



**CHANGING
LIVES AND
COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER**



About CUF	2
Message from our Executive Director	3
The Together Network	4
Near Neighbours	8
Just Finance Foundation	13
Together Grants	16
Shaping the Public Sphere	19
Finance	22

About CUF

CUF's vision is to see people and communities across England flourish and enjoy life in all its fullness.

Everyone has a part to play in bringing this vision into being. We are committed to working relationally, inclusively and effectively. Our work involves resourcing, supporting, equipping and partnering with local churches, community groups, other faith groups, charities and statutory bodies to bring about positive change in communities.

Our aim is to bring about long-term, sustainable change by mobilising people to address the issues they see in their own communities, helping them identify and build upon the experience, skills, relationships and resources already located there. At the same time, our capacity building and policy influencing work responds to the fact that resources are not always distributed evenly from place to place.

As the Church of England's social action charity, we have unique access to local communities across England through the parish network. This ensures that all we do is rooted in and informed by real life experience. It also enables us to share learning, meaning that innovative and effective approaches can be readily transplanted from one context to another.

This report reviews the impact of our work during 2016.

We bring about change in four main ways:

- 1 The Together Network:** A network of 18 organisations across England that work to resource local churches and other groups as they seek to make a positive difference within their communities.
- 2 Near Neighbours:** Building social cohesion by bringing together people of different faiths and none, whilst helping people develop leadership skills and work together to improve their communities.
- 3 Just Finance Foundation:** A programme that aims to shape a fairer finance system, including through financial capability training, work with credit unions and awareness raising.
- 4 Shaping the Public Sphere:** Publications, resources and events that influence thinking about, and responses to, issues affecting the flourishing of individuals and communities.

**TOGETHER
NETWORK** ⊕

**NEAR
NEIGHBOURS**

**JUST
FINANCE
FOUNDATION**

Message from our Executive Director

The past year will be remembered as one of political upheaval. It has been a year in which communities, individuals and decision-makers have continued to face challenges about how best to respond to economic pressures, conflict, immigration, and inequality.

There is the possibility, however, that 2016 will also be looked back on as a year in which things started to change. The uneven results of economic growth and the differing impacts of immigration across social groups and local communities have been exposed in an unprecedented way. Questions about how we live together well in the midst of differences in religion, beliefs, ethnicity, politics, culture, and prosperity, have become pressing, challenging us all to a positive and creative response.

My role gives me the privilege of meeting with many people who are already actively engaged in working together with others to bring about positive change in their communities. This gives me great hope, even as we look towards a future that holds many uncertainties.

CUF's networks with local churches, community leaders and other faith groups enable us to respond rapidly to issues as they arise. The Common Good Fund was established in 2016 as part of our Near Neighbours programme to help alleviate community tensions after the Brexit vote. It is encouraging that this very practical work of bringing people from different faiths and backgrounds together to pursue common interests and goals continues to thrive, at a time when it is arguably more important than ever for our society.

This year has also seen the formation of the Just Finance Foundation. This is responding to financial exclusion through schools and community-based initiatives that help people gain skills and confidence in handling money, whilst also encouraging wider debate about its place in our lives.

We have seen growth too in the activity of our Together Network, which works across the country to mobilise and resource churches and other groups as they engage with social issues in their communities, helping to facilitate collaborative, effective responses.

All this work is made possible by the generosity and commitment of many people across the country. We are hugely grateful to all who give of their time, money, skills and energy to help bring this ambitious vision to life. Thank you for your support: I look forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference together in 2017 and beyond.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hackwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Hackwood
Executive Director, CUF

The Together Network

The Together Network is a key and distinctive aspect of CUF’s work. In 2016 it comprised 18 partnership organisations working to support social action in specific areas of the country.

Together Network member organisations employ dedicated Development Workers who support churches and other groups that are seeking to bring about positive change in their communities. This includes offering encouragement and guidance, delivering training, helping identify resources, and building connections between groups.

Being part of an established national network enables members to share best practice and promotes strategic working. At the same time, members can respond innovatively and creatively to specific opportunities and challenges in their areas. During the year, progress has been made on plans for new member organisations to be established in the dioceses of Chichester and Leicester.

TOGETHER NETWORK MEMBER ORGANISATIONS ARE BASED IN DIOCESES ACROSS ENGLAND:

AREA	MEMBER ORGANISATION
Birmingham	Thrive Together Birmingham
Blackburn	Together Lancashire
Canterbury	Together Canterbury
Chester	Transforming Lives Together
Coventry	Together for Change
Durham	Communities Together Durham
Exeter	Transforming Plymouth Together
Leeds	Wellsprings Together Bradford
Lichfield	Transforming Communities Together
Liverpool	Together Liverpool
London	Capital Mass
Manchester	Greater Together Manchester
Newcastle	Together Newcastle
Norwich	Imagine Norfolk Together
Southwell and Nottingham	Transforming Notts Together
Southwark	Together Southwark
Truro	Transformation Cornwall
York	Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland

KEY IMPACT

In 2016 the Together Network supported over 550 projects and activities. More than half of these were new projects and activities.



Growing churches' social action

Together Network Development Workers work closely with churches, helping them understand the contexts in which they are based, and think creatively about the potential, skills and resources located within their congregations, and in the wider local community.

They are often involved in helping churches to develop a vision and strategy for community engagement, as well as providing advice and support with project design, governance structures, hiring staff, training volunteers and accessing funding.

