

Partnerships & Mission

Annual Report 2021

www.southwell.anglican.org

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10.10

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy visited NASA for the first time. During his tour of the facility, he met a janitor who was carrying a broom down the hallway. The President then casually asked the janitor what he did for NASA, and the janitor replied, “I’m helping put a man on the moon.” When we think of what the church is for, what’s its purpose, do we answer in the spirit of that janitor at NASA? Are we playing our part in growing disciples across all communities,



deepening faith and reaching people of all ages and backgrounds with the good news of Jesus Christ? Are we helping people have more abundant life, to experience the Kingdom of God now? Do we see ourselves as joining together in the transforming mission of God? The Partnerships and Mission Team and close partners in 2021 have continued to try and “put a man on the moon” in a wide variety of ways:

- Helping churches to be with rough sleepers, refugees and asylum seekers, in the city and county working with other agencies, statutory and voluntary, to recognise the dignity, possibility, and giftedness of those who often feel vulnerable, isolated and disconnected.

- Developing faith action networks, sharing resources and insights, building the capacity of local churches to respond to the needs and opportunities of their contexts. Promoting work across communities of different faiths and ethnicities, facilitating gatherings to listen, learn and understand.

- Working with a wide variety of citizens, listening to concerns and campaigning and advocating on those key issues, such as mental health, racism and the living wage.

- Encouraging people in their workplaces or key organisations to connect with their deepest needs, whether body, mind or spirit. Emergency services, healthcare, prisons, high streets, town centres, sports clubs, GP Surgeries, shops and offices are all spheres where chaplains are present and prayerful.

- Caring for creation by responding to the challenges of climate change and carbon footprints, encouraging healthier lifestyles and lending a hand in conservation and encouraging biodiversity.

New resources are available for churches to become abundant kingdom communities, building on the amazing things already going on, especially in the context of Covid 19.

Church Urban Fund (CUF) Growing Good Toolkit <https://learning.southwell.anglican.org/browse/growing-good-toolkit/>

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England’s theme for Lent 2022 churchofengland.org/livelent

David McCoulough
Director of Partnerships and Mission



Housing Homelessness and The Church



According to new research published by Shelter - more than 274,000 people are homeless in England, including 126,000 children.

One in every 206 people are currently without a home.

Of these, 2,700 people are sleeping rough on any given night, nearly 15,000 single people in direct access hostels and nearly 250,000 people are living in temporary accommodation – most of whom are families.

Locally over the past year – nearly 500 households (50% families with children) were approved to go into Nottingham City temporary accommodation after being made homeless and on any typical night The Street Outreach Team are still finding at least 20 new people rough sleeping in the city centre. Numbers of people experiencing homelessness around the County are following a similar pattern and its not uncommon for a rough sleeper to ask one of our churches for help.

Churches and Christian charities across the Diocese (the city and county) continue to offer a lifeline to increasing numbers of homeless and vulnerably housed people in the provision of projects ranging from night shelters to drop-in centers to befriending projects – where hundreds of amazing volunteers love and serve, growing in their following of Jesus Christ by being alongside some of the most marginalized people in society. Due to Covid 19 the way churches

offer emergency shelter has had to move away from providing beds in a communal space in a church hall to use of emergency hotels:

Nottingham Winter Shelter was based at the Mercure Hotel April 2020 to June 2021:

281 people accommodated - of whom 49 were women.

Reasons for being homeless:

- Relationship breakdown and insecure accommodation with friends and family as the most common source of accommodation before becoming homeless.
- The risk of Covid transmission exacerbated already precarious housing arrangements like sofa surfing.
- Number of women increased due to domestic violence; a phenomenon acknowledged in the wider population.

No emergency provision from June to November 2021 which saw a rise in rough sleeping with a monthly average of 150 people on the streets in Nottingham.

Nottingham Winter Shelter opened in November in a small residential unit on the University of Nottingham's campus which is 'Covid safe' and all 23 beds are occupied every night. (Shelter will run til March 2022)

No Winter Shelters were allowed to open in communal sleeping areas like Church Halls.

