



## September Newsletter

For many, September feels like a starting point. The summer holidays are over, a new school year begins. At ChurchWorks, we have a similar feeling. In September 2021, we were preparing for the first meeting of the ChurchWorks Commission for Covid Recovery. Senior leaders from across many national denominations and movements met together to pray and plan for how churches could continue to work together, and with government, to address the legacy of the pandemic on mental wellbeing, increasingly vulnerable families, and social isolation.

As September rolls around again, we reflect on the growth of the ChurchWorks network over the past four years, the inspiring work that local churches are undertaking to support their communities, and the steady progress being made to enable that work to support wider national efforts to address poverty, mental health challenges and support families.

However, September is also a time of change and you might be aware that there has been a major reshuffle of the Cabinet and other government ministers. We are sad that Lord Khan or Burnley is no longer the Faith Minister and thank him for his passion for the role of churches in our communities and national life and strong encouragement for the work of ChurchWorks across government. We look forward to working with his successor, who we hope will be announced in due course. Strong partnerships across government help ChurchWorks to showcase the amazing work going on through churches across the country. We'll be reaching out to new ministers with responsibility for children & families, poverty, and health to welcome them, update them on our work and assure them of our prayers as they take on these vital jobs. We hope you will join us in praying and encouraging them in their new roles.

Jack & The ChurchWorks team

## Upcoming Events

**The ChurchWorks Summit:  
Bringing Churches and**

**Friday 27th February, 2026**

**Central Hall Westminster, London**

Big news is coming! We'll soon be sharing all the details on the ChurchWorks Summit – from early bird tickets to speaker announcements and more. Stay tuned, and keep an eye on your inbox!



## **ChurchWorks: Faith and Local Services in Partnership**

**Thursday 11th September 2 - 3pm**

ChurchWorks is pleased to host a one-hour online webinar during [Faith Partnership Week 2025](#). Our webinar will support local faith groups in engaging with local public services, in particular Family Hubs and neighbourhood health. Join us to hear case studies from churches already partnering in this way, learn from their

experiences, and connect with others who share this vision. We will also be walking you through our Social Prescribing research and how-to-guides, and Family Hubs toolkit to familiarise you with the guidance available to support you in brokering partnerships in your community

We're at a pivotal moment for local faith groups, community centres, and grassroots organisations. With the new Labour government promising to devolve power from Westminster and invest in preventative services, the spotlight is firmly on "community power." But these structural shifts will only succeed if government partners effectively with the organisations already rooted in local communities – the ones who have built trust and delivered change on the ground. Encouragingly, this is being recognised through the adoption of the *civil society covenant*, which commits both national and local government to listening to the voices of frontline organisations.

Faith groups are a vital part of this landscape. They deliver enormous social good while also offering something unique: deep, long-standing relationships of trust.

You can keep reading our full article [here](#)

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

## **Accelerate Wellbeing Workshop: Engaging with the NHS**

**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).

This September, we will be running an Accelerate Wellbeing with Andy Knox who 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.



**Accelerate Wellbeing Workshop:**  
Engaging with the NHS  
**Andy Knox**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2-3pm**

This workshop will explore:

- Holistic theology of engaging with the NHS and the health sector
- Where this theology overlaps with NHS priorities
- How churches can build trust, align priorities and pursue collaboration with the NHS
- How churches can support the NHS in becoming more faith literate

### **Accelerate Wellbeing Autumn Workshop Calendar**

Across the country, churches and the NHS are partnering to support mental health and wellbeing. Through the three-year [Accelerate Wellbeing](#) programme, ChurchWorks is working with five pioneering projects to explore how their impact can be scaled within the health system or replicated in other communities.

As part of the programme, we host monthly workshops to help the cohort grow their work in sustainable, values-driven ways. This Autumn, we're opening up these one-hour online sessions to share insights into the NHS and highlight opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

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

[Click here to sign up to September's workshop](#)

## **Anti-Poverty**



### **Could you be a Champion Warm Welcome Space?**

Over the past year, [Warm Welcome](#) has worked closely with a small group of Warm Welcome Spaces across the UK, who have been called Champions. We're excited to grow this network and we would love for you to apply to join us.