In 2016 the Together Network supported a wide range of activities and projects, including in response to homelessness, food poverty, financial exclusion and debt, refugees and asylum seekers, and loneliness and isolation. These projects included winter nightshelters, slow cooker

projects, holiday clubs, debt and budgeting advice services, community hubs and cafes, and many other initiatives.

An evaluation of the Together Network by Coventry University found that it was 'effectively supporting other organisations to better provide services for those who often have nowhere else to turn. It is a picture of increased quantity and quality of service provision, as well as a more substantial and useful role for church-based social action.'



KEY IMPACT

The Together Network supported other organisations with 126 funding applications, helping secure over £1,000,000 for community and social action initiatives.

Encouraging collaboration

The Together Network plays an important role in encouraging churches and other organisations to communicate and collaborate.

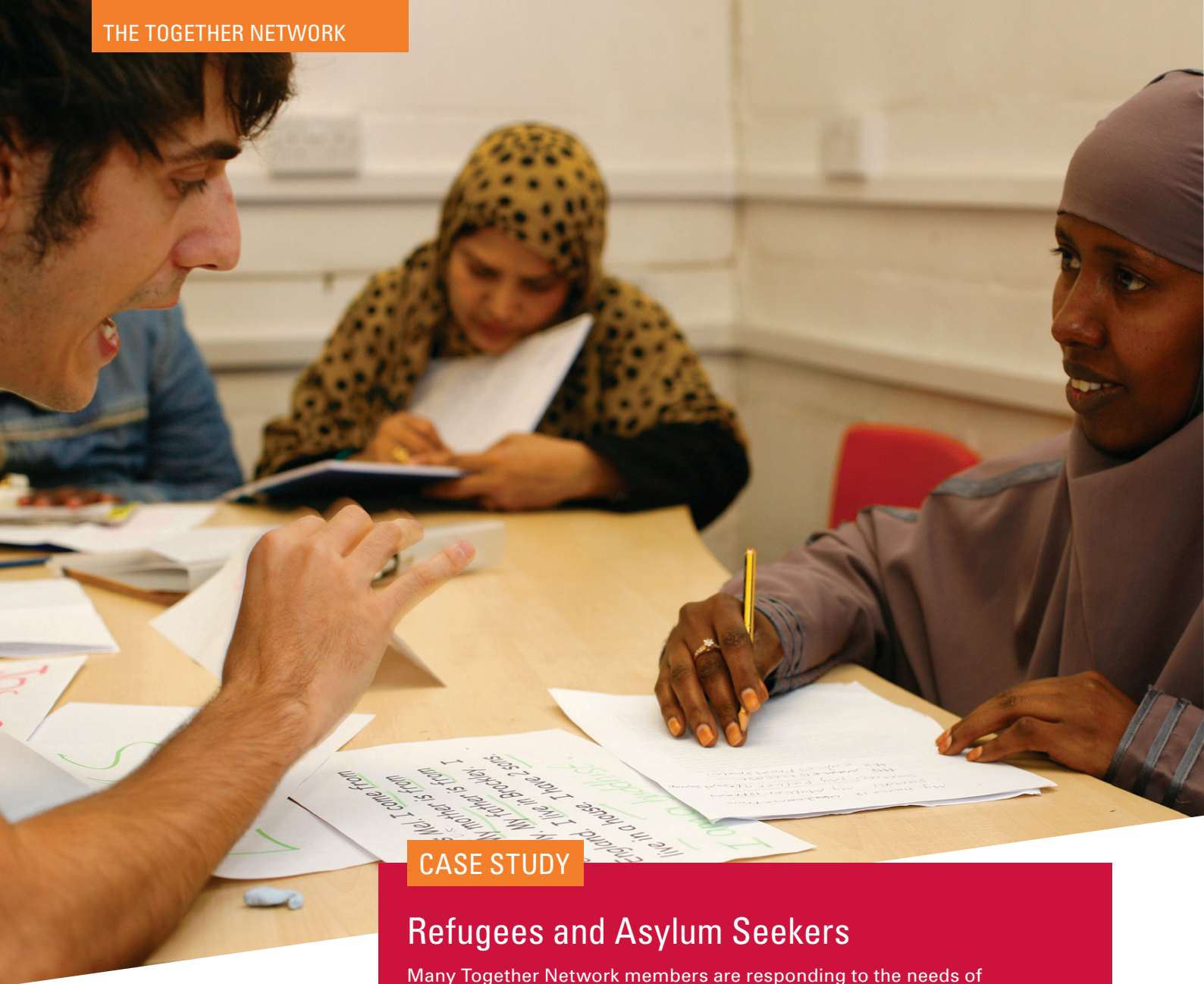
The Coventry University evaluators observed that Together Network members 'are extremely effective in uniting diverse organisations around a theme and enabling them to work across organisational, faith and geographical boundaries and differences.' This extends to relationships with local authorities and other statutory providers, with Together Network members having become trusted partners, offering a visible and approachable entry point for engagement with local churches and community groups.

An example of this kind of collaborative work is Faith Action Mansfield, a forum launched by Transforming Notts Together in 2016 to bring together coordinators of faith-based social action projects in the local area. Faith Action Mansfield provides a space in which relationships between projects can grow and be strengthened, enabling leaders to support each other's work and collaborate more productively by sharing information, ideas and training.

KEY IMPACT

59% of activities and projects supported by the Together Network in 2016 were partnerships involving two or more churches or organisations.