Now that Covid protections - such as the government's 'Everyone In' scheme, the

For more information and contact numbers for people experiencing homelessness please see <https://southwell.anglican.org/resources/transforming-lives/housing-and-homelessness/>



eviction ban, and the boost to Universal Credit – have gone and with living costs rising, there’s a real danger of thousands more people losing their homes, especially with over 800,000 people in rent arrears. This is adding to the housing crisis the UK is experiencing with 8 million people living in unaffordable under-quality housing. Far too many people in the communities we live are living in unaffordable, unsafe and unstable tenancies.

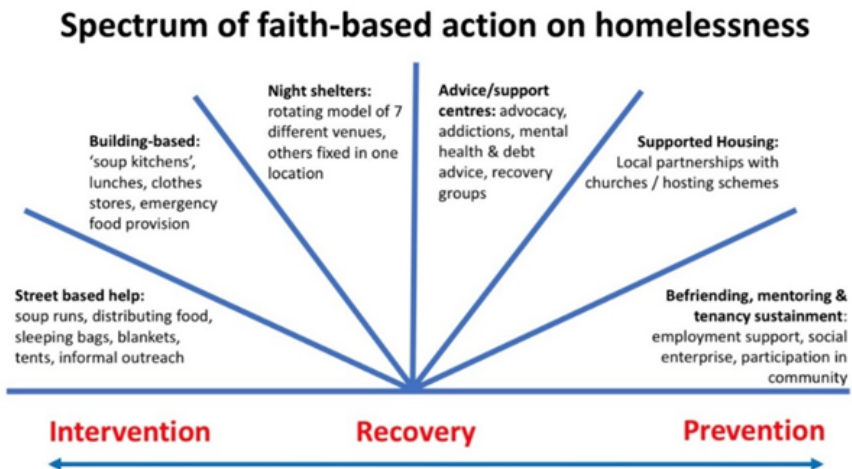
The Diagram below shows the range of provision churches are involved in:

The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Commission on Housing found that 90% of churches across the UK are involved in addressing food poverty or soup runs etc. and only 20%

of churches are involved in housing issues (Churches very much involved in the ‘Intervention/crisis provision’ shown in the Diagram but less so in the Recovery and Prevention areas of the diagram).

And the Commission asks the question - what if every church asked “what can we do about housing in our area” because housing affects each and every person.

Housing difficulties are so often tied up with pastoral issues the Church/clergy /laity engage with – poor housing lies behind lots of the presenting problems people face.





The Commission has produced a landmark report called “Coming Home” which sets out vital actions for the Church, Government and other Stakeholders to take with a focus on building better communities and homes, not just houses.

It provides a Christian vision for ‘good’ housing, based around five core values, which are rooted in the Christian story but resonate with us all: good housing should be sustainable, safe, stable, sociable and satisfying. The Report is full of resources to equip the local church to meet local housing needs and strengthen their communities.

There is a long history of church involvement in housing across all Christian denominations and its time for the church to act.

The Diocese together with Transforming Notts Together are hosting a Housing Summit which will look at how churches can and turn the positive vision of housing in the Coming Home Report into a reality in places that we live, work and minister. You can read the Report and its findings by clicking on:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/priorities/coming-home>



TRANSFORMING NOTTS TOGETHER

"The housing crisis is neither accidental, nor inevitable. If we want to resolve it, if we are willing to share the cost more evenly and if we implement the recommendations outlined in this Report over an extended period of time, we can create homes and communities that are truly sustainable, safe, stable, sociable and satisfying for all."

'Coming Home' - Archbishops of Canterbury and York



Partnerships in Homelessness Sector/

Christian projects continue to work alongside voluntary sector homeless charities, meeting regularly at Nottingham Homelessness Voluntary Sector Forum.

The Forum runs streetsupport.net/Nottingham/ which provides information on all services available for homeless people in the city and county. The website also provides links for members of the public to donate items such as clothes or food, time in volunteering opportunities or money to local homelessness charities.

