



March Newsletter

“Churches play an **irreplaceable** role at the heart of our communities – reaching out to those in need, offering practical support and spiritual guidance, and helping to build bridges where there are divides.” Those were the words of the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, to attendees at the 2026 ChurchWorks Summit.

His message, which was delivered on his behalf by the Faith Minister, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, goes to the heart of our mission at ChurchWorks – to promote action between churches and with the government on pressing social issues in our local communities, supporting the most vulnerable.

The ChurchWorks Summit, which you’ll read more about in this packed newsletter, was a wonderful opportunity to showcase and celebrate the transformative work that God is doing through his church in the UK. The sold-out event, which drew people from all parts of the country and dozens of denominations and church movements, was a wonderful opportunity for people to connect with others passionate about stronger partnerships, receive training and support to strengthen their ministry, and understand the national context of their work from a church and government viewpoint.

This month’s newsletter includes a great selection of events, resources and opportunities that build on the conversations and content that made the Summit a success – “an inspiration to attend”, an encouraging, community-focused, thought-provoking and uplifting event. We hope you enjoy this month’s newsletter and please do make use of the opportunity to arrange a complementary call with a member of the ChurchWorks team if you would like to dig into anything that the Summit or newsletter content has raised for you.

Jack and the ChurchWorks team

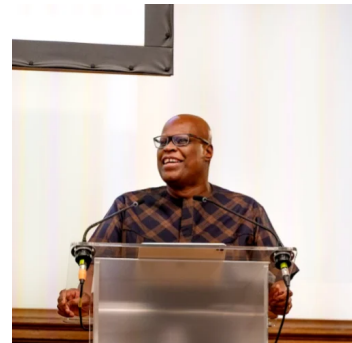
Post Event Reflections



Two weeks on from the [ChurchWorks](#) Summit at Central Hall Westminster, we are still reflecting on what was a remarkable day. More than 300 people gathered to learn, share ideas and discuss how churches and government can collaborate more effectively to serve communities across the country.

The day brought together a wide range of voices through three panel discussions focused on our core mission areas, alongside workshops led by valued partner organisations.

In a Q&A following her keynote, the Faith Minister, Miatta Fanbulleh, spoke candidly about the challenges facing communities today. Reflecting on conversations with different faith groups, she said: **“The hardest part for me... is the challenge that we are seeing around division... people tell me they are scared. They tell me they do not feel safe in their own country... The job is how we turn that around, how we build and bridge, how we support our communities and common endeavour.”**



Social Security and Disability Minister, Stephen Timms, was part of the Tackling Poverty Panel. He emphasised the importance of partnership, saying: **“These are not problems that the government can solve on its own... I think we started out with a collaborative approach. But I agree more needs to be done.”**

Feedback from the day captured the spirit of the gathering. One attendee reflected: “Fantastic day, great to be inspired by projects that are serving communities and people with very real issues.” Another shared: “An inspiring day and a real positive boost to know all that churches are doing and where they are making a difference in these challenging times – and good to know this government is listening.”

Together, the conversations and reflections from the Summit reaffirmed a shared conviction: meaningful change happens when churches, communities and government work together. There is much for ChurchWorks to reflect on following the Summit, and we are excited to begin turning these conversations

into practical next steps. We look forward to sharing more in the coming newsletters.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time, expertise and experience. If you would like to find out more about what happened during the Summit and explore the next steps, we would love to [hear from you](#).

Tackling Poverty

Come along to our Tackling Poverty Colab Meeting!

Rachel Lampard, the Methodist Church, and Bishop Rob Wickham, CEO of Church Urban Fund, are delighted to invite you to our **Spring 2026 Tackling Poverty Colab meeting on Monday 23rd March from 2:30-4:30pm**, online via Zoom.

We'll be sharing a Zoom link and more detailed agenda with you prior to the Colab. If you are unable to attend, please invite the most relevant member of your team. They are very welcome.