CASE STUDY

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Many Together Network members are responding to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in their communities.

Greater Together Manchester put on a day conference which equipped individuals, churches and communities to respond practically to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Attended by 120 people, the event helped explain the complexities of the UK asylum system and informed participants about local and national government responses to the migrant crisis.

Together Liverpool have been working in a range of ways to help people to support refugees well. As well as being active within multi-agency forums on asylum settlement, they have run training sessions for clergy and published two booklets, *Welcoming the Stranger* and *Supporting English Language Learning*, which provide information for churches and other organisations.

Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland have been involved in the development of the Tees Valley of Sanctuary, a new organisation set up to support refugees in the area. Weekly football sessions link newly arrived Syrian refugees and asylum seekers into the community through friendly matches with local residents. This is beginning to generate real friendships, dispelling myths and prejudices, and building community cohesion.

Innovation and sharing learning

The Together Network enables new ideas to be tested and successes to be shared, and where appropriate replicated more widely.

An example of this has been the Places of Welcome Network, an initiative that involves making community spaces available on a regular basis to provide opportunities for people to belong, connect and contribute. Thrive Together Birmingham and Transforming Communities Together have worked hard, alongside local partners, to share this concept widely, and there are now 146 Places of Welcome across the country, a big increase from 50 in 2015.

Together Network partners also run training and events. These provide opportunities to share learning and expertise, and to build relationships and mutual support. Increasingly, members of the Together Network are playing an active part in shaping the way dioceses respond to social issues. In some cases Development Workers have delivered training for clergy, or contributed to strategic planning for dioceses or other wider networks.



CASE STUDY

Modest Experiments in Asset Based Community Development

In November 2015, Pastor Mike Mathers visited Durham Diocese and talked to several clergy about his experiences of using Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). The ABCD approach underpins much of CUF's work: it encourages communities to explore and develop the resources, skills and other assets they have, rather than taking lack or deficit as a starting point.

Inspired by Mike's stories, four clergy decided to give ABCD a try in their parishes. With support from Communities Together Durham and CUF, the parishes recruited community listeners who were trained to carry out intentional conversations to identify the gifts, hopes and passions of people in their communities.

Participants in these 'modest experiments in ABCD' met together to share experiences and learning at a series of workshops. The aim was to help churches learn to listen to their community and to begin to see and mobilise the assets that are already there.

The process of learning and reflecting together was very fruitful, and is still ongoing. A key realisation for those involved has been that ABCD is more than just a method or process; rather, it is a mind-set that can impact every area of life, work and ministry.

KEY IMPACT

In 2016 Together Network members ran over 330 training sessions, workshops and events, which were attended by over 11,000 people.



Near Neighbours

KEY IMPACT

In 2016, Near Neighbours invested £850,000 in grassroots activity, giving grants to a total of 253 community projects, with an average grant size of £3,360.



Near Neighbours brings people together in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, creating opportunities for them to get to know each other better, build relationships of trust, and work together on initiatives that improve the communities in which they live.

The programme is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and CUF, and is based in locations around England, including London, Luton, Birmingham, the Black Country, Leicester, Nottingham, Bradford, Dewsbury, Leeds, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and Burnley. Dedicated Area Coordinators connect with local groups and activities, and encourage new individuals and groups to become involved.

A national small grants scheme provides funding for local initiatives that promote social action and social interaction. The programme involves close collaboration with national partners including The Feast, 3FF,

Catalyst, Christian Muslim Forum, Hindu Christian Forum and The Council of Christians and Jews.

Of projects supported by Near Neighbours, 96% reported that participants had developed their skills. 96% said participants felt more confident and supported, whilst 90% said participants were better equipped to take action and change things in the community. 88% of organisations reported having seen an increase in volunteering in their local areas. Coupled with the new relationships developed, these impacts help ensure that the grants continue to make a difference long after the initial funds have been used.

CASE STUDY

Remembering Together

With support from Near Neighbours, St Cuthbert's church in North Wembley set up a Memory Café providing light refreshments, a quiz, exercise, singing and opportunities for conversation. It engages with people who are isolated, lonely, or just looking for a way to find new friends and help others.

Established in 2015, the number of weekly participants grew to around 60. Further Near Neighbours funding was secured in 2016 to help provide a weekly games and memory session at the Memory Café.

The vicar, Steve Morris, points out that "People can be lonely, suffer with memory problems or be caring for someone regardless of their nationality. Many nationalities and faiths are represented here and organisations with roots in other cultures support us too."

Eleanor, who volunteers at the café, said "This is so brilliant for the community. There are English, Asian, West Indian, African and European people here and we are all one family. We talk, sing and laugh together. For me, it is something positive I can do, just by being here."

Living together well and handling differences

KEY IMPACT

In 2016, projects funded by Near Neighbours engaged over 40,000 people in local communities across the eight hubs.



As more people of all faiths and none work together to improve their areas, local communities will become more resilient and more confident in facing challenges together.

