

# TOGETHER IN PRAYER

July - September 2018

Food Insecurity

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NETWORK<sup>+</sup>



Food poverty is affecting an increasing proportion of the UK population. Food is important to our physical survival, to our sense of dignity and identity, and as a part of family and community relationships and participation.

Over the following pages you will find a selection of work being undertaken by our local partnerships on the ground to tackle food insecurity, with suggestions for how you might support them in prayer.

Thank You for supporting our work with your prayers.

## KEY PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for each of the 35+ CUF Development Workers around the country, as they work to improve collaboration between churches, community and faith groups, local authorities and businesses etc in their local areas, building capacity for tackling the multi-dimensional issues of food insecurity.
- Pray that Development Workers and volunteers would have increased energy to build vital relationships, forge links and empower groups to run projects and programmes.
- For many families the summer holidays are a struggle with children at home and no free school meals, so the weekly budget has to stretch further for food and there is little left for activities and treats. Pray for those who dread the school holidays because their children will not be receiving free school meals.
- Pray for all the individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet each week and are using food banks across the country. Pray that they will be met with kindness and practical help and leave with a sense of restored dignity. Pray for wisdom and provision for the food banks experiencing increased demand.
- Pray for those whose income from work is not meeting the weekly cost of living. Many of the people turning to food banks are in employment and are either paid less than local rents require or are on zero hours contracts.
- Pray for those who are facing changes to the benefits they receive, particularly as Universal Credit rolls out more widely.
- Pray for those who are facing challenges in their health, making working more difficult and therefore affecting income.



2%

*1 in 50 British adults say they used a food bank during 2016. This amounts to nearly a million adults.*



5%

*5% of adults surveyed reported that in the past year they had gone without meals as they were unable to afford food.*



11%

*1 in 10 British adults said that during 2016 they had missed celebrating a special occasion (e.g. a birthday, Christmas, other religious festivals) because they could not afford to.*



13%

*1 in 8 Britons had experienced anxiety or worry about being able to afford enough food for themselves and their family during the previous 12 months.*

