



December Newsletter

I love Advent. The expectancy of the Nativity story. An opportunity to look back and look forward. The pointing towards the time when all things will be made new.

In many churches, the walk through Advent is marked by the weekly lighting of one of four Advent candles (with a fifth marking the beginning of the Christmas season), each representing a different theme of the Nativity: Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. Christ.

Across all of the different stories, updates and opportunities we are sharing in this month's newsletter, it isn't hard to see these different elements of the Christmas story shining through like the advent candles.

The **love** shown through a campaign to combat winter loneliness among older people.

The **joy** of helping meet the needs of others by donating a vital piece of furniture

The **peace** that comes from spending time together at a Warm Welcome space in an historic building

The **hope** that comes from building new partnerships and relationships for the good of the local community.

All of these things point to the Good News that was announced that first Christmas. They all point towards Jesus Christ.

The Christmas season might be when the Church is most visible to our local communities. But it is present and rooted every day of the year. Let's celebrate – with wisdom and humility – the incredible work that is happening in and through local churches and congregations, and pray this Christmas that everyone who comes through our church doors will feel that hope, peace, joy and love that we reflect on during Advent.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2026

Jack and the ChurchWorks Team

The ChurchWork's Summit

Join us on Friday, 27 February 2026, at [The ChurchWorks Summit](#)

Early Bird Ticket sale ends this month!

The ChurchWorks Summit is a unique opportunity to network, learn, collaborate, and contribute alongside senior church leaders, government ministers, public sector representatives, and charity leaders – all exploring how faith and policy can work together for the common good.

Throughout the day, we'll learn from inspiring examples of partnership, collaborate through interactive discussions, and contribute fresh ideas to address key issues including:

- Faith in public life
- Promoting wellbeing and tackling poverty
- Supporting vulnerable children and families
- Empowering churches to work effectively with public services

Hosted by [Justin Brierley](#), and featuring an exciting lineup of speakers, this Summit is designed to spark new relationships, insights, and collective action.

You can read more about who will be there on [our webpage](#).

[Early-bird tickets](#) sale will end on the 31st of December. Get your tickets now!

You can bulk buy for members of your church, organisations or for friends and family.



Wellbeing

Our Report is now Live!

'A place of living' The role of heritage buildings on a community wellbeing in a 'Decade of 'Renewal'

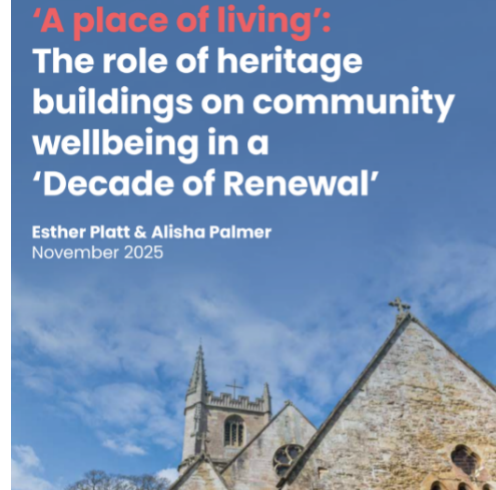
We are delighted to announce that our new report, produced in partnership with Historic England, is now live on our website.

On 27 November, we hosted an online launch event where we shared the findings with attendees from across the country. During the webinar, we heard from several of the case studies featured in the report, as well as insights from [Historic England](#) and related research from the [National Churches Trust](#).

You can now access all the resources from the launch:

- [Read the full report](#), now available on our [website](#)
- [Explore our Places of Living guide](#), offering practical steps and reflections
- [Watch the recording of the launch](#), where we explain more about our report

We would be happy to speak about the research at events with your organisation or networks, or continue the conversation further about implementing these findings. You can get in touch with Esther at esther.platt@goodfaith.org.uk.



Post Event Reflections

At the Heart of It: ChurchWorks supports the Christian Community Hub Movement launch

It's always good to be at the start of something new. Last week, around 70 people from across the UK came to Birmingham for the launch of the [Christian Community Hub Movement](#). This formal Movement is new, but the actual work believers have been doing up and down the country has been going for decades. That is, providing a place for people to find community and access a wide range of support services.



I remember sitting at one table where we discussed what the definition of a "hub" really is. I was surprised by the number of different answers. But for me, that was the beauty of it. A "hub" is this amorphous, versatile, adaptable thing – tailorable and unique to the community it's in. And it's not uncommon for churches to have the most wide-ranging, deep relationships with people within their communities.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

ChurchWorks Commission Meet with the Faith Minister

On the 13th of November, the ChurchWorks Commission gathered for its second meeting of 2025. The room was filled with a wide range of senior church and denominational leaders, representing a broad expression of the Christian community, united by a shared conviction that cross-denominational collaboration and close partnership with the Government are essential to addressing the most pressing social challenges of our day.



At this meeting, Commissioners had the opportunity to meet Miatta Fahnbulleh, the new Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities, alongside Joy Johnston, the Prime Minister's Special Adviser for Faith, Communities and Civil Society.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

Having Faith in Faith: the Power of Partnership between Worshipping Communities and Social Prescribing

Aaron James from ChurchWorks had the exciting opportunity to speak to NASP's new **Strategic Faith and Social Prescribing Lead**.

"Faith institutions are often that trusted community anchor," Yusuf told me. "I don't see this as about creating something new; it's been done. For me, it's about recognising and properly connecting to what's already there." He's right. Faith communities are home to an incredible intersection of people, across age, race, class, and gender. All sorts come in. This represents a golden opportunity for collaboration and partnership.



[Click here to read the full article](#)

Children & Families

More free breakfast clubs to tackle cost of living head-on

Half a million more children will benefit from Best Start free breakfast clubs from April, delivering real relief to families struggling



with the rising cost of living whilst investing in the foundations of future economic growth.

Applications open today for the next wave of 500 schools with 40% of pupils on free school meals to benefit from the programme, as the government invests £80 million in the right places to give every child the best start in life – recognising that a healthy, well-educated population is essential for a

thriving economy.

[Click here to read more](#)

Partner Resources



Trussell Trust: Resources for Churches

Trussell Trust has designed professionally printed resources to inspire action and

solidarity in response to the injustice of poverty in the UK. These engaging resources will help you and your church to support your local food bank, and take action together with Trussell to help end the need for food banks.

One of these resources is titled '[Walking Humbly](#)', a resource for church leaders to explore how people facing hunger and hardship can belong and participate fully in their church community. Practical tips, theological pointers and prompts for reflection. This resource was co-created with Christians with lived experience of needing to use a food bank.

[Click here to read more](#)



Stewardship Generosity Report Launch 2026

Be among the first to explore the **Stewardship Generosity Report 2026** at our exclusive launch event on **Thursday 29th January 2026**. With insights from over 6,000 UK Christians and in-depth interviews, this report will offer a unique perspective on the practices that shape generosity. Discover how prayer, Bible

engagement, and church attendance drive giving – and what this means for ministries and communities across the UK.

What to expect:

- Presentation of the research findings
- Guest panel discussion and insights
- Interactive discussions with other leaders
- Thought leader talks to explore the implications for the UK church and an early glimpse of Stewardship's plans

[Click here to get your tickets](#)

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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