



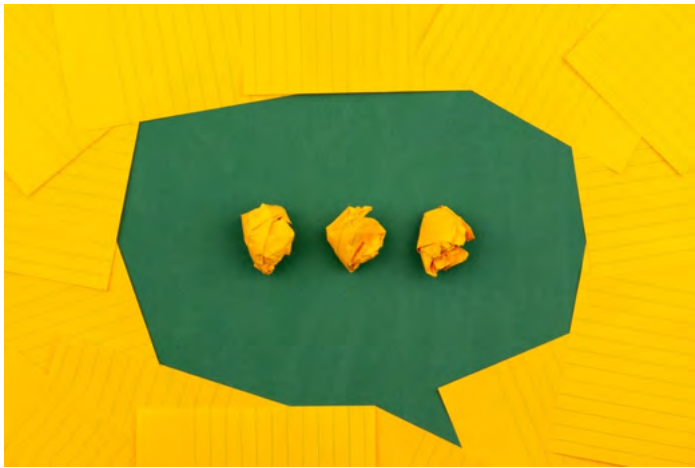
Hello,

As we come towards the fourth month of lockdown, we are slowly going into the new normal as shops and churches start to open.

Our family of organisations continue to be a force for good works across the country. [Near Neighbours](#) are keeping communities connected and encouraging their 'kindness is contagious' campaign. [The Just Finance Foundation](#)'s COVID Cash Course has been hugely successful, helping community leaders and organisations to be better equipped to support those in financial shock. [The Together Network](#) continues to do fantastic social action across the country working to support the vulnerable during these difficult times.



From supporting food banks, food collections and hampers, to encouraging social contact and raising awareness of modern slavery - just some of the projects that our family of organisations have been involved in!



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!



New Executive Director

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Whittington (formerly Sharpe) as Executive Director of the Church Urban Fund.

Rachel has a deep understanding our work across the entire CUF 'family', and brings a keen ambition to build on our vision.



Good News Story

Together Liverpool are supporting the operations of St George's Pantry, which is delivering emergency food each week to 40+ homes in Everton. Project Worker Naomi is also coordinating Feeding Liverpool, which is distributing food supplies for organisations working with vulnerable families.

The Smith family from Clubmoor Liverpool found themselves in a crisis as the husband and main bread-winner had lost his job in the hospitality sector and with two kids at home, household spending had significantly increased. An application for Universal Credit had gone in straight away but takes a number of weeks and in the meantime rent and debts still needed to be paid. Never having accessed a foodbank before, they contacted us and we were able to supply them with 3 days emergency food including fresh fruit and veg. We were also able to signpost them to the City Council's Citizen Support Scheme for further support.

Also a huge congratulations to Together Liverpool for their recent award from The National Lottery Fund of £40,400. The grant is part of the Lottery's initial emergency response to COVID-19 to help vulnerable people and communities overcome the immediate crisis and other support challenges brought about by the virus.

[Find out more](#)



More Good News

Partner organisations from the Together Network continue to do great work supporting their local communities.

Together for Change, in Coventry, have developed their Good Neighbours project to work in partnership with HOPE Coventry and the Coventry Foodbank RDC to support the isolated elderly with food and friendship support. They're coordinating telephone calls and letters, food parcels deliveries, and a volunteer shopping and medicine collection service.

Transforming Lives Together have been able to secure Covid-19 funding from the Cheshire Community Foundations to provide emergency food to communities in the Cheshire area in partnerships with churches. One example of this is their work with New Brighton Baptist Church who have delivered food to vulnerable people in their local community, as can be seen in the photo above.

STAY CONNECTED



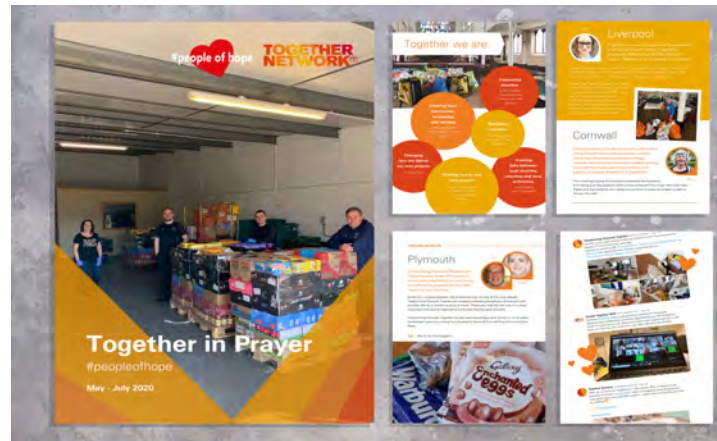
Near Neighbours

Despite the restrictions on public gatherings and meeting imposed by the Coronavirus, Near Neighbours continue to help local groups and organisations to stay connected and create friendship and collaboration across difference.

Near Neighbours Coordinator in West Yorkshire has shared a few thoughts on 'Keeping faith at this time of COVID'.

Read the blog post on the Near Neighbours website following the button below.

[Keeping Faith](#)



Together Network Prayer Diary

In the Together Network's new prayer diary, we take a look at how the Together Network is working harder than ever to support local communities through all the challenges posed by the global pandemic. All over the country we're mobilising #peopleofhope, offering practical responses to connect and support people, especially the most vulnerable. We take a look at some of our responses and offer some guidance for how you can pray for our work.

Have a read of the [Together Network Prayer Diary here](#).

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



National Volunteers Week

It's recently been National Volunteers Week and during these difficult times, our country could not survive without the amazing hard work of volunteers up and down the country. Thank you to everyone who volunteers for projects, organisations and churches! We couldn't do any of this without you.

Don't forget that we have put together a volunteering resource toolkit including role descriptions, risk assessments and more.

[Resources](#)



COVID CASH COURSE

Covid Cash Course

COVID Cash Course is a flexibly delivered information and signposting course which aims to prevent the significant financial challenges posed by the Coronavirus from causing crisis in local communities. Developed by the Just Finance Foundation (with Transforming Communities Together and Capital Mass), the course provides accurate information and resources for churches, community leaders and organisations to help them respond to vast increase in finance related issues that have emerged over the past few months.

So far over 150 community leaders and organisations have already attended 'train-the-trainer' sessions, with the course now being rolled out to financially precarious groups across the country.

Most importantly, the COVID Cash Course is benefiting those who have been thrown into financial shock due to the Coronavirus. After attending a session, 96% of the course attendees say they have a clear plan and budget for the next few months.

[Find Out More](#)

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