at which casual callers could come for food, vouchers and clothing. Instead, we decided to concentrate on visiting prisons and helping prisoners to prepare, plan and make a new life on release, and on our work with prisoners' families.

1983:

POPE JOHN PAUL II VISITS AND PRAYS WITH THE MAN WHO SHOT HIM IN 1981 - MEHMET ALI AGCA

1984 - 1987:

THE CPSS EXPANDS

During this period, we developed 'prison visiting' schemes. John Duff, a retired senior probation officer, set up a Committee in the West Country.

The Durham Committee expanded its work to include Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland working in close cooperation with the SVP in Newcastle. The group comprised 20 volunteers who visit 5 prisons.

In 1987, following an inaugural meeting in Leeds attended by 70 people, voluntary groups were formed in Leeds, Wakefield and Huddersfield. The volunteers visited the prisons in those areas.

1990:

CPSS BECOMES THE BOURNE TRUST

On 1st August 1990 we changed our name to **The Bourne Trust**.

We took the name of Cardinal Bourne who had been our President from 1903 to 1935.

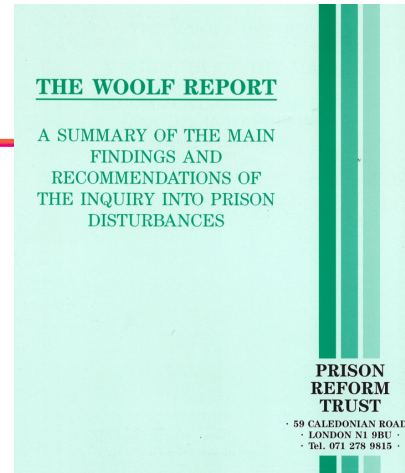
Francis Alphonsus Bourne by Lafayette, 28 September 1926 © National Portrait Gallery, London.



The Strangeways Riot

In 1990 the criminal justice system and the country was shaken by the Strangeways riot - a 25 day rooftop protest at Strangeways Prison in Manchester. The riot began as a protest against conditions in the prison, where prisoners were locked in their cells for up to 22 hours per day, were having to 'slop out', and were only permitted one shower per week.

The riot and rooftop protest ended when the final five prisoners were removed from the rooftop, making it the longest prison riot in British penal history. One prisoner was killed during the riot, and 147 prison officers and 47 prisoners were injured. Much of the prison was damaged or destroyed with the cost of repairs coming to £50 million.



Front cover of The Woolf Report: A Summary, 1991, courtesy of Prison Reform Trust.

In the wake of the Strangeways riot and other disturbances, Lord Woolf's report called for more assistance to enable prisoners to maintain family contact, which was considered to be one of several factors in this and other prison disturbances.

1991: WE JOIN FORCES TO PIONEER THE BUILDING OF THE FIRST FAMILY VISITORS' CENTRE

During the 1980s, the Prisoners Wives & Families Service and the Bourne Trust both focused attention on the needs of prisoners' families. At HMP Wormwood Scrubs we worked with the Governor to establish a purpose built Visitors' Centre which provides a warm, welcoming environment for prisoners' children and families, and signals a change in how families are treated across the criminal justice system.

1993: THE CHARITY OPENS THE FIRST PLAY SERVICE FOR PRISONERS' CHILDREN

The first Play Scheme opened at HMP Wormwood Scrubs, staffed by our volunteers. Open four sessions a week, it provided a place for children to relax and be occupied amid the difficult environment of a visits room. Based on the pioneering work of Kids VIP, other 'supervised play areas' are to follow, and work begins to persuade prisons to make visiting more child-friendly.'

1994-95: THE CHARITY ADVOCATES FOR VISITING FAMILIES

In 1994, shocked by the sight of prisoners' wives and children lining up along the prison wall of HMP Pentonville, Prisoners' Wives and Families Society persuaded the prison to give up a small room for use as a visitors' centre.

Also during this year, Margaret Hodgson joined Pact as a Trustee

and remains a Trustee to this present day, 24 years later.

In 1995, we secured funding from The Tudor Trust for a new purpose-built Visitors' Centre at Belmarsh prison and HMP Holloway. We took over management of the newly built family visitors' centres.



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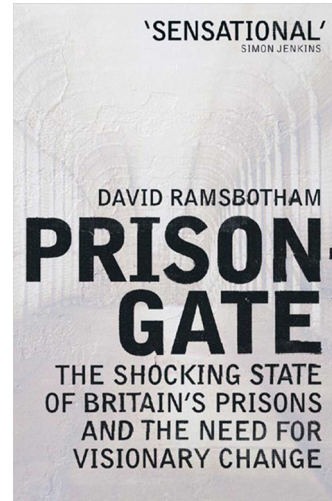


Families queue up outside a prison to visit their families (Andy Aitchison)

1998: THE CHARITY CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY

20 years ago, we marked our centenary with a Mass celebrated by our then President, His Eminence Cardinal George Basil Hume, OSB, Archbishop of Westminster.