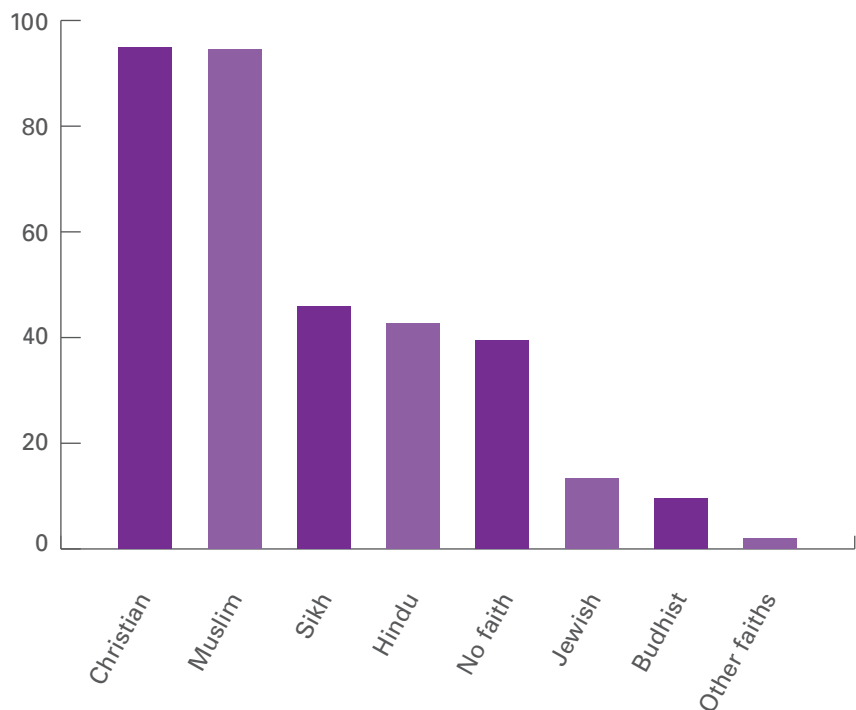
Where there is separation between different faith and ethnic communities, there is often misunderstanding and a lack of trust or respect. Bringing people together can change these attitudes for the better and help to build meaningful relationships.

There is sometimes a perception that people only migrate to the UK to work or claim benefits, and then return home without contributing anything to wider society. Through Near Neighbours much work is being done to challenge these stereotypes and break down barriers. For example, in Birmingham, a Polish organisation in Digbeth organised a series of

workshops and events to celebrate the cultural diversity in the area, with participation from the local Eastern European, Chinese, Irish, German, Pakistani and LGBT communities.

The variety of projects funded through the small grants programme reflects the wide range of interests that local people have identified as key issues for their area. Among the projects funded during 2016 were community fun days, children's arts projects, health workshops, English classes, inter-generational initiatives, and work with recent migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Proportion of Near Neighbours projects that involved the following faith groups:



Working with hard to reach social groups

Our small grants programme reaches social groups who are often excluded from traditional community initiatives or mainstream statutory services, through fear or mistrust.

By working through community leaders, faith centres and secular organisations, with the support of the Near Neighbours Area Coordinator, funded projects can reach beyond the usual people that attend local events and work with hard to reach social groups, such as newly arrived migrants and vulnerable women.

A number of Near Neighbours projects work specifically with women who in some cases have come to the UK without knowing many people and have limited English language skills. This can make them particularly vulnerable. Some are at risk of being taken advantage of, being forced into domestic slavery or prostitution, or being subjected to violence or sexual abuse. In West London, two local women received funding to train other women in therapeutic and counselling skills. These women can now run drop-in services at local faith and community centres to provide relevant support and signposting alongside mainstream statutory services.

CASE STUDY

Bread & Roses

As participants in a social innovation programme, Sneh Jani and Olivia Head were tasked with developing a project to tackle a social issue. They had experience of working with homeless people, refugees, and asylum seekers, and decided to focus their efforts on refugee women.

Together, they launched Bread & Roses, which was funded by Near Neighbours in 2016 to run employability programmes for refugee women, with a specific focus on floristry. "The name Bread & Roses comes from the idea that workers must have bread, but also have roses too" says Sneh. "It's not just about the basics, but about creating an opportunity for these women to flourish."

Through the project, the women they worked with developed the skills and confidence to run workshops for other community groups, and took part in training sessions about employment skills, such as CV writing, interviews, and public speaking. Sneh and Olivia also provided one-to-one support to the women, as employment opportunities arose.

Common Good Fund



The Common Good Fund was launched in November 2016 as a response to the community tensions that arose in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Supported by funding from DCLG, this small grants programme invited people in communities all over England to develop activities and projects that bring people from different backgrounds together, build connections and increase levels of trust and mutual support, as well as encouraging people to develop practical activities to bring about change.

The programme had a particular focus on areas where more recent waves of migration, for example from Eastern Europe, have had an influence on the composition and dynamics of local communities. A wide variety of initiatives have been awarded small grants including a film-making project with young people, a series of facilitated conversations about local community issues, and a 'Men's Shed' project to help reduce social isolation amongst men and enable them to share practical skills.

Catalyst – Developing young leaders

KEY IMPACT

91% of alumni felt that coming into contact with people from different faith or non-faith backgrounds through the programme was a positive experience



Catalyst is an exciting and inspirational free programme for young people. It aims to develop creative leaders to act as positive role models in neighbourhoods and communities and emphasises the positive contribution that multi-faith and multi-ethnic diversity makes at all levels of society.

The programme is for people aged 16-30 and aims to help them develop a positive identity for living in multi-faith, multi-ethnic Britain. The course helps young people develop the skills and experience to play their part in building a strong civil society, as well as enhancing their employability and helping them develop the confidence and commitment to be agents of change in their neighbourhood.

An evaluation by Coventry University found that 91% of Catalyst alumni felt that coming into contact with people from different faith or non-faith backgrounds through the programme was a positive experience, and 87% now feel more prepared and enabled to take on leadership roles within their community.

