



The ChurchWorks Summit

It is said that “the local church is the hope of the world”. At ChurchWorks, we couldn’t agree more!

The upcoming [ChurchWorks Summit](#) is all about celebrating the incredible and transformative work that God is doing in and through his church in this country. Whether it is the church that runs a parent and toddler group where new parents are supported to get their kids school-ready, the weekly drop in that supports people struggling with their mental health, a Warm Welcome Space that creates strong local communities or a Debt Centre that helps draw people out of poverty.

We hope this Summit will encourage you, equip you with practical insights, and inspire you as you continue to serve your community. Whether you are a church leader, a charity practitioner, a policymaker or a partner, you are part of this story – and we are delighted to welcome you.

If you haven't already, make sure to [book your place now!](#)

Only 4 weeks to go!

On Friday 27 February 2026, ChurchWorks will host the [ChurchWorks Summit](#) at **Methodist Central Hall, Westminster**.

This one-day gathering brings together churches, charities, government and public services to explore how, when we work together well, we can serve our communities more effectively and see lasting social change.

The hard work and faith of those who run and volunteer these different ministries is a wonderful example of whole-life discipleship – of people putting their faith into action, serving their communities and serving God. ChurchWorks’ mission is to help churches make connections with others across the church and across the public sector and government, to increase the impact of this faithful ministry and help create positive change for even more people.

When we bring together the local church, national denominations, charities, public servants and senior politicians, we can have a conversation that takes us

each out of our own context and see how when we work together more intentionally, there are even more opportunities for God to work really powerfully.

[Read our full article about the Summit here](#)

From Insight to Action: Tools and Talks for Change



 **Summit**

We're delighted to announce an inspiring line-up of speakers for the Summit.

The day will be hosted by **Justin Brierley** and **Swarzy Shire**. Justin brings over 20 years' experience as a writer, broadcaster, and podcaster, widely known for hosting *Unbelievable?* and for fostering thoughtful, intelligent dialogue around faith, culture, and belief. Joining him as co-host, Swarzy, a London-based broadcaster and creative, familiar to audiences from BBC Radio 1, 1Xtra, and Radio 4, and known for her dynamic presence at the intersection of media, culture, and Christian faith. Together, they promise insightful conversation, warmth, and energy throughout the event.

The Summit will begin with an Opening Keynote from a Government representative (TBC), offering a timely perspective on Church-Government partnerships and the role faith can play in shaping public life. This will be followed by a Question Time session with the **Faith Minister, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities**.

We'll close the day with a powerful Closing Keynote from **Bishop Mike Royal**, General Secretary of Churches Together in England and ChurchWorks Commissioner.

Panel Discussions: Learning from Experience

At the heart of the Summit are three panel discussions, bringing together church leaders, MPs, practitioners and sector specialists to explore areas where churches are already making a tangible difference - and where partnership matters most.

Promoting Wellbeing Panel



Revd Charles Kawku-Odoi – CEO of the Caribbean and African Health Network, highlighting culturally informed approaches to health and wellbeing.

Pastor Sian Wade – Lead Pastor of Bridge Church, Lincoln (Assemblies of God), offering practical insight into church-led wellbeing and community support

Professor Sir Sam Everington OBE – President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, sharing deep frontline experience and insight into the future of primary care.

Olivia Amarte – Executive Director of Elim Churches, bringing a national faith perspective on supporting churches and communities across the UK.

Dr Zubir Ahmed MP – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Innovation and Safety, bringing a national policy perspective on health, prevention and innovation.

This panel brings together faith leaders, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to explore how community-based approaches can promote wellbeing, strengthen prevention, and shape the future of health through collaboration between churches and public services.

Creating a Neighbourhood Health Service:

The role of churches and faith groups in social prescribing



This links back to our report released last year, [**Creating a Neighbourhood Health Service: The role of churches and faith groups in social prescribing**](#), produced in collaboration with **Theos**. The report highlights how faith groups can contribute to the healthcare system by offering networks, resources and practical wellbeing initiatives, placing churches at the heart of community care.

Supporting Vulnerable Children & Families Panel



Jane Moffat – Early Help Operational Lead in Children’s Services, Coventry City Council, sharing frontline insight into early intervention and family support.

Revd Yinka Oyekan – ChurchWorks Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Children & Families Colab, exploring collaboration between churches, communities and public services.

Emma Malcolm – Children and Family Lead at Bridge Community Church, Bury St Edmunds, bringing practical experience of church-led support for children and families.