Income received that year amounted to £292,345 and we had five paid members of staff.



2000: FIRST NIGHT SUPPORT IS ESTABLISHED FOR WOMEN IN HMP HOLLOWAY

In the year 2000 we secured funding for a pioneering 'First Night' Service at HMP Holloway, providing much needed emotional and practical support for women during their first few nights in prison. The work is inspired by retired Governor and Pact Trustee, Colin Allen.

When Governor at Holloway, Colin had been shocked at the sight of distressed women on remand who struggled to cope with the separation from children, and at the lack of co-ordinated care for children left behind. Colin is mentioned in 'Prisongate' having been the Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons who recommended the inspectorate team walk out of the HMP Holloway Inspection on the basis that the prison had declined to such an extent that it was not even fit to be inspected.

“ We secured funding for a pioneering 'First Night' Service - providing much needed emotional and practical support for women during their first few nights in prison. ”

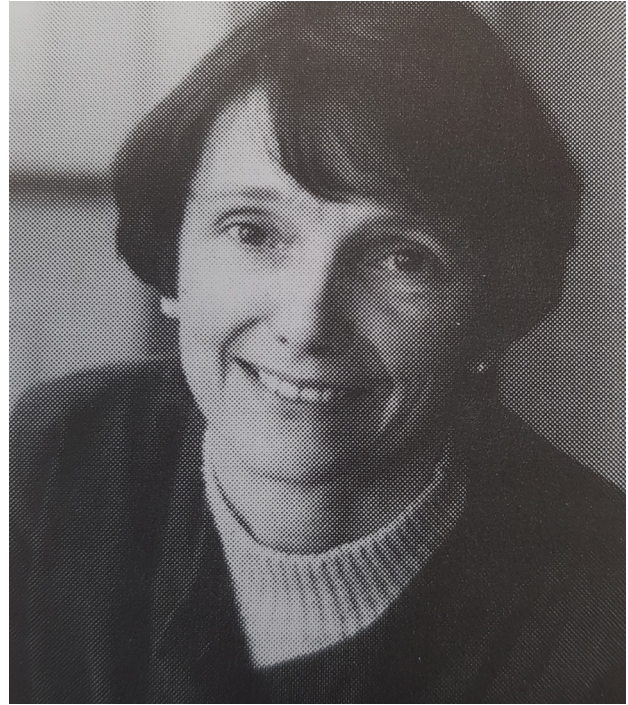


2001-2002: WE BECOME Pact

In October 2001, we acquired the Prisoners' Wives and Families Society through a merger. The Bourne Trust Director Myra Fulford remained in charge of the expanded organisation which rebranded and became the Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact), with a new orange logo featuring a design which symbolises both a rainbow and a bridge.

Also this year, we began running supervised play sessions in Holloway and Pentonville, and also in Channings Wood prison in Devon. At Exeter, Dartmoor and Channings Wood prisons, we set up new visitors' centres, and worked with the prisons to improve provision. At HMP Exeter, with Governor Ian Mulholland, we developed 'Insiders', peer-support volunteers, working in the First Night & Induction wing to support prisoners on arrival.

We began working at HMP Woodhill, where 16 years later, we still work today.



Myra Fulford, Pact CEO

2004:

A PLACE OF REDEMPTION

Pact's Director Myra Fulford plays a key role in the publication of 'A Place of Redemption' – a Christian approach to Punishment and Prison by the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.



Pact CEO Andy Keen-Downs
– 2005 – present day

2005: A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE TAKES THE REINS

In February 2005, Andrew Keen-Downs was appointed as the new Director of Pact.



For every suicide, it is estimated that prison officers prevent two prisoners taking their own lives. Self-harm is rife. Prison officers find themselves in the front line, and are given little credit for the lives they save, or the sometimes, intolerable demands placed on them.

2006: Pact DEVELOPS ITS DIVERSION AND RESETTLEMENT MODELS

Thanks to funding from the Tudor and Lankelly Chase Trusts and others, we developed a programme of innovation in Devon & Cornwall, in collaboration with Mary-Anne McFarlane, the Head of Devon & Cornwall Probation, we supported the creation of a new Community Court in Plymouth, and developed a service we call Community Advice & Support Service in the Court (CASS). This 'problem-solving' service supported hundreds of

defendants and their families, and diverted dozens of men from going to prison for relatively minor first offences.

