



August 2025

As Parliament begins its summer recess, we reflect on key developments in faith-based social action. The Civil Society Covenant and renewed investment in Family Hubs signal a shift in how government engages with voluntary and community groups – particularly those rooted in faith.

Churches and faith groups have long been a quiet but vital backbone of local support. Thank you to churches across the country for your steadfast service. Your quiet, consistent presence continues to shape lives and strengthen communities. Our hope is that this growing recognition leads to sustainable frameworks that genuinely value and resource the Church's contribution to the common good.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be part of FaithAction's *Faith and Partnerships Week* in September, where we'll be hosting a webinar focused on building stronger partnerships between faith communities and local services. We also have new *Accelerate Wellbeing* workshops available to book now for the Autumn.

Blessings,

Ellie and the ChurchWorks team

Upcoming Events



ChurchWorks: Faith and Local Services in Partnership

From the 8th – 12th September, **FaithAction** will host **Faith in Partnership Week 2025** – a celebration of cross-sector collaboration between faith communities and public bodies across the UK. The week will highlight the vital role faith plays at both local and national levels and encourage

partnerships.

[ChurchWorks](#) is pleased to host a one-hour online webinar during Faith Partnership Week 2025. This webinar will support local faith groups in engaging with local public services. In particular, it will explore the implications of the Government's new plans for expanding Family Hubs and neighbourhood health as opportunities for collaboration with faith groups. We will feature case studies of faith groups partnering with social prescribers and co-locating with Family Hubs and introduce you to two key resources we have created to guide you through the process of engaging with these local public services.

Click [here](#) to view our Social Prescribing How-To-Guide for Faith Leader.

Click [here](#) to view our Family Hubs toolkit: A practical, inspiring guide to help churches and local authorities collaborate and create life-changing support for families.

[#FaithinPartnership](#) [#FiP25](#)

[Click here to get your tickets for our webinar](#)

Wellbeing

Neighbourhood Health Services : The Church and the 10 year plan

On 3rd July, the government released their long awaited [10 year plan](#). The plan outlines the renewed direction of the NHS in response to the Darzi review of summer 2024. It revolves around three shifts:

- Hospital to community
- Analogue to digital
- Treatment to prevention

The heart of the plan is to move healthcare as close to home as possible for the majority of people. This will make it easy and quick to access, ensure sustainable outcomes and reduce pressure on GPs and hospitals. The watch word for Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health, has been 'neighbourhood' – the new epicentre of health and social care.



[Read our reflection here](#)

Accelerate Wellbeing Autumn Workshop Calendar

**Accelerate Wellbeing Autumn Workshop
Calendar**

Across the country, partnerships between churches and the NHS are emerging, aiming to support people with their mental health and wellbeing. Through the three-year [Accelerate Wellbeing](#) programme, ChurchWorks is working alongside five incredible projects that are already doing this work. We are exploring with our cohort how their impactful work could be scaled up across the health system or replicated in other communities.



As part of the Accelerate Wellbeing programme, we have been running a series of monthly workshops to help the cohort think through how to scale and replicate their work in ways that are efficient, sustainable and in line with their Christian ethos and values. We have a brilliant calendar of workshops lined up for the Autumn and have decided that they are too good not to share! These one-hour online sessions will provide helpful insight into the NHS and where opportunities for further partnership and collaboration might be found.

Please sign up using the Eventbrite links below to receive the Zoom links. You can also watch recordings of our previous workshops [here](#).

Friday 12th September, 2-3pm

Engaging with the NHS – Andy Knox MBE (Medical Director for Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS, GP partner and Co-Founder of Population Health Academy in LSC).

In this workshop, Andy Knox will help us explore the **theology of building relationships and trust with the NHS**. He will also be offering practical tips on how the NHS is structured so we can think about building good links, aligning with their priorities and accessing collaboration opportunities.

Click [here](#) to sign up.

Tuesday 14th October, 12-1pm

The NHS and the Lord Darzi Review – Harry Quilter-Pinner (Executive Director at the Institute for Public Policy Research).

In this workshop, Harry Quilter-Pinner will share an overview of the state of the NHS, highlighting where the greatest needs lie and what role community and faith-based organisations can play in implementing the recommendations of the Lord Darzi review.

Click [here](#) to sign up.

Tuesday 18th November, 1-2pm

Navigating the NHS: a starter guide for churches – Roger Greene (Head of Public, Bereavement and Commercial Sector Engagement and Deputy CEO at At A Loss)

In this workshop, Roger Greene will help churches who want to partner more with various expressions of their local health system to understand what the NHS really looks like, how it functions, why it does what it does, and therefore equip them to know who, where and when to approach to make a successful partnership.

Policy Updates

Civil Society Covenant

This July, the UK Government formally launched the **Civil Society Covenant**, a principles-based framework co-designed with over 1,200 civil society groups, including charities, social enterprises, and faith organisations, to reset relationships between state and sector at national and local levels.

Grounded in four core principles: **Recognition, Partnership, Participation**, and **Transparency**. The Covenant commits government departments and public bodies across the UK to work collaboratively with civil society while respecting its independence and right to advocacy



[Click here to read more](#)

Department for Education unveiled its Best Start Family Hubs

Last month, the UK Government unveiled a major investment to roll out **Best Start Family Hubs** across every local council in England. Building on Sure Start's foundation, the £500 million initiative aims to support **up to 500,000 children and their families by 2028**

– offering integrated services such as birth registration, debt advice, parenting support, youth activities, and more, prioritising needs in low-income communities.

At ChurchWorks, we view this development with optimism. These hubs directly reflect our vision: building trust-based, locally rooted partnerships that deliver holistic support.



[Click here to read more](#)

Anti-Poverty



This month [Warm Welcome](#) published their Impact Report for the year 2024-25. A highlight from the statistics was that 68% of people now live within 30 minutes of a warm space, up from 62% last year.

Warm Welcome want to take this to 100%, so that everyone has a place of connection and belonging close to home – hence the 100% Pledge campaign. You can read more about the 100% Pledge and take the

pledge [here](#).

In the past year alone, 2.6 million people visited Warm Welcome Spaces. We're encouraged by these numbers and excited to see the campaign continue to grow. With over 5,300 spaces now registered, we're looking forward to welcoming even more, especially as winter approaches.

One Warm Welcome guest shared:

"It's at the heart of the community. It's a place to keep up to date with all the news and what's going on in the community, laughing, joking, and enjoying each other's company."

You'll find more powerful stories and reflections like this throughout the report.

[Read the full report here](#)

The ChurchWorks Summit



Exciting News: The Churchwork's Summit

We're delighted to announce ***The ChurchWorks Summit: Bringing Churches and Government Together for Social Good.***

Early bird tickets will go live in **September**, so keep an eye on your inbox and be ready to join this major one-day event.

The ChurchWorks Summit will be a meeting place and sounding board

for those working in the local and national church, alongside senior government leaders, to forge a closer connection between church and state.

This one-day conference will showcase powerful partnerships between churches, government, and the public sector – and help create the conversations and connections needed to make these partnerships stronger and more embedded in everyday practice.

Expect keynote speeches from senior faith leaders and cabinet ministers, plus interactive workshops tackling the most pressing issues in the UK today:

- Poverty

- Vulnerable children and families
- Mental health and wellbeing

When? Friday 27th February 2026

Where? Westminster Central Hall

Follow us on our social media [@ChurchWorks](#) and stay tuned for September's newsletter to hear more and to get your tickets.

We look forward to you joining us.

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



Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn & X to keep up to date with our work!

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.



Churchworks.org.uk

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