As a Champion space, you will be part of a group of community spaces that meet monthly for one hour to share ideas and solutions with other leaders, who truly understand the joys and challenges of running a community space. You

will also have access to funding and resources for your space and receive tailored support from our team and partners.

You'll have the chance to share your story, celebrate what you're doing locally, and inspire others across the UK. Learn more about the programme [here](#).

If this is something that excites you, apply now to be a champion space. Please apply by [filling out this form](#). Applications close on **Tuesday 23rd September**.

Please get in touch if you have any questions by emailing [info@warmwelcome.uk](mailto:info@warmwelcome.uk)

Apply to become a Champion Warm Welcome Space

## Wellbeing



### Have Your Say: Social Prescribing Survey

The **National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP)** is running the biggest ever survey on social prescribing in England. The aim is to understand what's working well, identify opportunities and challenges, and shape how NASP can best support the sector going forward.

The short online survey takes **less than 5 minutes** to complete and NASP is calling

for responses from people across all sectors to help build the most comprehensive picture of social prescribing today.

Click here to take part in this short survey

## Vulnerable Children & Families

### Funding Opportunity: Better Youth Spaces Grants

Youth organisations in 42 priority areas across England can now apply for funding through the **Better Youth Spaces programme**, a £30.5m capital grant scheme funded by the UK Government and administered by Social Investment Business.



Eligible not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants between **£5,000 and £100,000** to support small-scale capital projects such as equipment, refurbishments, and improvements to youth facilities. Projects must align with at least one of the fund's objectives:

- Expanding the reach of activities.
- Improving safety of facilities.
- Enhancing quality and capacity to deliver enrichment activities.
- Strengthening financial sustainability of youth provision.

The funding targets organisations working primarily with young people aged **11–18**, or up to **25** for those with SEND, care leavers, or those considered at risk.

Check your eligibility using the postcode checker and learn more here: [Read more about Better Youth Spaces](#)

[Click here to read more](#)

## Partner Resources

### Stewardship : Take part in a Church Leaders Survey

Many church leaders we speak to share the same feeling: teaching about money, generosity, and financial discipleship is important – but not always easy. For some, it's a confidence issue. For others, it's about knowing how to communicate these themes in a way that's biblical, practical, and pastorally wise. For many, it's simply something that gets squeezed out by the pressure of everything else.

***At Stewardship, we believe that money and generosity are deeply spiritual issues – core to discipleship, not peripheral to it. We're launching a project to listen to church leaders across the UK to better understand the barriers, hesitations, and practical realities around teaching on these topics.***

We want to build something truly useful in response – resources and support that actually work in your context.

***We'd love you, and the many church leaders you represent, to be part of shaping it.***

We've put together a short, practical survey to help us understand what you're already doing, what's proving difficult, and what kind of support would actually help. <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/teaching-money-survey>.

Following the survey, we're inviting groups of church leaders to take part in deeper listening sessions. These are informal, relational conversations where we'll explore more of the "why" behind the data and hear directly from those on the front line. We would like to invite you to be part of that conversation – please



let [clare.walker@stewardship.org.uk](mailto:clare.walker@stewardship.org.uk) know and we'll be in touch to arrange something that works for you.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Cinnamon Network Connect : Training for Faith-Based Community Projects

Looking to strengthen your faith-based community work? Cinnamon Network's tailored training sessions are designed to equip you with the skills, knowledge, and practical experience needed to run effective social action projects.

You can pick and choose individual sessions that best suit your needs, or join the **nine-month Connect Academy** to access the full programme online, complete with Learning Hubs. A **hybrid model** is also available, combining online sessions with a two-day in-person residential for deeper learning and connection.



[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](#)



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](mailto:info@churchworks.org.uk).

The ChurchWorks Team



**Churchworks.org.uk**

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