Later, we created 'JustPeople'; the Devon & Cornwall Criminal Justice Volunteering Bureau. We established through the gate and community-based mentoring schemes, training volunteers from the local community. During this year, we also took over the running of the family visitors' centres at HMP Brixton and HMP Wandsworth.

2007: A GLOOMY LANDSCAPE FOR PRISONS

In 2007, prisons were felt to be in trouble. Little did we know how much worse it would get. But as ever, we operate as 'critical friends' to HM Prison Service. In the 2007 Annual Report the Chief Executive wrote:

2008: Pact's
CENTRES
WELCOME OVER
A QUARTER OF A
MILLION VISITORS



The team gets to work on building the new visitors' centre for families at HMP Wormwood Scrubs

Pact breaks ground with state of the art family visitors' centre at Wormwood Scrubs

We began to pilot prison-based caseworkers. We secured charitable funding and a Government commission to pilot 'Prison-based Family Support Workers' at Belmarsh, Wandsworth and Eastwood Park women's prison. Positive evaluations follow, to the extent that HMPS launches a competition to provide the service further afield, which we secure, establishing the service at several more prisons, including some in partnership with NEPACS in the North East.

In 2008, after a significant growth in our services, over 260,000 individual visitors came through the doors of our visitors' centres,

including just under 50,000 children.

Pact continued to work with HMP Wormwood Scrubs and the Tudor Trust to improve facilities for visiting families. Advising and assisting the Tudor Trust, plans got underway for building a brand new family visitors' centre to replace the previous centre which was now worn out and overcrowded.

We worked with other charities including POPS & NEPACS for over two years with Government officials on specifications and guidance regarding how families should be supported through prison visits.



A team of BaCC volunteers

2009: THROUGH THE GATE SUPPORT AND BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

In 2009, we turned our attentions to our resettlement services, and launched the Basic Caring Communities initiative, which provided an intensive mentoring service for people leaving prison in London, provided by groups of Christian volunteers.

2010: SIR HAROLD HOOD IS REMEMBERED WITH PUBLIC LECTURE

Pact hosts the first Sir Harold Hood Lecture in memory of Sir Harold Hood, a longstanding Vice President and supporter of Pact and lifelong advocate for prison reform, prisoners' children and families. The first lecture was given by Archbishop Vincent Nichols in the chapel of Brixton prison.



Bishop Richard Moth, Associate Professor Galena Rhoades (University of Denver), Simon Pellew OBE and Oonagh Ryder (CLINKS) at the 2017 Sir Harold Hood Lecture

2011:

A BITTERSWEET DAY AT WORMWOOD SCRUBS

Photo by Mike Benwell



The state-of-the-art family Visitors' Centre at HMP Wormwood Scrubs

After five years of collaboration, planning and design work between Pact, the Tudor Trust and Wormwood Scrubs, the £1 million purpose-built family visitors' centre opened. The centre would be a much needed improvement on the previous facilities, and is intended to be an example of excellence and

inspire other prisons to improve facilities for visitors which are often poor and depressing spaces.

Sadly, as the centre opened, management of the centre and family support services were transferred to another organisation following the tendering out of London visits

services in the first regional competition of its kind. Pact lost one third of its staff overnight. We also saw the termination of the First Night service in HMP Holloway that year. The charity rapidly re-organised. Friends and supporters rallied, and several large donations saved us from having to make deeper cuts.



A father and daughter enjoying Pact's Time to Connect prison family day

But it wasn't all bad news!

In 2011, we acquired Kids VIP - which had expertise in developing child-centred family days and play services, as well as skills in training and working with prisons to develop more 'child-centred' approaches. Together with Pact, "Time to Connect" was created, a prison-based parenting course focusing on the role of play.

2012: INDEPENDENT STUDY EXAMINES THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF Pact's FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

During this year, we commissioned the first independent economic study of our Integrated Family Support (IFS) Programme – which is today known as our Family Engagement Work. The study, carried out by the New Economic Foundation (nef) found that every £1 invested in Pact's Integrated Family Support represented an £11.41 saving to the state.

This was the year that we unveiled our new logo and began to look like the Pact we are today.



Prisoners • Families • Communities
A Fresh Start Together



A couple spending quality time together at a Pact family visit

2013: TIME FOR FAMILIES – Pact BUILDS ITS EXPERTISE IN RELATIONSHIP COURSES

In 2013, following extensive discussions between Andy Keen-Downs and Simon Pellaw, Time for Families joined Pact, bringing in expertise in delivering and designing prison-based relationship courses. Pact added two new relationship programmes to its portfolio:

- Building Stronger Families which supports prisoners and their partners to strengthen their relationship, and...
- Building Bridges, a course for young people in prison to strengthen their relationship with a parent/carer, or adult role model.