Catalyst – Developing young leaders



PARTICIPANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Heston, a vicar in Leeds, describes his experience of Catalyst:

What did you find transformative about the Catalyst Programme?

The friendships that I made. Meeting people always transforms everything and what a treat to have several days devoted to meeting people different from myself, who stretch and enrich my understanding and experience of God and humanity and the world.

What have you gone on to do since then?

Quite a lot really! Catalyst friends have been (literally) catalysts in my life and relationships as a parish priest. They have introduced me to other Jewish and Muslim friends, and in our parish particularly local imams and Muslim congregations - allowing me to form new friendships and team up for the flourishing of our parish and neighbourhood. This has included a Syrian Kitchen in our church café (run by Leeds Syrian Community) ... collaborating to create a winter night shelter for destitute asylum seekers, helping local mosques to collect and donate food (for Sadaqa Day) ... educating each other about our different worship traditions, and a huge amount of cross-cultural eating together and sharing of life in small relational ways.



PARTICIPANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jasmin, a Catalyst graduate, talks about the difference the programme has made to her:

What did you find transformative about the Catalyst Programme?

Catalyst changed my life. It opened my mind in a way that I didn't know before, it broadened so many horizons and opened so many doors for me. The programme taught me so many new communication, leadership, social, and interfaith skills that I don't think I could have ever learnt anywhere else. We are not often taught about parliament and politics in school and I must say the sessions we had really pushed my passion in wanting to become an MP and giving back to my town.

What have you gone on to do since then?

I am now a Young Leader for the US Embassy in the UK. I have also been involved in many more initiatives, campaigns, programmes in my community that I would not have dreamt of doing before this programme.

I now find myself constantly challenging stereotypical views and getting into discussions about daily issues, and I quite enjoy having debates now.... Catalyst was a turning point for me and I will never ever forget the instructors who went the extra mile for us.

Just Finance Foundation

The Just Finance Foundation is the newest area of CUF's work. Its aim is to create a fairer financial system focused on serving the whole community, where everyone has access to responsible credit, savings and other essential financial services.

JFF takes forward the programmes previously initiated by the Archbishop's Task Group on Responsible Credit and Saving in partnership with CUF.

The use of high-cost, short-term credit, such as payday loans, has grown very rapidly in recent years. Almost 9 million people in the UK constantly struggle to keep up with bills and credit commitments, and 26% of adults say they run out of money before the end of the month. In responding to this, JFF has three aims:

- Promoting saving as a life-long habit.
- Building money skills, increasing the quality of low-cost credit and offering specific support for those in crisis.
- Encouraging wider debate about money and its place in our lives, building on the Archbishop of Canterbury's work on this issue.

The two main components of this work are the Just Finance Network and the LifeSavers financial education programme.

Just Finance Network

KEY IMPACT

The Just Finance Network has engaged over 400 churches, and has trained over 350 volunteers to signpost to affordable credit, free debt advice and money skills courses.



Building on the successful two year pilot of the Church Credit Champions Network, the Just Finance Network helps local churches to engage practically and effectively with issues of money and debt in their communities.

The long term aim of the JFN is to strengthen financial resilience for communities and individuals by establishing partnerships with credit unions and money advice services, engaging and equipping churches and training volunteers to use a range of tools and resources.

Plans are in place to develop the JFN through CUF's established Together Network. This will add capacity to existing work addressing financial exclusion and the impact of debt.

In 2016 this work has taken place in three areas: Liverpool, London, and Newcastle. In each of these areas, dedicated JFN Workers have facilitated a range of activities and connections including improving access to affordable credit, debt advice and money skills courses. So far, JFN has helped more than 3,500 people secure a better financial future by becoming members of credit unions.

Just Finance Network



CASE STUDY

Cash Smart Credit Savvy

Cash Smart: Credit Savvy is a short, informal course that offers an introduction to budgeting skills and saving primarily through existing community networks. Developed by a church in Nottingham, it is now being used effectively across the Black Country by TCT Development Worker, James Henderson. A grant from the Money Advice Service's 'What Works Fund' will allow the JFF to develop and evaluate the course in four new areas during 2017, with the intention of sharing it more widely in future.

A course participant from Women of Wolverhampton said: "This is an essential tool for helping clients."

CASE STUDY

Connecting with Credit Unions

JFN worker in Liverpool, Julia Webster, is working with Enterprise Credit Union in Liverpool who offer an innovative and popular 'Child Benefit Instant Loan' that is having a significant impact on the financial wellbeing of members who previously used doorstep lenders, payday loans and rent-to-buy shops. This is helping them build up a savings buffer to cover emergencies, Christmas and holidays.

One new credit union member said: "The credit union has helped me to focus and plan ahead for this new baby, I know that I can save enough to have the time off I want. If I'd tried to save at home I would have been dipping into it all the time. When it's in the credit union I feel like it's out of sight out of mind. I've had my child benefit paid in here and I don't miss it."

KEY IMPACT

So far, JFN has helped more than 3,500 people join a credit union.



LifeSavers



LifeSavers is a financial education programme for primary schools, helping children manage money wisely now and in the future.

The programme provides training and classroom resources for teachers, offers support for school savings clubs, and encourages parental and wider community engagement. LifeSavers is a partnership between the Archbishop of Canterbury's Just Finance Foundation and Young Enterprise, with financial support from Virgin Money and the Government.