Activity tackling food insecurity in

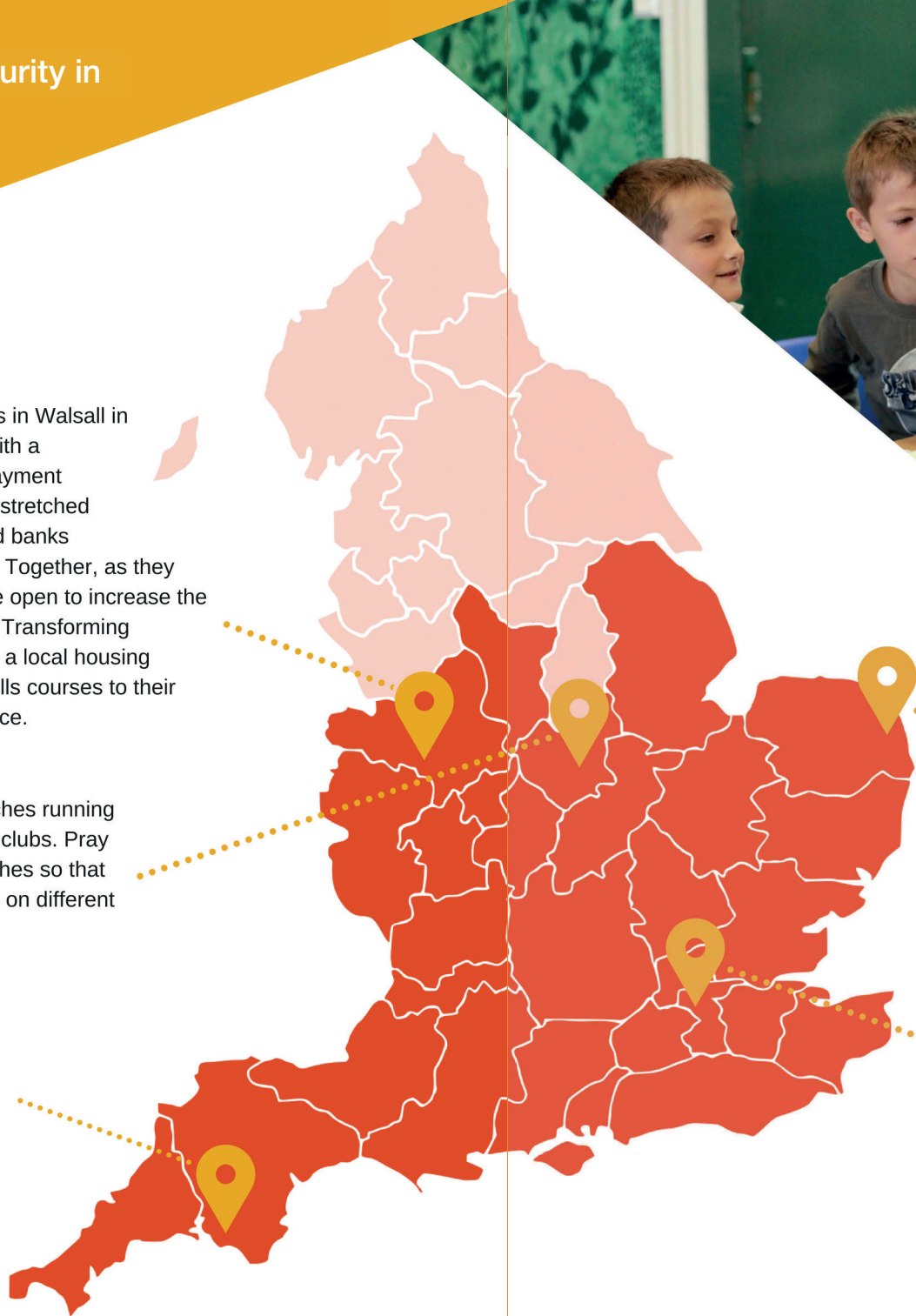
## South England

Province of Canterbury

The full roll-out of Universal Credit begins in Walsall in July, just before the summer holidays. With a minimum of five weeks before the first payment comes through, people's budgets will be stretched further and further. Pray for the local food banks supported by Transforming Communities Together, as they increase the number of sessions they are open to increase the amount of support on offer. Also pray for Transforming Communities Together as they work with a local housing association to deliver basic budgeting skills courses to their tenants to increase their financial resilience.

Together Leicester are supporting Churches running Make Lunch programmes and breakfast clubs. Pray for good coordination between the churches so that families have access to the programmes on different days of the week.

Transforming Plymouth Together are building on their Hope for Summer programme, which sees churches of various denominations supporting local families during the summer school holidays with food and activities. Pray that more churches will get involved and that the sessions provide joy to children and rest to parents.



Imagine Norfolk Together is working with a church in Great Yarmouth to begin an initiative to provide food for children in the school holidays. This will be the first of the churches to do this in the area. Pray that the project receives enough resources and volunteers to be successful.

Together Southwark coordinates a scheme to provide meals and reading opportunities for children, through churches, called Lunchbox Library. Pray that the children have fun and learn. Also pray for Together Southwark as they begin to explore providing Community Fridges to enable communities to benefit from food that would otherwise go to waste.