Previously, we have explored Pride in Place and the Child Poverty Strategy. This upcoming Colab will be an opportunity to continue the conversations and explore the opportunities that emerge during the ChurchWorks Summit on Friday 27 February 2026. In particular we will be focusing on how denominations can better support their churches to measure and demonstrate the impact of their existing tackling poverty work.



[Click here to sign up](#)

Supporting Children & Families

5 things for churches to know about Family Hubs

Family Hubs - maybe they are something you've heard about on the news, walked past in your local community, or seen on a flyer - but what are they?

At [ChurchWorks](#) we believe that Family Hubs, a key government initiative to support children and families, provide a significant



opportunity to spotlight the vital role of the local church in service of its community and explore its potential to partner with local government.

In this blog post, we break down **five key things for churches to know about Family Hubs** as you explore this opportunity in your context!

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

Did you know?

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
- Share a story of impact

We'd love to hear from you! [Get in touch](#) to arrange a call.

Partner Resources



Get Free Christian Books for Your Community!

Speaking Volumes offers grants for free Christian books to schools, libraries, churches, hospices, prisons, and other

community organisations. If you want to share faith-based literature and make a lasting impact, apply for a grant today! Thanks to our streamlined process and exclusive partnership with Eden Books, recipients receive books quickly and hassle-free. Plus, if a local Christian bookshop has helped with your application, you can refer them when you apply, ensuring they receive a £75 referral fee as a thank-you for their support.

Grants open 2nd March until 30th March 2026

APPLY NOW and help bring life-changing Christian books to those who need them most!

[Click here to apply](#)

Sign Up Now: Free Spurgeons Connect Webinars



We loved having Spurgeons join us at the ChurchWorks Summit where they were able to connect more with you. Many churches want to do more to support their children and families but don't know where to begin.

Spurgeons Connect is a partnership initiative from Spurgeons, a national Christian children's charity. We believe

churches are uniquely placed at the heart of their communities, with trusted relationships and deep local knowledge. Partnerships are shaped around each church's vision, capacity and local context – there is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Church leaders and potential volunteers are warmly invited to attend a free fortnightly webinar, introducing Spurgeons Connect and what partnership can look like in practice.

For further information, or to explore whether Spurgeons Connect may be a good fit for your church, please contact spurgeonsconnect@spurgeons.org

[Click here to sign up](#)



So you want to start a Christian Community Hub?

Online Webinar, Thursday 19th March from 1-2.30pm

This webinar is for everyone, whether you're thinking about starting a hub or already started and looking for guidance and encouragement, or whether you've been doing it for years and want a refresher or would love to share your experience – or if you're just interested to find out more!

This is the first of a regular series of free webinars – look out for more dates soon and do let us know if you'd like us to cover a specific theme.

[Click here to sign up](#)



Achord for Churches: Transform relationships in your community and thrive

Achord Foundation has launched Achord for Churches – a plug & play online resource for small groups that builds everyday relationship skills,

whether as a standalone course or used in Bible study groups.

Across the UK, we're living through a quiet crisis of connection: loneliness, isolation, and relationship breakdown. Church communities aren't immune - and yet we're called to model a better way: love that holds, listens, repairs, and unites (1 Cor 13). As Jesus prayed, "that they may be one... so that the world may believe." (John 17: 23)

Ready to strengthen relationships in your community?

[Click here to read more](#)



Join the 'Foundations of Primary Healthcare Chaplaincy' training course from ACGP

Many in our communities are struggling with a loss of wellbeing and their first source of support is often their GP. There is a growing field of Chaplaincy in Primary Healthcare which places chaplains directly within GP Practices to provide much needed spiritual support to both patients and healthcare staff.

The Association of Chaplaincy in General Practice (ACGP) draws on over 25 years' experience of delivering chaplaincy in this specific context and offers a two-day online training course for those interested in learning more. The next 'Foundations of Primary Healthcare Chaplaincy' course takes place on **19th and 24th March 2026**.

(Website: www.acgp.org.uk; Email: info@acgp.org.uk)

[Click here to register](#)

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

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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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