The Diocese is represented on the Statutory Homelessness Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) - an essential inter-agency meeting involving a number of partners in the City. Through this we are able present issues/concerns/ways of working together on behalf of the strong faith network in the

city which includes Nottingham's Faith Leaders Network and Christian Action Nottingham (CAN).

The CAN Housing Subgroup is made of churches and Christian charities across the city and the county and is growing especially as we look to see how Churches can engage more in housing issues.



Many of us see pictures of refugees arriving in the UK on small boats.

What we don't see is what happens next: men, women and children are placed in holding centres before being put on a coach headed for temporary emergency accommodation somewhere around the country - whilst they wait for decisions on whether they can stay in the UK.

During the Covid 19 Pandemic hundreds of newly arrived refugees (including many families) have been placed in emergency hotel accommodation across the Diocese (the city and county).

Most arrive in the UK only with the clothes they are wearing and are given £8 a week to live on.

Often, they feel isolated, which adds to the trauma and stress they've already experienced when escaping their homelands.



On a rainy November evening, Azar* (*not his real name) steps down off the coach, wearing only plastic flip flops on his bare feet, looks around and smiles with tears in his eyes. He's finally arrived at an emergency hotel in Nottingham after fleeing the conflict in his home country of Afghanistan 6 months earlier.

He's crossed 10 countries overland, slept under bridges, finally arriving in the UK in a small boat jam-packed with other refugees.

Like many others, Azar arrived with only the clothes he was wearing, and had been given a pair of flip flops as the sea water ruined his shoes.

On hearing that refugees like Azar arrive in flip flops without any shoes, Trinity Church launched a "Trainers 4 Christmas" campaign which has led to nearly 400 new pairs of trainers being given out to refugees like Azar.

Churches like St Nics and St Stephens Hyson Green, have opened their doors and hearts to offer a warm welcome and hospitality by

visiting the hotels, befriending refugees, providing conversational English classes, donating clothing (including the Mothers Union in Southwell) and culturally appropriate food, with Churches in Nottingham delivering Christmas boxes to every refugee.

As a Diocese we want our city and county to be a place where asylum seekers and refugees are welcomed, receive hospitality and compassionate treatment and the support to rebuild their lives. We continue to work alongside statutory agencies, Refugee and Charity sector and Housing Providers on the Multi Agency Partnership (MAF) in the city and county.

For more information of organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers – please see - <https://southwell.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Refugee-signposting-Booklet.pdf>

Prayer

God of grace, Watch over all refugees

Embrace them in the pain Of their partings.

Into their fear and loss, send love.

Open our eyes that we might see You in them.

Open our hearts that they might See You in us.

Open our arms that we might Welcome refugees to new homes.

As You stretched out Your arms And invited everyone home.

Amen.

Modern Slavery

As a Diocese we work with Victim Support Projects and other frontline charities involved in combatting Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking.

We are part of The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Anti-Slavery Partnership which is a strategic partnership between the city, county and boroughs, Charities, police, Gang Masters Licensing Association.

We are linked in with The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's national response to Modern Day Slavery <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>

Locally the Diocese is also a member of CAN (Christian Action Nottingham) Slavery-Free Notts Group made up of local anti-slavery

experts and practitioners who belong to Nottingham churches.

We aim to help churches and Christians across the city and county become more aware of the signs of Modern Slavery amongst those vulnerable people churches already serve in other capacities – such as food banks or homelessness outreaches and hosted an event around this in November.

For more information and resources about Modern Slavery in the city and county please see - <https://www.slaveryfreenotts.com/>

If you suspect slavery is happening or discuss any concerns and get advice, please phone The Modern Slavery Helpline: 08000 121700



Info/Useful Numbers and Contacts:

The Street Outreach Team (covers City and County) on 24-hour hotline telephone number: 0800 066 5356 (or Text SOTS to 80800 followed by your message)

Alternatively streetsupport.net/Nottingham/ provides a 'one stop shop' to find or give support for homeless people in Nottingham City.

