



Book Title: **Joy at the Refuge**

Subtitle: **Lockdown's Unexpected Gift**

Synopsis: The country was experiencing nothing we had ever seen before as we heard the breaking news of the first case of Covid 19. Everyone was told to down tools, go home and isolate until further notice. The dedicated team at the refuge soon realised this was not going to be possible for them, as they still needed to support the women and children in the refuge at their most vulnerable time. What happened after that turned out to be the most unexpected, joyful and special time we all shared together.

I was the covid lead and manager of the refuge at the time, this remains the most challenging and rewarding time of my 20 year career working in the field of domestic abuse. My then colleagues are now my life long friends and the women from that time are forever in my heart.

Ask me what it was like for the staff working at refuge and the women living there and I will try to put this into words if you choose this book today.