Ian Soars – Chief Executive Officer of Spurgeons, offering extensive experience in supporting children and families through community-based services.

With an invite sent to **Olivia Bailey MP** – Minister for Early Education

This panel brings together leaders from local government, churches, and charities to explore how collaboration, early intervention, and community-based support can strengthen outcomes for children and families, drawing on both strategic insight and frontline experience.



This discussion connects directly with the [**Online Family Hubs Toolkit**](#), launched by ChurchWorks to help churches engage with local Family Hubs and contribute to integrated family support in their communities. The resource was developed in collaboration with expert partners and sets out clear, practical steps for both churches and local authorities to work together in supporting children and families.

Tackling Poverty Panel



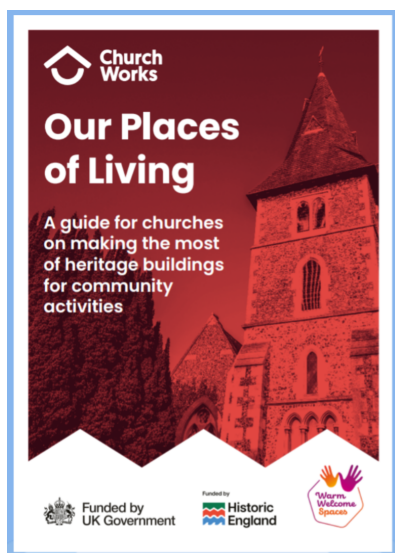
The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP – Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, offering a government perspective on social support and poverty reduction.

The Rt Revd Lynne Cullens – Bishop of Barking, sharing insight on faith-based initiatives and community action to address poverty.

Revd Nick Mottershead – Rector at Holy Sepulchre London and Coordinator of The Square Mile Hygiene Bank and GenerosCity, highlighting innovative community-led solutions for those in need.

Stewart McCulloch – Chief Executive of Christians Against Poverty, bringing expertise in debt relief and practical poverty-alleviation programmes.

This panel brings together government, church, and charity leaders to explore how policy, faith-based action, and community-led initiatives can work together to tackle poverty and deliver practical support to those most affected.



This builds on the incredible growth of the [Warm Welcome campaign](#), which now includes over 6,000 Warm Welcome Spaces across the UK.

ChurchWork's recently published research in partnership with **Historic England**, examining Warm Welcome Spaces specifically in heritage buildings. Following these findings, we created a [practical guide for churches](#) to help them make the most of their buildings for the benefit of their communities.

Afternoon Workshops: Practical Tools for Local Impact



In the afternoon, delegates can choose from a wide range of practical workshops led by trusted partner organisations, offering tools and practical insights that can be applied locally.

Workshops will be delivered by organisations including:

- **Hope Into Action**
- **Stewardship**
- **Gather Movement & Spurgeons Connect**
- **Safe Families / Home for Good & Kids Matter**
- **ThirtyOne:Eight**
- **Dr Amit Sharma & AtALoss**
- **Transforming Lives for Good**
- **Jersey Road**
- **Growing Hope**
- **Action Planning**
- **Christians Against Poverty**
- **Stone King LLP**
- **Kintsugi Hope**

Workshops will focus on our three core mission areas; tackling poverty, promoting wellbeing and supporting vulnerable children and families.

The Exhibitors Marketplace: Meet Our Partners



Delegates will also get the opportunity throughout the day to visit the Marketplace, where a wide range of organisations will be on hand to share

resources, initiatives and opportunities to support your local community.

Exhibitors include:

- **Green Pastures**
- **Home for Good / Safe Families**
- **LifeWords**
- **MAFS UK**
- **Spurgeons**
- **ThirtyOne:Eight**
- **Acts 435**
- **BRF Ministries**
- **National Churches Trust**
- **Stone King LLP**
- **Acts Trust**
- **Appreciating Church**
- **Christians Against Poverty**
- **Care for the Family**
- **Growing Hope**

All of these organisations will be in one place, providing inspiration, guidance and practical tools to help you make a difference in your community.

This is more than just a conference.

Its a catalyst for collaboration.

Get your tickets now!

We Want to Hear From You!

Have you attended a ChurchWorks event?

We'd love to hear from you! Your feedback helps us shape our events so they're as helpful and practical as possible. Whether you joined a webinar, workshop, or used our resources, your thoughts will guide us in equipping you better.

Please take a few minutes to complete this short form - we'd greatly appreciate it!

Share your thoughts through this short form



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.

The ChurchWorks Team



Churchworks.org.uk

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