Local Council's Housing Offices:

Nottingham City Council Housing Aid: 0115 8763300

Ashfield District Council 01623 457252
(8.30am - 5.00pm)

Bassetlaw District Council. Housing Needs Team Tel: 01909 533533 or 01909533490

Broxtowe District Council. Housing Options 0115 9177777

Gedling Borough Council. office hours, 0115 901 3681

Mansfield District Council. 01623 463121
<http://www.mansfieldstreetsupport.co.uk/>

Newark and Sherwood District Council Housing Options Team on 01636 650000

Rushcliffe Borough Council. 0115 981 9911
If in doubt contact Street Outreach Team: 0800 066 5356

Here are some homeless projects you might like to volunteer/ support/pray for:

Nottingham Winter Shelter - wintersheltevolunteering@emmanuelhouse.org.uk

Emmanuel House

<https://www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/> Emmanuel House Goose Gate, Nottingham NG1 1FE Tel 0115 950 7140

The Friary

<https://the-friary.org.uk/> 46 Musters Road, West Bridgford NG2 7PR Tel 0115 982 5448

Hope into Action

<https://nottingham.hopeintoaction.org.uk/>
Unity House, 35 Church Street Lenton NG7 2FF
Tel 0115 8242196

Open Homes for 16-25 year olds

<http://www.openhomes.org.uk/> run Nottingham Nightstop UK helps young people into emergency accommodation. Office: Unity House, 35 Church Street Lenton NG7 2FF
Tel 0333 3232 265

The Beacon Mansfield <https://mansfieldbeacon.org/> St John's with St Mary's Church Mansfield Tel 07943 630952
For more information on other projects working with people who are vulnerably housed Transforming Notts Together (a joint venture between the Diocese and the Church Urban Fund) has details of a range of projects under "the Faith action networks section" <https://transformingnottstogether.org.uk/initiatives>

Email: Liam.O'Boyle@southwell.anglican.org

Other useful contacts:

Shelter Helpline 0808 800 4444

The Citizen's Advice Bureau 0344 411 1444

Also - Runaway Helpline 116 000 (24-hour)

People with mental health problems

Mind Info-line 0300 123 3393

The Samaritans (UK) 116 123 (24-hour)

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 200 0247 (24-hour)

Housing Justice (national church coalition) <https://housingjustice.org.uk/>

Homeless Link (national umbrella for Homeless Charities) <https://www.homeless.org.uk/>



CARING FOR CREATION

Working towards being a Net Zero Carbon Church

Energy Footprint Tool (EFT): Statistics show that larger churches account for 33% of the total carbon footprint. If all churches using electricity switched to a sustainable electricity tariff, then it would immediately lower the C of E carbon footprint by 22%. However, given the current uncertain circumstances surrounding the longevity of some energy companies it might be wise to wait to see how the market improves before switching. Churches are encouraged to fill in the EFT section of parish finance returns forms.

Churches Count on Nature: In June over 500 churches took part in a pilot of which 12 were from our diocese. It was encouraging to see some of our smaller, rural churches taking part. 21,000 different species were recorded. **A Rocha UK** and **Caring for God's Acre** plan to promote this again in 2022. This is a great opportunity for churches to engage with local schools.



Partnerships with A Rocha UK (ARUK)

Eco churches; Eco Diocese; over 50 churches are registered as Eco Churches with 16 having achieved the bronze/silver award. The diocese has now registered its intent to become an Eco-Diocese and hopes to achieve this in 2022. In May 2021 at Diocesan Synod the Diocese tabled a Statement of Intent to work towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Church.

A Rocha and Southwell Minster are now in partnership. Andy Lester from ARUK preached at the Harvest Festival where it was announced that the Minster has officially become a Partner in Action with ARUK. The Minster is hoping seeking to recruit intern/s to facilitate the project in 2022.



Children and Young People

Ruth Lee led the successful Wild Worship@Walesby pilot in July (on the hottest day of the year!) and followed this up with a second session for Connect Gamston.

In September Ruth led the Nottinghamshire leg of the **YCCN Relay to COP26** over a 3-day period from Aston on Trent to Huthwaite.