Based on the American 'PREP' programme, today, these and other courses enable Pact to provide accredited, evidence-based programmes inside prisons for men and women and key family members.

2014: Pact JOINS FORCES WITH THE PRISONERS' FAMILIES AND FRIENDS SERVICE & LAUNCHES Pact FUTURES

In 2014, there was yet another merger. The Prisoners' Families and Friends Service (PFFS) joined forces with Pact, enabling us to support families in London from the courts to release.

In this year, Pact created Pact Futures CIC as an independent wholly owned subsidiary. The new Community Interest Company is chaired by Adrian Masters, with Ellen Green acting as Managing Director. Over the next three years, Pact Futures will compete for and win £1M of contracts to deliver services for men and women leaving prison.

2015: Pact WINS THE LONGFORD PRIZE

Pact was awarded the Longford Prize which "recognises the contribution of an individual, group or organisation working in the area of penal or social reform in showing outstanding qualities of humanity, courage, persistence, originality and commitment to diversity."



Left to right: Pact CEO Andy Keen-Downs, Governor of HMP Coldingley Jo Sims, Lord Michael Farmer pictured at a Pact event

2016: ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Pact CEO Andy Keen-Downs, is invited to assist Lord Michael Farmer and Clinks on his review of what works to reduce the risk of re-offending and inter-generational offending by men in custody. Pact helps gather in letters, survey responses and evidence from hundreds of prisoners, prisoner family members, and organisations. Pact, together with a group of other charities who are concerned about the needs of prisoners' families, is consulted by HMPS on what kind of services it should be commissioning at prisons.



We stand on the shoulders of thousands of unnamed individuals, who have courageously stepped forward to make a difference.

2017: DO MIGHTY OAKS GROW

The Ministry of Justice puts all family services at prisons out to competitive tender. Services that can be commissioned include several that Pact invented, whether as the Bourne Trust, Kids VIP, PWFS or PFFS. Pact secures contracts to work at 34 prisons, including women's prisons, and all adult men's prisons in London, Thames Valley, Wales, the South East, parts of the South West, East Midlands and South Yorkshire.



A father and his daughter making crafts at a Pact Christmas Family Day

Pact celebrates 120 years of service, providing family support services in over 60 prisons across England & Wales, 12 London courts, and providing resettlement services in 9 probation areas. 200 staff are employed within the Pact Group and 500 volunteers deliver responsive, caring services to tens of thousands of people.

As in 1898, when we assisted 'the child Roots', we continue to express our care and concern for the children of prisoners. We develop new work in schools, courts and with the police to advocate for children, and launch a series of recommendations called 'Hear our Voice', and co-produce a series of animations with a group of prisoners' children.

Our Helpline assists over 8,000 worried families. Rates of self-harm, violence and suicide in the

prisons in England and Wales are at an all-time high. The Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme is condemned as inadequate by the Inspector of Probation. We stand on the shoulders of thousands of un-named individuals, who have courageously stepped forward to make a difference. We are humbled by their service and their struggles and thank each and every one of them. Our job is not done.

We ask you now to join us in the months and years ahead, as we continue to fulfil our mission, and work towards our vision of a society in which justice is understood as a process of restoration and healing, in which prisons are used sparingly and as places of learning and rehabilitation, and in which the innate dignity and worth of every human being is valued.

This is our Legacy, what will yours be?

Do you want to support prisoners, people with convictions and their families to make a fresh start? There are a number of ways you can get involved with Pact:

Make a donation: You can make an online donation by visiting prisonadvice.org.uk/donate, by cheque or by post to: Pact, 29 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UA

Volunteer your time: Start your volunteering journey with Pact by visiting prisonadvice.org.uk/volunteer

Sign up to our newsletter: Visit our website prisonadvice.org.uk and sign up to our newsletter at the bottom left hand side of the page

Join our events mailing list: Stay in the loop about upcoming Pact events by emailing news@prisonadvice.org.uk and ask to join our events mailing list

Parishes: Be a place of welcome for parishioners who suffer in silence when a loved one is sent to prison. There are many ways you can support our work and those we support. Visit www.prisonadvice.org.uk/parish-support

Corporates: There are a variety of ways that companies can support our work, through donations, volunteering or sponsoring events. To find out more contact supporterrelations@prisonadvice.org.uk

Share your story: Do you have a story to tell about how Pact has supported you? Or do you want to share your experiences of the criminal justice system? Tell us your story by emailing pact.stories@prisonadvice.org.uk



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