



ChurchWorks January Newsletter

As January begins, snow has fallen and the cold has set in. The busyness of December has quieted, leaving space for reflection as we carry hopes and New Year's resolutions into the year ahead. We look forward with anticipation, wondering what this year will hold and what our goals and hopes for 2026 might be. In the midst of these reflections, we are reminded of the words of Scripture: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Whether our resolutions are to be more active, learn something new, reconnect with family, or try our hand at a new recipe, January becomes a season of expectation – a time to consider not only what the year might bring, but how we might live out our hopes faithfully in the ordinary moments of everyday life.

As we reflect on the months ahead, we hold those same hopes for our churches and communities. We wonder who we might meet, what new connections may be formed, and how God might continue to work through local churches to bring warmth, welcome, and love to those around them.

Wishing you all a very happy new year.

Ellie & The ChurchWorks Team

The ChurchWork's Summit



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

Whether you're a senior church leader, an active member of your local congregation, or simply interested in the ways churches are working with government to make a difference, this **one-day event has something for you.**

[Make sure to get your tickets now!](#)

Why attend?

The Summit highlights successful church–government partnerships, showcases practical solutions to social challenges, and creates opportunities for meaningful collaboration.

Meet our workshop partners

We are delighted to be joined by **Kintsugi Hope, The Joy App, Stewardship, Christians Against Poverty, Growing Hope, Safe Families, Transforming Lives for Good, Gather Movement, National Churches Trust, Jersey Road, Stone King LLP** and many more!

Meet our exhibiting organisations

On the day there will be exciting partners exhibiting including: **ThirtyOne:Eight, Home for Good/Safe Families, LifeWords, Green Pasture, MAFS UK, Acts 345, BRF Ministries, Stone King, CAP, Care for the Family, Appreciating Church, Growing Hope, Acts Trust.**

We will be sharing speaker announcements and more updates on our LinkedIn and Facebook: **@ChurchWorks**

[Read more about the Summit here](#)



We are thrilled that Justin Brierley will be co-hosting the ChurchWorks Summit alongside Swarzy Macaly. You can find more speaker announcements on the

Post Event Reflections

Faith and Social Prescribing Roundtable: Celebrating the Impact of Faith in Wellbeing

ChurchWorks were delighted to be involved in hosting the recent **faith and social prescribing roundtable** in partnership with the National Academy for Social Prescribing. The gathering brought together strategic leaders from across the NHS, the Department of Health and Social Care, arm's-length bodies, and faith communities, to explore how faith groups can be better recognised, celebrated and supported to play a deeper role in neighbourhood health.



The roundtable created space for a hopeful discussion about the Government's 10-Year Health Plan and the opportunities it presents for closer collaboration between health systems and faith organisations. Contributions highlighted the breadth of activity already taking place, and the significant, often under-recognised impact faith communities have on the health and wellbeing of local communities.

It was particularly encouraging to see research presented evidencing the scale of this impact, reinforcing what many churches experience day-to-day in their local contexts. In a time of increasing pressure on health and social care services, the compassion, creativity and commitment of faith communities offer real potential for positive change.

You can read more about churches and faith groups role in social prescribing in our report: *Creating a Neighbourhood Healthcare Service*.

[Click here to read our full report](#)

Wellbeing

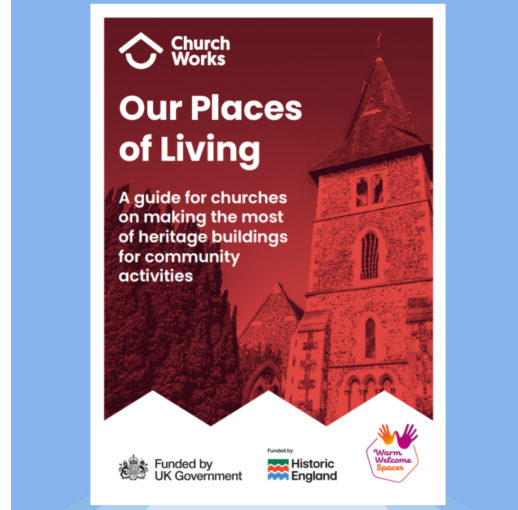
Read our recent how-to guides for local churches in heritage buildings

Our report, *A Place of Living*, funded by Historic England, highlights the vital role that Warm Welcome Spaces in heritage churches play in supporting

community wellbeing during this 'Decade of Renewal'.