She was joined by +Andy, diocesan and ecumenical colleagues. Sadly, the timing of the event at the start of the school term prevented many young people from being able to take part. Hucknall National

Academy provided support via tweets, banners and 5 of the head students came out to meet the walkers.



Schools

The Education Team have written some class based/outside collective worship materials for schools, and these can be found on the diocesan website <https://southwell.anglican.org/education/collective-worship/>

Many schools are now developing outdoors spaces. Bible Society Resource <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/psalm-23/>. Other good resources suggested included <https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees/>

COP26

On the 30th of October between 6:00-6:30pm church bells rang out as a warning to the danger of Climate Change.

Mass Mobilisation took place on the 6th November. The main events were held in Glasgow and London with local gatherings in the Market Square in Nottingham and a Climate Change Walk in Southwell with over 300 people marching to the Minster where prayers and hopes were put on prayer trees.



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



Equality and Diversity

Diocesan GMH (Global Majority Heritage) Advisory Group

We welcomed guest speakers Ben Lindsay and Rev Sharon Prentice to lead us in The Bishop's Study Day on Racial Justice in March 2021.

The work of the Diocesan GMH Advisory Group continues to be shaped by the recommendations of the Church of England's Anti-Racism Consultation of Spring 2021 and the focus on a Racial Justice Action Plan.

We aim to ensure that our mission and ministry actively promotes a culture that enables the full participation of all people, particularly those of global majority heritage, in the life and structures of the Diocese.

"Racial Justice is a Gospel imperative" (Canon Francis Wainaina, Chair of Diocesan GMH Advisory Group)

Hate Crime

The diocese is represented on the Safer Nottinghamshire Board's Hate Crime Steering Group – made up of Statutory and Voluntary/3rd Sector Organizations – this coordinates partnership activity around hate crime in Nottinghamshire and looks at the challenges of hate crime and how we respond to it. The group also facilitates opportunities to bring diverse communities together and increase community cohesion.

Living in Love and Faith

During 2021, James Halstead has facilitated introductions to the wide-ranging resources to enable parishes to engage with the complex issues of love, faith, sexuality and relationships.

Enable Group

The disability awareness work has been limited by the pandemic in 2021. Pete Edwards the chair writes: *"due to covid and members having medical treatment we've not met since July last year. I've delivered 2 training sessions of Disability Awareness and Communication in November 2021 for the Minster, 30+ plus people attended."*



Deaf Community

During 2021 the Revd Wendy Murphy has offered a monthly service via zoom for Nottingham Deaf Society and Deaf Church Members. This is in addition to her full-time parish responsibilities and her input is greatly appreciated.

A couple of churches have explored occasional signed services and it would be good to encourage this as this seems to be a good way to connect with younger members of the deaf community.

TRANSFORMING NOTTS TOGETHER

Mental Wellbeing

In November, 38 people from across the County joined us online as we hosted: 'How Can the Church in Nottinghamshire Support Mental Wellbeing?' with representatives from Kintsugi Hope, Renew Wellbeing and local churches. We are excited to hear of how churches are already inviting young and old to 'come as they are'. We hope 2022 will see a development in this ministry area in Nottinghamshire, including a new subgroup for Mental Health.

Linking Lives Befriending

In 2021, our Assistant Development Worker, Jackie Smith, has delivered 10 training sessions around befriending, with 32 volunteers currently signed up and equipped to befriend someone who is vulnerable. In practice, Linking Lives is well established in three different areas, currently with 20 Link Friends who have been referred in. *"Being able to offer Two's Company within the community has raised the profile of the church and resulted in invites to other community meetings."*

Dementia Friendly Churches

Older Person's Enabler, Paul Howard, continues to support churches and projects who want to be Dementia Friendly. In addition, 2021 saw an in person

return of our Dementia Awareness Workshop, to help individuals explore informally how we can support those with dementia.

"Living with someone with dementia happens 7 days a week".

Spotlight on Grief & Loss

Over the last two years, our Grief & Loss Workshop, which equips churches to walk alongside those experiencing



bereavement or loss of any kind, has been facilitated 29 times, equipping over 150 people to help their communities. In addition, a follow-on session: 'Setting Up a Grief Support Group', has been offered 10 times, so far equipping 26 people from 10 churches to set up grief cafes in their communities, and provide a regular safe space to 'be'.

