

October 2020

Our Vision

The power of the parish network, its thousands of volunteers and the loving, relational social action they offer, is recognised by people across all segments of society. But many of the most committed volunteers are now shielding at a time when need is soaring. **We will help churches recruit and train more volunteers.**

Our recent research into the relationship between church growth and social action indicates that the 'glue' between the two is discipleship. And we believe discipleship – becoming more like Jesus – is at the heart of transformative, collaborative social leadership. **We will help churches support more people on their discipleship journey.**

Everyone has valuable skills and gifts they bring to the service of others: a former client of a homelessness service being ready to help someone else on their journey, a child sharing their new budgeting skills with their friends, or a university student working with their local church to run a food bank. **We will help churches and community groups raise up more local leaders.**

The social problems we face are bigger than any one organisation or group can solve. The church is seen as bridge between different actors - faith groups, statutory and social provision. **We need to help convene partnerships of solidarity that ensure resources are used well and the most pressing needs are met**

CUF's COMMITMENT

- We will engage people at the grassroots to ensure their voices are heard and they are engaged in decisions which impact them. Stories can change the church, change people and change the world;
- We will work through dioceses and parishes, who have a presence in every place and, in many cases, remain the 'last person standing' in a community, to identify and train new leaders within and outside congregations;
- We will work ecumenically with other Christian and faith partners strengthening the 'church' in its broadest sense;
- We will partner with Christian, faith and secular organisations who share a common vision and values to deliver relational social action to ensure the sum of the whole is much greater than the constituent parts;
- In partnership with the government, we will rigorously evidence our work so all can see the true value of faith based social action to change lives.