



May 2025

As we step into May, a month often associated with renewal, growth, and light, we are invited to pause and reflect on the steadfast presence of the Church within our communities. In a world that can often feel fast-paced, uncertain, and fragmented, the Church stands as a quiet yet powerful counterpoint – a place of rootedness, peace, and presence. Like the tree planted by streams of water in Psalm 1, the Church draws strength from deeper sources, bearing fruit in season – not for its own sake, but for the benefit of others.

Across the UK, churches continue to serve as spaces where people are welcomed, heard, and supported. Whether in historic buildings steeped in generations of prayer, or in lively halls filled with conversation and care, the Church honours its sacred past while responding to the needs of the present. Through these spaces, we offer holistic support, recognising that wellbeing is shaped by relationships, belonging, and hope, not simply medicine. This month, we are pleased to share the progress of our research with Historic England, which highlights how historic church buildings are offering more than shelter. These spaces have become sanctuaries of dignity, healing, and hope, making a quiet but significant contribution to the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

We are also excited to share details of an upcoming webinar led by Niall Cooper, focusing on how the Church can engage more effectively with those experiencing poverty. Additionally, we'll be introducing our **Family Hubs Toolkit**, designed to strengthen collaboration between churches and local authorities. At its heart lies the belief that by sharing trust, insight, and resources, we can build a future rooted in compassion and equity for children and families.

In this season, may we find encouragement in the Church's faithful presence, through prayer, hospitality, and partnership, as it helps communities not only to endure but to flourish.

Blessings,

Ellie and the ChurchWork's team

Anti Poverty

ChurchWorks Webinar: Heeding Lived Experience of Poverty

Monday 2nd June, 2-3:30pm, Online on Zoom

We are delighted that Niall Cooper and friends from Church Action on Poverty will be running a one-off webinar on how to listen to, heed and increase the participation of those with lived experience of poverty in the church's strategic decision-making. With the government making significant cuts and due to publish their Child Poverty Strategy this summer, we will focus on how we can involve people with lived experience of poverty to best inform the decisions that the church makes to tackle poverty through coordinated hyper-local responses and political advocacy.



[Sign up here!](#)

Family Hubs

ChurchWorks Family Hubs Toolkit Launch Event

Tuesday 24th June, 2-3:30 pm, Online on Zoom

One of ChurchWorks' key aims over the last 3 years has been exploring opportunities for the church to be involved in the future of Family Hubs, whether through support, co-delivery or co-location.



We are delighted to have worked collaboratively with ChurchWorks partners Spurgeons and the Gather Movement to produce an online Family Hubs toolkit. The toolkit will equip both Local Authorities and churches with an understanding of one another's assets, a shared language and vision, and next steps for collaboration. We hope to make a case for the important role that faith groups play in local communities, and therefore why Local Authorities should consider partnering with them on Family Hubs. The toolkit also provides clear next steps for churches to take in building and navigating relationships with local authorities. At our online launch, we will celebrate the production of this resource, share more of its content and outline plans for the distribution of the toolkit.

[Sign up here!](#)

Wellbeing

Churches make a difference : Our role in the holistic wellbeing of our communities

We're all aware of the pressures on our public services and the urgent need for more effective, consistent and timely health and social care across the UK.



The government is determined to cut waiting times for medical appointments and Wes Streeter has cast a vision for a 'neighbourhood health service' where individuals will be able to access medical care in their local area. However, even if the NHS are able to better meet the medical needs of patients, there is increasing recognition that health and wellbeing is broader than physical health and that social health, and practical support, are both needed in communities and have significant impact on lowering the demand for GP appointments.

[Click here to read more](#)

Sanctuary: A case study from our Historic England research

ChurchWorks is working with Historic England to research **the role of heritage on the wellbeing of individuals and communities accessing Warm Welcome Spaces located in historic church buildings.**



As part of our research, we're visiting Warm Welcome Spaces located in historic churches across the country. A few weeks ago, we were delighted to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the City of London.

Located at the heart of our historic capital city, the church functions as a parish church, and a city church, as well as the home of the Royal Fusiliers Memorial Chapel and the National Musicians' Church. The church's vision is to be a place of welcome, music, and prayer and to actively promote the Common Good of the city through stewarding the building, traditions and practices of the 15th Century heritage site.

[Click here to read more](#)

Accelerate Wellbeing Workshops

We are loving working with the cohort of church-led wellbeing projects in our Accelerate Wellbeing cohort to help them scale and replicate their amazing work.

We have developed a series of workshops for the cohort by an amazing line-up of experts looking at *how churches can grow and scale*

their innovative work and we've decided that they are just **too good not to share!**



So we'll be posting recordings of the workshops monthly on our [ChurchWorks Youtube channel](#) and sending them in our newsletters so that everyone in the ChurchWorks community can benefit from the wisdom.

In our most recent workshop, Jonathan Buckerfield (Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants) discusses effective fundraising strategies, including grant writing, donor engagement, and fundraising campaigns. He explores how to build sustainable income streams and cultivate relationships with donors.

[Watch the most recent workshop here](#)

Partner Resources



Shine a new light on your parish with the Look Up Tool

Do you really know how many children go hungry, the number of families who can't pay their bills, or how many of your elderly parishioners sit alone

too worried to turn on the heating in **your parish?**

How do we feel about the vast differences in life chances among our communities, and what can churches do to help bridge the gap?

Enter your Church of England parish into the Look Up Tool and get a clear picture of poverty in your community and how it compares in your diocese and across England.

[Click here to use the Look Up Tool](#)

The National Churches Survey: we need your help!

The National Churches Trust is carrying out a landmark survey to help policymakers, the media, and the wider public better understand the challenges churches face



and to highlight the vital work that churches, like yours, do.

If you lead, work, or volunteer at a church, we want to hear from you. Your response will provide essential evidence to build a clearer picture – to tell a stronger, more informed story about your church, and others like it, so that together we can address some of the biggest challenges facing churches and help ensure

their future.

Please complete The National Churches Survey and encourage other churches in your network to take part too. The more churches that take part, the more impactful it will be. The survey is live until 30 June.

Thankyou!

[Click here to take part in the survey](#)



A Special Good Friday Visit

Following the recent ChurchWork Commissioners meeting, Lord Khan of Burnley was keen to connect with a local congregation for Good Friday. Padiham Road Methodist Church warmly welcomed him for a meaningful visit, where he spent time with church members and celebrated the vital role the church plays in the local community.

Read the full story on the Methodist Church's website.

[Click here to read more](#)

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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