*"The skills have helped me with several conversations around funeral ministry."
"I must admit having done several*

courses I wondered how much new material there would be for me how wrong could I be! I learned a lot and particularly appreciated the ‘suffer alongside them enter into their feelings’ plus the book recommendations are very helpful and I have read a few!! What to do next has been my stumbling block and you have come up with so many ideas I look forward to the next training on setting something up and will, in the meantime, pray that someone will want to join me. Thank you again.”

“I have been able to listen to two separate people who have lost their jobs through the pandemic; to just let them separately talk, be angry, be sad, express confusion and disbelief. I have been able to encourage them to keep going despite depression and desires to end life.”

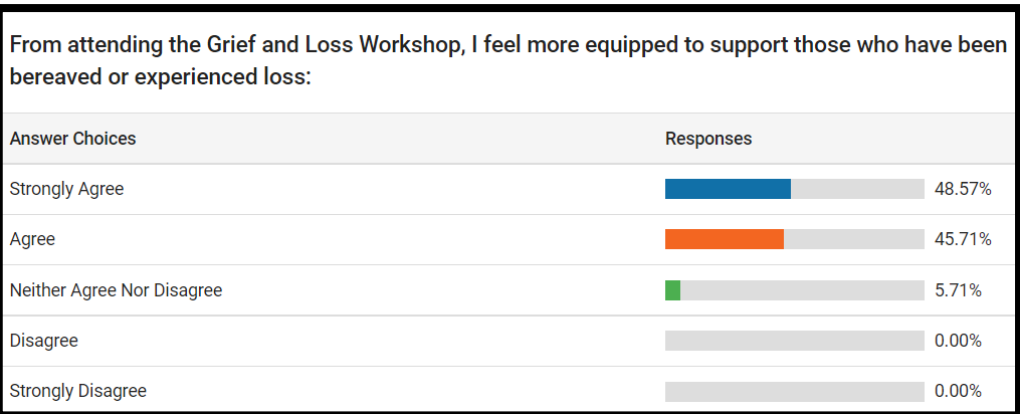
Let’s Talk Money

“The Let’s Talk Money workshops that were delivered by Lauren were not only engaging, but also very beneficial to the highly challenging young people we work with. Lauren was knowledgeable, extremely sensitive

to the needs of the young people, but also had a fantastic presence and was able to engage the learners throughout the sessions.”

(Martin Carruthers, Education Manager at Notts County Foundation)

“Thank you to the Transforming Notts team for coming to our drop in to deliver Let’s Talk Money. The course helped our ladies learn more about budgeting and looking after their money. It was great to hear them share their own experiences of dealing with money and sharing ideas how they could save. It was presented well and easy to follow. Talking about money and budgeting can be a daunting experience especially if you don’t have much coming in, but the video, discussion and tools help create a space for an easy and open chat.”





- Our 8 Network Subgroup Areas**
- Children & Families
 - Housing & Homelessness
 - Prisons & Supporting Ex-offenders
 - Food & Community
 - Modern Slavery
 - Social Enterprise & Employability
 - Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants
 - Finance & Debt

Networks

Transforming Notts Together coordinates a number of networks around Nottinghamshire to bring together church and project leaders, build relationships and promote joined up working. They are:

Christian Action Nottingham

- 121 members representing 77 organisations, with 23 further members linked into a subgroup area

Faith Action Mansfield

- 39 members representing 30 organisations

Faith Action Newark & Sherwood

- 23 members representing 19 organisations

Faith Action Support Ashfield

31 members representing 25 organisations

Grief Cafe Coordinators-

17 members representing 10 organisations

Places of Welcome (inc. coordinator

meetings)- 25 venues with more already planned for 2022

If you would like to connect with your local network, or partner with us to set one up in your area, then get in touch.