Our values have a profound impact on how we think about and use money. Financial education has traditionally focused on teaching knowledge and skills, but attitudes and motivations are as important in determining people's financial behaviour. This is why the LifeSavers programme places a strong emphasis on exploring values, drawing on Christian teaching about money. The programme's core values are:

- Wisdom
- Generosity
- Thankfulness
- Justice

Following a successful pilot, LifeSavers is being rolled out to 120 schools over the next 18 months alongside an online banking platform that supports the school savings clubs.

The classroom and assembly resources are available on the website: www.lifesavers.co.uk

KEY IMPACT

So far, 21 schools are delivering financial education using the LifeSavers resources, involving nearly 3200 pupils. 450 teachers have received training and support to deliver the financial education resources.



CASE STUDY

St John the Baptist Primary School

Fi Belton, a senior teacher at St John the Baptist Primary School in Colwick, Nottingham and the school's LifeSavers Champion, talks about her experience of the LifeSavers programme:

"We launched LifeSavers in St John's with an exciting 'Money Week' that the whole school participated in. As well as a visit from a 'maths magician', there was a special assembly, where we were joined by the Manager of Nottingham Credit Union, and a school competition to design our savings club logo.

"Six children were picked to run the savings club with the help of three adult volunteers including our local vicar! The children's enthusiasm for the scheme has been infectious. One of the first junior savers brought his form back to school saying that his mum also wanted to join the credit union, so we can already see the potential impact of LifeSavers on our whole school community.

"Teaching staff have completed their training and are using the curriculum linked financial education resources in their classes. I can see how LifeSavers will have a big impact on the children at St John's."

Together Grants

KEY IMPACT

In 2016, we awarded £290,000 to 91 projects, with an average grant of £3,200.



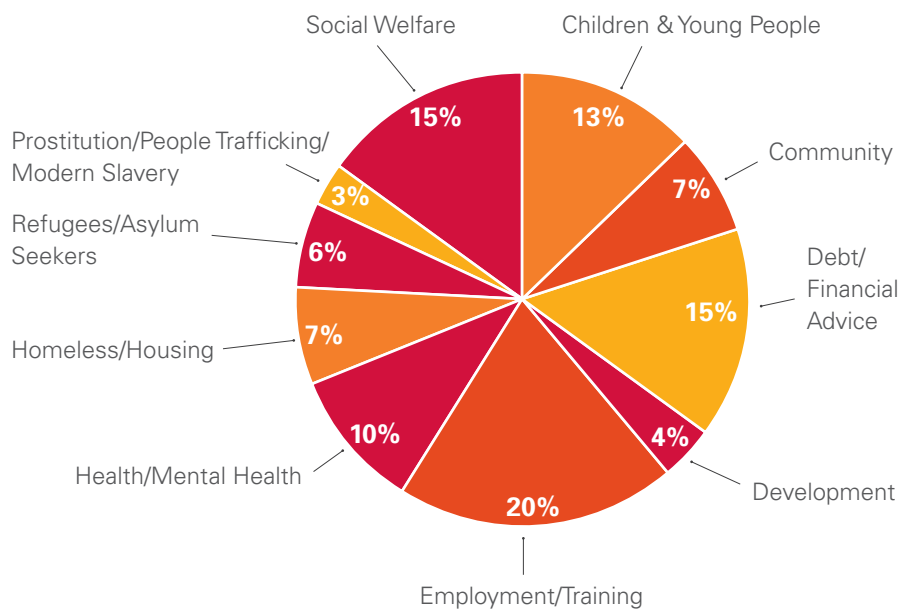
The Together Grants programme provides small grants for faith-based organisations to engage in social action.

Projects supported range from employability support and training, after-school homework and holiday clubs, winter night shelters, advice and advocacy, encouraging the expansion of credit unions and provision of budgeting advice, welcoming refugees and asylum seekers, and opening community spaces where local people can feel safe.

Funding is available to projects that involve partnership with one or more local organisations, because working together can raise the capacity of the project and create an initiative that is greater than the sum of its parts. There are plenty of examples of ecumenical social action, with 53% of partnerships being between churches of different denominations. 38% of partnerships were with local government. The majority of projects involved the local community, with 69% having local people as volunteers.

Together Grants are primarily for churches and local groups to try out new and innovative ideas or to develop existing community work that has shown potential.

Types of support offered by Together Grant funded projects in 2016



Together Grants

Reporting on the impact of the grants, 98% of projects said their participants had increased in confidence; 95% said people had developed new relationships, and 88% said participants had developed new skills. 79% of projects said they would continue beyond the funding period and 98% of applicants said the partnerships would continue.

CUF aims to provide a response on Together Grant applications within one month, and this quick turnaround can be crucial when addressing a recently emerging local issue. One project leader that applied for funding towards a community garden said, "It was a miracle that the funding arrived from the Church Urban Fund as quickly as it did, allowing the garden to be constructed in time for this year's growing season".

The application form and process have been purposefully made simple to encourage churches and local groups to engage in social action for the very first time. One project lead said, "From my personal experience as not having much experience applying for funding, your process was really encouraging, not too daunting and easy to understand. You were there to help and assist throughout the process and this was extremely helpful."



