

# accord

Journal of the Association of Christian Counsellors

*accord* journal guidance for contributors

## Background

*accord* is a quarterly journal / magazine published by the Association of Christian Counsellors. We welcome contributions from anyone who believes that they have something interesting to say about the fields of professional counselling or pastoral care and want to share with a wider audience. We particularly welcome articles that seek to explore psychological and spiritual aspects of mental health and wellbeing from a Christian worldview perspective. Our membership comes from a wide variety of different Christian denominational backgrounds, and *accord* is distributed widely within the Christian and secular counselling world, in education and training colleges, counselling centres, churches and associated centres for pastoral care

*accord extra* is an on-line quarterly publication which is an extension of the printed magazine. It allows us to publish more material and importantly is available to all visitors to our website (rather than just members or subscribers). Some articles that appear in *accord extra* may also be included in the printed magazine.

## What we are looking for

### 1. *articles:*

We are especially wanting to share up-to-date research or outcomes from literature reviews on topics that have relevance for counselling (circa 80% of our readership) and pastoral care (circa 20% of our readership).

We are also interested in the deep knowledge that comes from extensive practice and experience of working in particular areas whether it's about particular conditions: depression, bereavement, trauma ,etc; or counselling approaches e.g. person centred, psychodynamic, etc., and areas of practice e.g. supervision, children and young people, relationship counselling, etc. ; or working with mental health concerns in a pastoral setting.

We value practical guides to working in areas of counselling or pastoral care from e.g. the challenges of delivering on-line counselling or setting up a 'hybrid' drop-in

support and counselling service; including topics relating to mental health that have been in the news, e.g. tackling the mental health crises effecting young people.

Finally, we like to share with our members unusual and creative ways of practising, for example walking or drumming therapy.

## 2. **book reviews:**

Book reviews don't have to be of current or newly published material, they can be books that have influenced your practice or ministry in positive ways, which you want to recommend to others

## 3. **news:**

News from our membership body and /or the wider world relevant to our readership.

IF you are thinking of writing anything, but would like some advice on whether it is suitable, please email [office@acc-uk.org](mailto:office@acc-uk.org) and we can arrange to have a call to discuss your ideas.

### **Dates for 2020 Submissions**

- Summer - 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Autumn– 5<sup>th</sup> August
- Winter - 4<sup>th</sup> November

*There are normally a couple of days leeway, so please let us know if you are aiming for a particular edition and we can add you to the pool of articles to be considered.*

### **Length, Format, Photos etc**

**accord** pages each contain approximately 600 – 620 words; proportionately less if there are photos or illustrations (which we welcome).

Please aim for

- 2-4 pages for an article
- 0.5-1.5 pages for news items and book reviews

### **When writing an article**

- it is helpful if you provide a title and sub-headings in the text. Please send us any images that you would like to be used to illustrate your article. If you are unsure about copyright, please let us know, and we can use them to source similar images, in which case it is helpful to have a rationale to guide our choice.

- Articles referring to books or research should be followed by a reference as a footnote and reference list, or by following a simplified referencing guide, e.g. the Harvard referencing guide (please see below). However, please, try to avoid extensive referencing or long bibliographies as this limits the space available. Let us know if this will present you with any problems.
- If you would like specific information to be explained or emphasised, such as definition of terms, key points etc which could be placed in a 'box' beside an article. – please include them with your article and we can see what we can accommodate.
- If your topic is large and complex or fits well into a 'series', we are happy to consider publication over more than one issue.
- We will need a photo of you and a brief bio.

### ***When writing a news item or book review***

- Photos of events are good to have – but please ensure that you have the permission of anyone included before sending them to us
- We will publish your name (unless you want to withhold it) and a very brief context/ description of yourself, e.g. “Mary Kelly, counsellor and trainer practising in Luton”; “John Gooding, lay reader and pastoral care team leader based in Sheffield”

### **Practical Matters**

- Please send articles in MS Word format as an email attachment to By email to [office@acc-uk.org](mailto:office@acc-uk.org), with message header 'for the attention of the editor of **accord**'
- Photos need to be at least 300dpi and a file size greater than 300Kb. Please use .jpeg or other standard image file formats and **send as a separate file (not embedded in the word document)**
- Please ensure that your work is your own and you are not infringing the copyright of any person. If you have published part or whole of the same article elsewhere, please confirm that you have permission to reproduce it for ourselves.
- We cannot guarantee to publish an article – the decision to do so will depend on many different variables, including an assessment of quality, relevance to our audience and the capacity of each issue of the journal.

- Sadly, we are not in a position to pay our contributors. In effect by submitting an article you are gifting it to the readership of **accord** through the ACC.

## Harvard Referencing Simplified Basics: In article citations and Reference Lists

Ensure that your reference key arguments and especially direct quotations in the article. by citing the surname of the author, the date of publication and the page or pages where the argument or quote can be found. For example

“by preference of the therapist or by preference of the client, therapy some- times occurs between persons belonging to the same congregation. When these two arenas overlap (counselling and Christian fellowship), the problems encountered become very similar to secular and non-secular settings in rural areas where mental health professionals cannot avoid encountering their clients in day to day activities outside their professional sphere.” Geyer (1994), p 187.

Then in reference list at the end of the article include all the sources that you have directly referenced by author, date of publication, title and the source.

For the example above you would list:

Geyer, M.C. (1994), 'Dual Role Relationships and Christian Counselling', *Journal of Psychology & Theology*, 22, 3, pp. 187-195,

If the source is the internet include the URL and date accessed. The reference list should be in alphabetical order by author, or if no author by title of the article or book. If there are multiple works by the same author these are ordered by date, if the works are in the same year, they are ordered alphabetically by the title and referenced with 2010a, 2010b etc.

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