How to contact us

Website:

transformingnottstogether.org.uk

Email:

<hannah.buck@transformingnottstogether.org.uk>

Mobile: 07734 994637

Social Media:

@transformnotts

"For me there are definitely opportunities that have arisen as a result of the pandemic and post pandemic recovery. The greatest one being how the churches have pulled together and instead of working in silos we have joined forces together and sharing our resources. Relationships between churches and Christian charities have improved tremendously and there does not appear to be 'us' and 'them' but rather 'us all together'. I am definitely exploring these avenues to see who we can partner with and who would like to partner with us. At the moment all the people I have connected with has been through CAN." (CAN Member 2021)

Spotlight on Places of Welcome

With funding through two benefactors, we have been able to support existing and new Places of Welcome to open in 2021, partnering with churches and libraries, to provide a lifeline for those feeling isolated during this difficult season. We visited groups and asked: *What difference does it make for you coming to this Place of Welcome?*

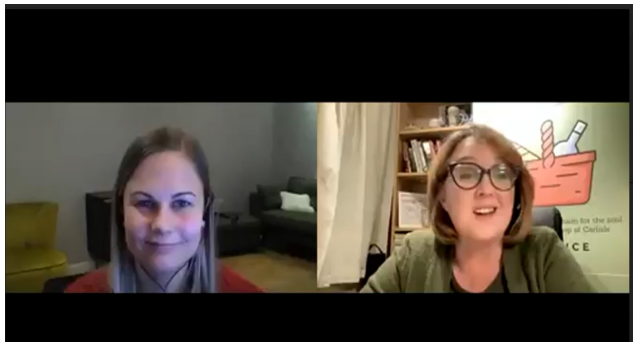
"My husband died 9 years ago and they helped me fill forms in and get allowances to help me."

"I had just had a stroke and my doctor said that having community would be good. But I told him that there are no community groups that aren't religious. But then I found this place. Even though it is run by the church, everyone is welcome. It didn't matter that I am an atheist."

"I was self-employed before the pandemic and I lost my income, but this place was here for me."

"When I come here it's special, it brings colours into my life".

"If only one person came it would be worth the effort as it makes such a difference to people who are lonely /isolated" (A Volunteer)





Refugee Roots welcomes all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home

Refugee Roots is a Christian charity that helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK.

Our range of empowerment initiatives includes befriending, accompanying asylum seekers to appointments, information, advice and guidance; as well as support groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

Across all of our projects and activities we have supported **275** participants.

Our ain't activities and support has included:

- **75** participants supported by **59** volunteers befriending.
 - Weekly ESOL classes at Access and Women's Group
 - Walking group and Cooking group
 - Weekly art sessions
 - training and workshops
- advice and guidance

Increased Confidence

Surveys with 36 individuals indicated

that 34 participants Strongly Agreed or Agreed that they felt **more confident**

"My confidence has increased... I was feeling so low before" - participant (Befriender)

"I knew I could do it because the teacher could help me" - participant (Art Workshop)

"I felt relieved anytime I asked them for support and advice" Mo, participant





Read our full annual report <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TTEtoxtlhN-xPYqF5ex3OtAQ9XVivfMQ>

Improved English

Surveys with 36 individuals indicated that 33 participants Strongly Agreed or Agreed that they felt their English improved.

“Thank you so much! For teaching me and inspiring me to improve my spoken English.”

Zena, participant

“My teacher has been very supportive throughout every call and also helping me to find the resources to improve my writing and reading skills. I am also learning new vocabulary and using it in day in and day out activities”

Mohammad, participant

“The positive thing about these sessions is that I am building up my confidence and trying to integrate better in British culture by improving my English language skills”

Musa

Reduced isolation

Surveys with 36 individuals indicated that 28 participants Strongly Agreed or Agreed that they felt **less isolated**

“They are my family now.”

Alice

“I had been part of Refugee Roots and it was always a positive and good experience. I made a very good friend with the help of Refugee Roots.”

Mushan

Volunteering

Our work this year was only possible thanks to the support of **115 Volunteers**. Volunteers who care are making the difference.

- 85% of volunteers agreed or strongly agreed that they felt they had made a difference

Support from the Diocese is much appreciated as it enables the work of Refugee Roots to thrive and reach the most vulnerable **younger, wider and deeper**.