CASE STUDY

Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy Accredited Training for Ex-Offenders

Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy (GMCC) were keen to develop accredited training programmes for ex-offenders. Many of their clients would not feel comfortable with going to college, due to potential stigma, or previous bad experiences with education. GMCC received a Together Grant to develop a training programme that included vocational courses, such as business administration, health and social care, and hospitality catering; industries in which their clients have opportunities to secure employment. "The online learning elements really suited the people we are working with, as well as learning on the job, rather than in an academic setting" says Rosemary, the project lead. The project received a Forever Manchester Award for Most Inspiring Community Project.

A key element of GMCC's approach is involving ex-offenders in supporting other ex-offenders. For example, a previous client has become an employed co-ordinator and is now running projects. "In the short term, it would be quicker to hire people with existing skills, but we are more focussed on developing people and their skills, and nurturing their talent," says Rosemary.

Together Grants

CASE STUDY

Blaze – Youth Leadership Programme

Blaze works with young people in Grangetown, in Redcar and Cleveland. They launched a young leadership development programme aimed at 7-12 year olds with funding from a Together Grant. 30 to 35 young people participate each week. Every month, the programme takes on a different theme, with topics including healthy eating, identity, communication, and the environment. Each month includes a guest speaker and a trip, which allows the children to get off the estate and take part in an activity, such as swimming, climbing or trampolining.

“We saw a lot of problems with obesity amongst children on the estate, so we talked about healthy eating for one month,” says Matthew, one of the project leads. “A lot of the children didn’t know what some vegetables were, but were keen to try out new things. We ran some cooking sessions, where they made a pizza to take home for their family, and discussed how they can suggest to their parents healthy food options. We also try to incorporate a kind act within each month, so for that month, we asked all the children to bring in a tin of food and we walked down to the local food bank to make a donation.”

As a result of this project, Blaze has become more established in the local area, with stronger relationships with social services. They are now exploring further work with families and recruiting “Family Friends”, who can provide relevant advice, support, and signposting.



Shaping the Public Sphere

A key priority for CUF is to shape the public sphere by contributing to thinking, debate, and action on the themes of social justice, human flourishing, and community cohesion both at local and national level.

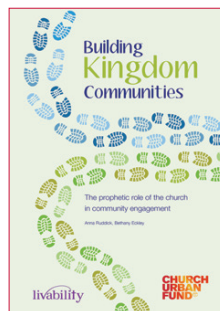
Our research also seeks to build the profile, extent and effectiveness of the church's social engagement.

We do this by producing high quality research reports and resources, collecting and sharing stories of change through our evaluation work, organising events, and building alliances and partnerships that influence policy.



Reports and resources

CUF publishes research reports, briefing papers and resources to raise awareness and prompt reflection and action on key issues affecting local communities. Here are a few highlights from 2016:



Building Kingdom Communities: The prophetic role of the church in community engagement

This resource is an invitation to theological reflection on our community engagement. It picks up the theological threads raised in Fullness of Life Together (2015) and explores their practical implications. It offers a clear, three stage process for groups to follow and serves as a 'how to' primer in practical theology, aiming to draw on experiences of those in the group, encouraging conversations that lead to real change.



Connecting Communities: The impact of loneliness and opportunities for churches to respond

Almost one in five people say that they feel lonely often or always. Connecting Communities explores what loneliness is and the impact that it has on individuals and on society. It offers a summary of best practice for churches who are trying to address loneliness in their community.



Opening our Eyes to Homelessness

Homelessness is a serious and growing issue in England and the number of people sleeping rough in London has doubled in the last five years. This paper looks at different types of homelessness and shows what churches can do to help.

CUF's Look Up Tool



CUF provides an online look up tool that allows people to access data about a variety of indicators of deprivation in their parish. The tool shows how each Church of England parish ranks on the Index of Multiple Deprivation and on indicators such as, child poverty, working-age poverty, and life expectancy.

We worked with the Church of England's Research and Statistics Unit to relaunch the Look-up Tool in 2016, incorporating the most up to date data and giving it a new look and feel.

The Look Up Tool was used more than 31,000 times in 2016.

Our Poverty Briefing gives an overview of the data held in the Look Up Tool, highlighting patterns of inequality and deprivation across England as a whole. We also provide Diocesan Briefings, which identify trends at this more local level. These are available on the CUF website.

Events



In 2016 we held three events based on the Fullness of Life Together and Building Kingdom Communities papers, in Leeds and London. These events, run in partnership with Livability, brought together people who were engaged in social action to discuss what it would mean to work in an asset-based way. At each event, people were inspired to apply these principles in their own communities, finding ways of shifting from an emphasis on service delivery to an approach that recognises the gifts, skills and experiences that people already have and can contribute.

Getting Started



The 'Get Started' pages of the CUF website provide practical tips and guidance for individuals, churches and other groups who are exploring how to better connect within their communities and engage with social issues locally. These include information about a range of ways of finding out more about your local area, making connections, and building community.

Evaluating our work

Monitoring and evaluating our work is vital in helping us understand the impact it is having. This enables us to keep learning ourselves, and to share stories of good practice with others.

In 2016, we worked with several external evaluators whose research has helped us to improve the quality and impact of our work at a local and national level.

We use a Theory of Change model to evaluate our impact. Theory of Change is an approach that begins by defining an overarching aim and works back in logical steps to identify the actions and interventions undertaken by individuals and projects to achieve it. More specifically, it shows how activities lead to intermediate changes (outcomes) which in turn contribute to longer term change. Using this approach helps us to define and measure the specific ways in which our vision of 'changing lives and communities together' is being achieved.

