



Welcome March 2025!

After a long, cold winter, it feels as though spring is finally on its way! I've found so much joy in the sight of clearer blue skies, a gentle warmth in the air, and the first signs of flowers beginning to bloom. There's a sense of hope, excitement, and anticipation as a new season unfolds.

March also marks the beginning of Lent, a word which comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning springtime. Yet, Lent is much more than a symbol of the changing season. Just as Jesus spent 40 days fasting and praying in the wilderness, enduring temptation from Satan, Lent invites Christians to follow His example and draw near to God through a period of fasting, sacrifice, repentance, and prayer.

For Christians across the country working for social justice in our communities, it might feel like you're in the "wilderness." Perhaps you feel discouraged by the slow progress of your efforts to improve welfare, that God is distant, or that you are alone in your mission. But I encourage you to embrace this Lenten season as a period to draw near to God once again. Let it be a time to fully rely on Him, and a chance to renew your trust in His unwavering faithfulness and provision.

In this newsletter, I am excited to share some wonderful resources to equip you over the next month as you continue in your efforts. GoHealth are starting their Chaplaincy Course this month, providing a chance to learn practical tools to bring healing and hope to all those in need, all in a live, interactive online format. Transforming Lives for Good is running a free event at The Message Community Hub, providing a chance to explore what you can do to support children and families in your community. And if you missed it last month, you can read all about our new research on faith and social prescribing, which has been discussed on Radio 4, in the Church Times and had a very positive endorsement from the Health Secretary!

I am also delighted to share news about our new research project in partnership with Historic England. This project will explore the impact of Warm Welcome Spaces that are hosted in historic churches on the wellbeing of individuals and communities. Please find more details about this exciting project below!

Wishing you every blessing at the start of the Lenten season,
Tabitha and the ChurchWorks Team.

Upcoming Projects

Heritage and Wellbeing: Our new research project in partnership with Historic England

We're starting a new project with Historic England looking into the role of heritage buildings for warm welcome spaces located in churches.

We want to understand more about the value of heritage buildings so that we can equip churches to safeguard them for the wellbeing of our wider communities, now and in the future. We're looking for churches who host warm welcome spaces, both in historic buildings and those in modern buildings, to be part of our research through completing short surveys, having our team visit to conduct short interviews, or participating in workshops. If you would be interested in being involved please email esther.platt@goodfaith.org.uk



[Click Here to Read More](#)

Wellbeing

Creating a Neighbourhood Healthcare Service

As part of our *Creating a Neighbourhood Healthcare Service* report, we've also developed two insightful How-To Guides designed to improve healthcare collaboration.

One of these guides, *How to Engage with Faith Groups in Social Prescribing*, provides actionable steps for Social Prescribing Link Workers (SPLWs) and faith groups to collaborate in creating stronger, more inclusive community health services.

Additionally, our *How to Engage in Social Prescribing: Faith Leaders* report, serves as another excellent follow-up to this conversation. It reminds us that "as faith communities, we are called to love our neighbours, and partnering with local GP surgeries through social prescribing enables us to do just that."

Creating a Neighbourhood Health Service:

The role of churches and faith groups in social prescribing



Partner Resources



GOHEALTH

GoHealth's Chaplaincy Course

We're excited to offer this course to equip and inspire chaplains in their vital ministry. This is more than just

training—it's an experience designed to deepen your impact. You'll explore the science behind pastoral care, delve into the complexities of trauma, and walk away with practical tools to bring healing and hope to those in need—all in a live, interactive online format.

Course Details: The course is made up of three interactive workshops on **March 6th, 13th, and 20th**, running from **10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**, with an optional follow-up session on **March 27th**.

Key Topics Include:

- Christian approaches to flourishing in mind, body, and spirit
- How to support those facing loss and trauma
- The power of storytelling in healing
- Embracing the unique value of chaplaincy in a multi-disciplinary setting

[Click here to register now](#)



TLG North West Partners Forum

TLG is a national Christian children's charity that helps churches to bring hope and a future to struggling children. From trauma, to poverty and food insecurity, there are children across the UK facing some of the toughest starts in life. We believe change is possible and that's why in

all our work lies an unchanging resolve to transform lives for good.

On the 19th of March they are hosting the **TLG North West Partnerships Forum** for churches across the North West to find out more about the opportunities to partner with TLG. The event is free to attend and will be full of inspiration of how your church can work with schools and your local community in supporting children and families

[Click here to get your tickets](#)

We Want to Hear From You!

ChurchWorks wants to hear from you! Whether you've attended an event, followed our work, or engaged with us in any way, your feedback helps us reflect on our work. Please take a moment to share your thoughts— thank you!

Share your experience with us



If you're subscribed to our newsletter, you are officially part of the ChurchWorks community!

If you're a local church this gives you access to:

- Monthly newsletters with jam packed content (like this one)
- Reflections and blogs from the ChurchWorks team
- Stories of impact from churches around the country
- Information about upcoming in-person and online events
- Updates and resources from our partner organisations

Did you know that being a subscriber also gives you access to a free 30 min consultation call with one of the ChurchWorks team?

Whether you want to hear more about one of our mission areas, find out how you can connect more with your Local Authority or share a story of impact, we'd love to hear from you.

[Get in touch](#) to arrange a call.

Thank you so much for journeying with us as we seek to make a difference within communities by building connection in our churches. If you have any questions or feedback, please do get in touch by emailing info@churchworks.org.uk.

The ChurchWorks Team



Churchworks.org.uk

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