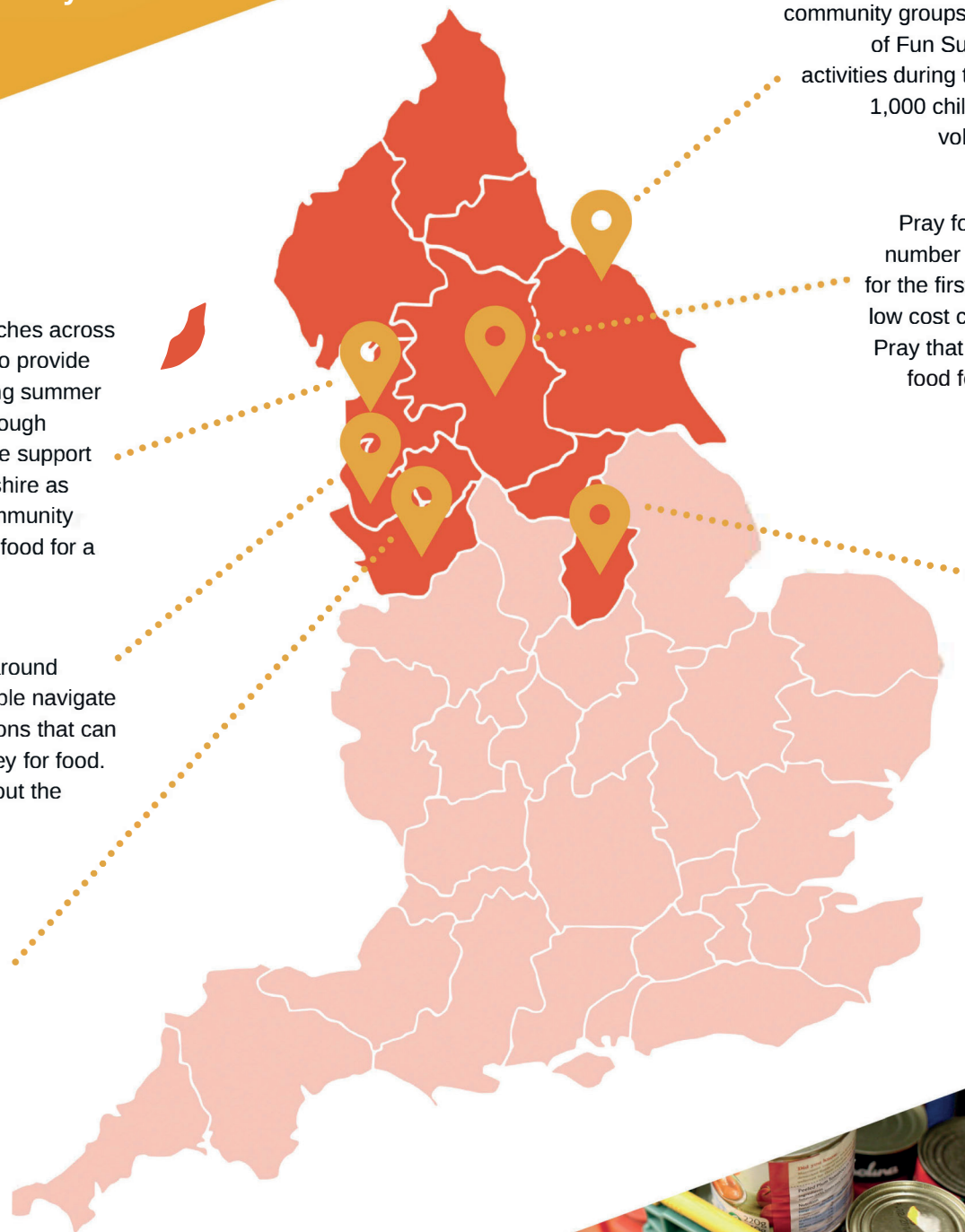
# Activity tackling food insecurity in North England

*Province of York*

Together Lancashire are supporting churches across Blackburn with Darwen to work together to provide 17,000 lunches for children during the long summer holidays. Pray that the project recruits enough volunteers, and that the families get all the support they need. Pray also for Together Lancashire as they, with Near Neighbours, launch a Community Food Club to help people access surplus food for a low weekly charge.

Together Liverpool are running courses around Universal Credit Awareness, helping people navigate the new system and not fall foul of sanctions that can prevent people from having enough money for food. Pray that those needing to claim hear about the courses and are able to attend.

Transforming Lives Together are coordinating thirteen churches to deliver their Filling the Gap programme, providing food and fun for children and families in the summer holidays. Pray that the sessions will be effective and sensitive and that when children return to school after the holidays they will be able to tell a story about what they did and how much fun they had, thanks to this programme.



Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland are coordinating churches, community groups and schools across the Diocese to run their Feast of Fun Summer 2018; their programme providing meals and activities during the summer holiday. They hope to offer support for 1,000 children and families this summer. Please pray for the volunteers, funding and good links with local schools.

Pray for Wellsprings Together Bradford as they support a number of new holiday schemes running over this summer for the first time, and as they work with others to set up more low cost community food outlets across the Bradford district. Pray that this work allows people at risk of food crisis to buy food for themselves and their families, granting them the dignity of shopping for their food.

Transforming Notts Together are supporting several churches on estates in Nottingham offering meals and activities for families in the school holidays. Pray that the churches would have the time, volunteers and resources they need to begin these projects. Transforming Notts Together are also coordinating a network for the many soup runs and kitchens in the area, to share ideas and build relationships. Pray for this network as it grows and those in need of food in the city would find their way to those serving food.



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Father God,

Your compassion has no end and your love for us all is without measure. We lift before you our sisters and brothers who today are struggling to have enough food to eat.

Lord, please bring the right people into their lives at just the right time so that all may know your care and blessing. Lord, please give the people of our nation your eyes to see where changes need to be made so that the least powerful may be honoured and all children cared for well.

Lord, please lift the stress and concern over financial security facing many in our land and show us, your children, how and when and where we can feed our hungry neighbours just where we are.

Amen

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*A prayer written by Diane Watts, a Development Worker in Sussex*



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