Research

CUF also engages in research that contributes to knowledge and understanding about churches' social action and about important social issues.

In 2016, this included working collaboratively with researchers from the University of Queensland on a project about the impact of church and community based activity groups on people's wellbeing and resilience. It also saw us developing a project called Christians in Practice, which explores the relationship between discipleship and community engagement. This project is a partnership with St Peter's Saltley Trust, Church of England Ministry Division, Church of England Birmingham, the Diocese of Lichfield, Thrive Together Birmingham and the Arthur Rank Centre. The findings of this research will be published in 2017.



Finances

Using resources wisely and effectively is an important part of our work.

We are grateful to those who have supported us financially, whether through church collections, individual donations, regular gifts, legacies, fundraising events, or grants. Without this generosity, the positive impacts in local communities described in this report would not be possible.

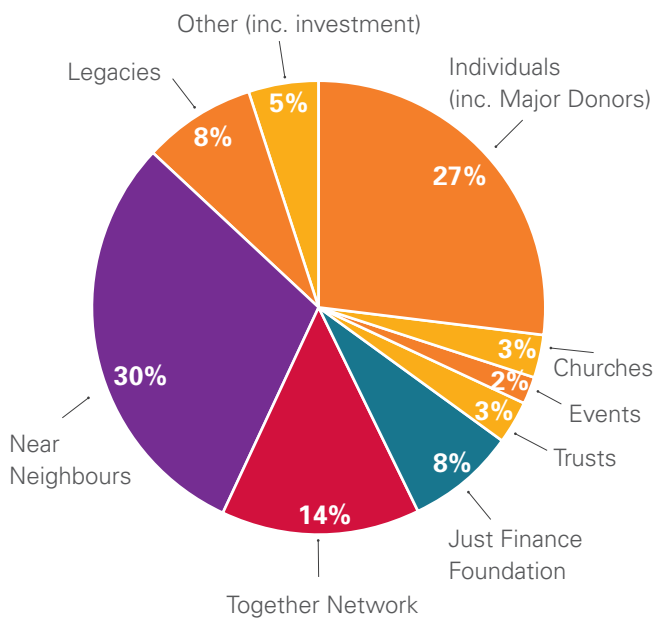
KEY IMPACT

In 2016, for every £1 donated by churches and individuals, we were able to raise additional monies in order to invest £5.83 back into charitable activities.



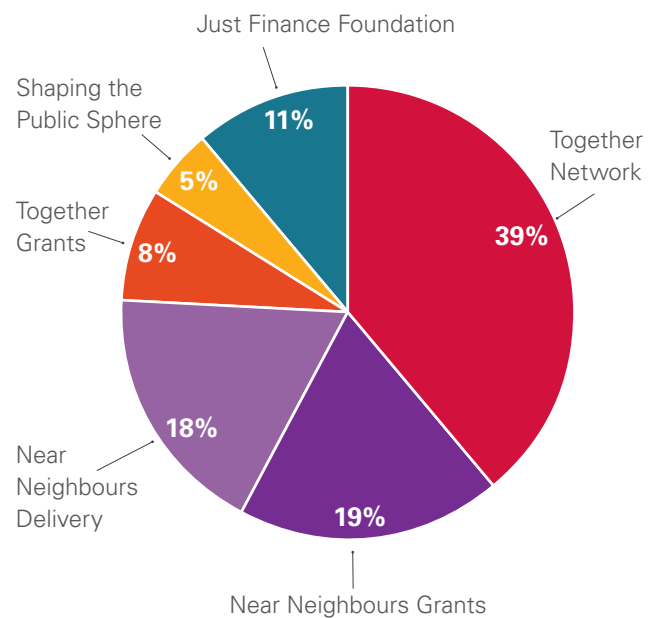
INCOME

CUF'S TOTAL INCOME IN 2016 WAS £5.6 MILLION.



EXPENDITURE

IN 2016, 88% OF OUR EXPENDITURE WAS SPENT ON CHARITABLE PURPOSES.



During the year, we introduced the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mustard Seed Appeal to raise money for the Just Finance Foundation. This successfully raised over £115,000.

This is an overview of our income and expenditure in 2016, taken from our audited Annual Report and Accounts, which are available on our website.

Trustees and Officers

PATRON

Her Majesty the Queen

PRESIDENT

The Most Reverend and The Right Honourable Justin Welby

TRUSTEES IN 2016

Reverend Canon Paul Hackwood, *Executive Chair*

Derek Twine CBE, *Deputy Chair*

The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun

Brian Carroll

Patrick Coldstream CBE

Andrew Dorton

Philip Fletcher CBE

John Iles

Gavin Oldham

Reverend Canon Denise Poole

Marnie Woodward FCMA

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Reverend Canon Paul Hackwood, *Executive Director*

Emma Snow, *Deputy Chief Executive*

Jeremy Aspinall, *Director of Fundraising and Communications*

Michelle Brissett, *Director of Finance and Resources*

Heather Buckingham, *Interim Director of Research and Policy*

Liz Carnelley, *Near Neighbours Programme Director*

Bethany Eckley, *Director of Research and Policy*

Jon Miles, *Director of Development*

Rachel Sharpe, *Director of Partnerships*

Polly Taylor, *Project Coordinator, Just Finance Foundation*

Rowena Young, *Executive Director, Just Finance Foundation*

Charity number: 297483

www.cuf.org.uk



CHURCH URBAN FUND

CHANGING LIVES AND
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

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