Building on this research, we have produced a practical guide for local churches on making the most of their heritage buildings for community activities, helping to keep these spaces welcoming, active and rooted in their neighbourhoods.

If you are part of a church, or know a church, based in a heritage building, we recommend reading our how-to guides. They share practical advice and resources on communicating your value, building strong relationships, telling your heritage's story and more.



[Click here the full report and how to guide](#)

Policy Updates

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved in the Government's Pride in Place strategy

The UK Government is inviting local people to get involved in the new *Pride in Place* Strategy, a £5 billion, 10-year programme investing in neighbourhoods across the country. Through this initiative, communities can receive up to £20 million to shape long-term improvements led by local people, from revitalising high streets and community spaces to supporting wellbeing, skills and local services.



The Government is encouraging people to **contact their local authority or MP to find out how they can join their new Neighbourhood Board**, which will help decide how this funding is spent locally.

For churches, this is a significant opportunity to bring a voice for the most vulnerable into local decision-making, particularly those individuals and families churches often walk alongside every day. If you're passionate about your local community, now is the time to step forward and help shape the future of your area!

[Click here to read more](#)

Partner Resources



CAP releases new report: 'Beyond belief: The local church and poverty'

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has released a new report highlighting the vital role local churches play in supporting people facing poverty across the UK.

Over the past five years, **12.5 million people** across the UK have either received help from a church or know a friend or family member who has.

The report, *Beyond Belief: The Local Church and Poverty*, shows how local churches and Christian organisations make a significant contribution through practical care and support in communities nationwide. It offers a powerful illustration of the difference churches are already making in the lives of people in their local areas.

As cost-of-living pressures continue, CAP's findings underline that churches are not only places of worship, but trusted community hubs offering hope, dignity and long-term support to individuals and families in need. We encourage you to read the report in full.

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



Church Action on Poverty resources for turning faith into action

As Christians, we are called to seek justice and challenge injustice. Yet finding practical, sustainable ways to make this part of everyday church life can be challenging.

To support churches in this calling, Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty have jointly launched **26 in 26** – an interactive poster offering **26 practical ideas for churches to explore**

throughout 2026.

The resource includes:

- fresh ideas for prayer, reflection, and worship
- creative ways to engage with local community groups
- guidance on speaking up about current issues in thoughtful, effective, and just ways

Whether your church is just beginning this journey or looking for new inspiration, *26 in 26* offers accessible, hopeful steps towards living out justice together.

[Click here to order your free poster](#)



Emerge Advocacy: Bringing Hope to Young People in Crisis

Emerge Advocacy is a Christian charity supporting young people in A&E after self-harm, suicide attempts,

or emotional crises. Working alongside hospital staff, they offer compassion and hope, while being clear about their Christian foundation.

Celebrating **10 years of ministry**, EmERGE now supports over **1,000 young people annually across 12 hospitals** in the Southeast.

In 2026, they're partnering with local churches and inviting support in two ways:

1. **Start a project:** if you think you're A&E needs an EmERGE project and you have a passion for young people in mental health crisis, read more [here](#).
2. **Join the 'Circle of Hope':** Become a [monthly supporter](#) to sustain this vital work.

Emerge is pioneering a model for Christians to serve alongside the NHS, offering hope where it's needed most.

You can get in touch with the founder and CEO: joy@emergeadvocacy.com to find out more

[Click here to read more](#)

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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