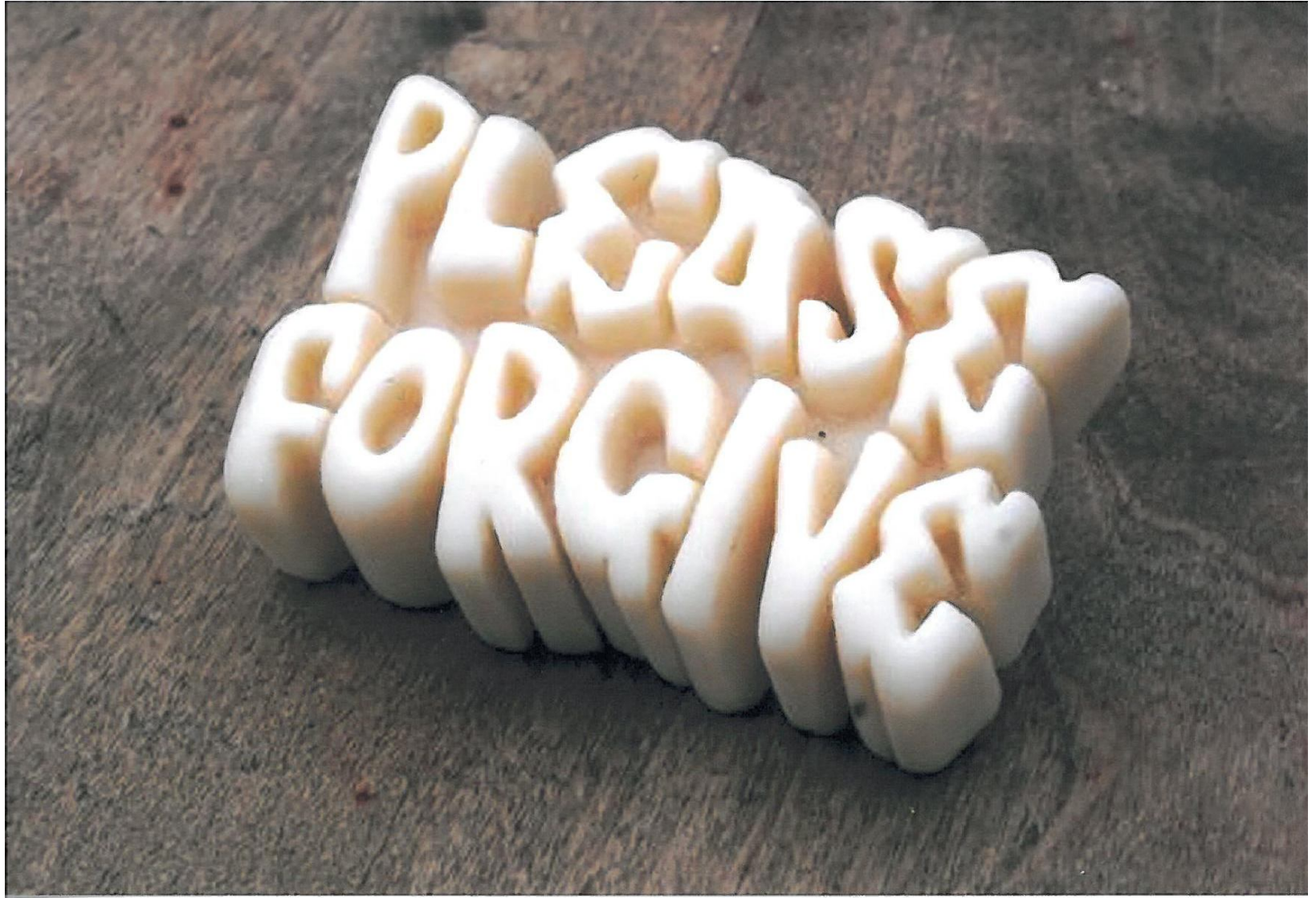




# SYCAMORE TREE

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CEO – Prison Fellowship













# **What is Sycamore Tree**

**Sycamore Tree is a programme focussing on raising Victim Awareness and teaching the principles and application of Restorative Justice.**



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## So What happens?

The Sycamore Tree programme involves talks, DVD clips, drama and large and small group discussions. During the programme, offenders are introduced to a real-life victim who will share their own story of crime. At the end of the programme, learners are encouraged to make a '*symbolic act of restitution*' as a first step towards making amends.





# How does it work?

Sycamore Tree is run by trained Prison Fellowship volunteers and consists of six sessions which are:

- **Restorative Justice - What's that?** Introducing Restorative Justice, telling the story of Zac
- **Taking Responsibility.** The impact of crime on victims, offenders and the community
- **Saying Sorry - Showing you are sorry.** Listening to victim's stories
- **Reconciliation.** What is the benefit to offenders, victims and the community?
- **Taking the next step.** Planning what to do
- **A symbolic act of restitution.** Making reparation





# How can we tell it works?

**In 2009 Sheffield Hallam University undertook a review of the effectiveness of Sycamore Tree based on 5000 psychometric questionnaires completed by learners before and after the course.**

## **Some key findings were:**

- **Across the whole sample of prisoners there were significant positive attitudinal changes**
- **Statistical analysis indicates that these changes are associated with completion of the programme**
- **The positive changes are associated with all groups of prisoners including male, female, adult and young prisoners**
- **The positive changes are also evidenced across all institutional categories**







# Accreditation



**Prison Fellowship is a NOCN Approved Centre. Staff and volunteers receive training in tutoring and assessing to OCN ER requirements.**



**Sycamore Tree – a 6-session in-prison course, accredited by OCN ER, runs at Levels One and Two (3 credits). The course title is: “Taking Responsibility for Personal Actions”**



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# **Growth of Sycamore Tree**

**Up to 31st March 2010:**

**We have run 929 Sycamore Tree  
programmes**

**14,184 prisoners have taken part**



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# Who are Prison Fellowship?

- **Prison Fellowship is a volunteer-based organisation**
- **We have been operating in England and Wales for 30 years**
- **We have around 1,400 volunteers supported by a small number of paid staff**
- **Staff and volunteers are motivated by their faith to be involved in prisons**
- **Our programmes are faith based, but not faith promoting**





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