

**CHURCH
URBAN
FUND** ⊕

CHANGING LIVES AND
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

We are **#Peopleofhope!**

Easter 2020

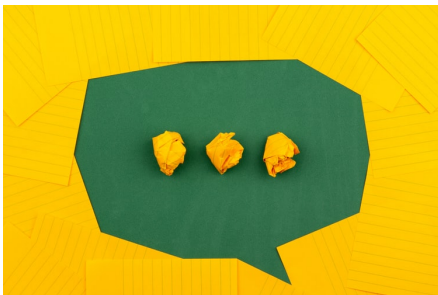
CUF ⊕

Welcome to our April newsletter. Catch up with all that's been happening, and find out about future opportunities.

It is a difficult time for of us across the world: not only the risk of health but jobs, income, resources and relationships with those around us. However in times such as these we recognise that our work is all the more important. Near Neighbours is creating innovative solutions to tackle isolation, the Together Network is connecting churches with other community organisations and the resources they need, supporting them to have real impact in their communities, and The Just Finance Foundation is helping people navigate the financial issues caused by this crisis.



Just some of the food hampers and deliveries that we've been involved in organising!



How to Contact CUF

We are continuing with 'business usual', as much as is possible, naturally following official advice. This means our staff are now working remotely, and still are available to help. The best way to contact CUF for the time being is by email.

We are thinking of you all as you navigate these strange times and do your own bit in the places that you are. We'll be keeping in contact with you all via the usual online channels during this uncertain season and will keep you updated with any changes.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay connected!



Together Network

During this uncertain time, the Together Network is working harder than ever to connect churches with the resources they need and give them support to have real impact in their communities. Our partners around the country are collating local information, knowledge and learning, and sharing it through their networks, working one-to-one with projects to work out how to best deliver their work in a very different situation, as well as mobilising volunteers to make sure that vital work can be delivered.

Each local venture is coordinating tailored local responses to the crisis, from financial support for projects, finding new



Your Donations

If you have donated to our work recently we are, as always, immensely grateful. With staff working remotely with limited access to resources, please be aware that donations can currently only be acknowledged email. We are a little behind but if you have made a donation please be assured that we are working hard to get an acknowledgement to you soon. If you have any questions about this, or would like to know if we have received your donations, please contact Holly, our Fundraising Manager, at holly.adams@cuf.org.uk. Thank you for your patience with us at this difficult time and your continued support, which now is more vital than ever.



COVID CASH COURSE

Just Finance Foundation

The Just Finance Foundation have created the [Coronavirus Help Hub](#), a signposting resource designed to help people navigate the current times.

JFF have also developed the [COVID Cash Course](#), a pioneering new course which trains community leaders and organisations to deliver financial capability information remotely to individuals in their community.

Finally, through their Lifesavers programme, JFF are producing exciting

ways to deliver food from foodbanks to setting up online or phone based resources for those who are vulnerable or isolated.

[Find out more](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Near Neighbours

While we are learning to live in an era of 'social distancing', during which we avoid physical contact and gatherings are banned, we must not forget our deep need as humans for social contact. New technologies are helping but not everyone has access, so we need to explore other ways to reach out and help people feel loved, valued and embraced.

For this reason we have produced this postcard: you can print some, add a personal message on the back and deliver them to your neighbours, to let them know that you are there for them, if they need any help or just for a chat over the phone in this challenging period. And don't be scared, even if you have never spoken to them, or had very limited contact before: an act of kindness is always welcome! You can also print the card and display it in your window; a passerby may see it and feel supported or inspired. If you do, share it with us on social media!

[Find out about how Near Neighbours is continuing to bring people together, despite social distancing.](#)

[Postcard](#)

and educational [activity ideas and sheets](#) that you can use as a parent or as a school, to help keep children entertained and learning whilst they're off school!

[Find out more](#)



#peopleofhope

#peopleofhope

Started by our Together Network partner [Transforming Communities Together](#), #peopleofhope is growing grassroots movement of individuals, churches, dioceses and charities using the #peopleofhope hashtag to share uplifting stories of people and communities supporting one another during this time, as well as tips, resources and encouragements. During these unsettling times, look out for #peopleofhope on social media and join in!

Follow the Together Network on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay connected.

As just one example, our venture in Plymouth, [Transforming Plymouth Together](#), has been supporting a local church to run a weekly food hamper collection sharing food donated by Devon & Cornwall Food Action and Fare Share.

"Last week as it was Holy Week, we bought all the people receiving the hampers a little bag of eggs. In total it was just over 100 parents and children, about 30 families from a number of different schools in the areas around the church. The families worker who is coordinating it all has had some lovely, grateful texts from families saying thank you. It's been a brief (and social distancing respected) but lovely chance

for the church to see people and show support to those in need."



Volunteering

Though there are restrictions to how we are able to help in light of the coronavirus, there are still so many ways that you can support those in your community.

This could include running errands for people who are having to isolate, and keeping in touch with neighbours, older relatives or members of your church.

See our newly updated Volunteer Resources for support in coordinating volunteers, and [check the government advice](#) on how to help safely.

Resources



Church Online

As we're not currently able to meet in person, many churches are looking to digital platforms and tools to keep connected. Some may already meet online, some may be trying other ways, and some may still be finding their feet. Helping churches to stay connected is one of the ways our Together Network has been helping locally.

We've found that these tools can be really useful:

- Facebook pages, messenger and groups
- Whatsapp
- Zoom
- Skype

See the Church of England media centre for more advice and resources on how to connect virtually with your community.

Media Centre

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