Read our full annual report <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TTEtoxtlhN-xPYqF5ex3OtAQ9XVivfMQ>

Chaplaincy

Our chaplains offer confidential pastoral care, religious services, spiritual guidance, and counselling to anyone at times of need, wherever it's needed, and in a wide range of workplace settings, such as in healthcare, prisons, retail, sports clubs, emergency services, and GP surgeries.

Workplace Chaplaincy

The New Year began with great sadness as we learned of the sudden death of a young member of staff at Capital One. The chaplaincy supported the team and held an online time of prayer and memorial – the event was attended by over 300 members of staff.

As the year progressed -the chaplaincy was pleased to be invited to discussions and wellbeing workshops and mental health awareness – an opportunity to speak not only about our bodies and minds but our souls too.

Specsavers hosted a forum with the Chaplain online to help managers with some of the bigger questions that presented themselves as they managed themselves and their teams.

City Transport staff felt the implications of reduced hours and work and the Chaplaincy was able to support.

County Hall staff accessed regular online drop-ins for staff – with some days set aside particularly for social workers, or those working with the very vulnerable.

YMCA hosted drop-ins for their staff – ‘ask the chaplain’ sessions.

Sadly, there are sudden deaths in the YMCA residential accommodation and whilst not frequent have significant impact on case workers and fellow residents. We were able to go and pray in the accommodation for all affected by these tragedies.

Street Pastors – now part of the YMCA ‘family’ in Nottingham are also now able to access



Emergency Services

Chaplains support the Fire and Rescue, Police and Ambulance services, although away from the public gaze. Women and men of the emergency service face situations that many of us could not possibly imagine, and

chaplains offer a chance for them to talk through their feelings, to pray with them, and offer encouragement and hope when they are exhausted. Chaplains help people to remember and honour those that have paid the ultimate sacrifices on behalf of others.



Police Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy within the Nottingham Police Force, Chaplains continues to grow with three more Chaplains this year – extending both the reach and capacity of the ministry. At Police HQ new premises are being built to accommodate a much larger Training Team and a move of the Fire & Rescue Headquarters from Bestwood Lodge. This offers huge potential to reach more people, particularly as many navigate a new working environment.

The Chaplains share stories of being able to

pray with many officers – from those who have many years of service to new recruits who stand on the threshold of a new and challenging career.

The memorial garden has already been the backdrop place and space to hold a memorial after the death of a police officer and the privilege of being able to speak the comforting words of Christ in those circumstances is not lost on us.

The Chaplains have begun to access national training online and hopefully everyone will be able to complete this is due course.

First GP Chaplaincy in Nottinghamshire

The first GP chaplaincy service in Nottinghamshire has begun its pilot at the Windmill Practice in Sneinton, with a particular focus on those who have suffered loss. The chaplaincy's first users have said they feel heard "like never before".

It provides a safe space filled with acceptance, support, and signposting for people in distress regardless of their religion or beliefs, including the practice's staff. Currently, there are four chaplains that have been trained by [the Association of Chaplaincy in General Practice](#).

The service has been championed by the



practice's GPs, Dr Stephen Willott and Dr Helen Sperry, as well as Revd Lynda Blakeley from St Stephens Church Sneinton Nottingham.

Lynda told us, *"The chaplaincy has provided us with an opportunity to help those who have suffered enormous loss. It is a privilege to be with somebody in a space where they are not rushed and are able share their story. We cannot underestimate the transforming healing that happens when somebody is listened to."*

The service has also been supported by Revd Jo Tatum, our diocesan workplace chaplain.

Jo added, *"We're really excited as it's a partnership in the community, especially one that approached us. It's working in conjunction with the local church, so it will be sustained and will remain embedded in the community. We are waiting with anticipation to see where it leads and are praying for more practices to hopefully join."*

Chaplains

September, we mourned yet celebrated the life of Andrew Barker always a lively supporter and faithful member of the Chaplaincy Team.

December, we wished June Brown a happy retirement as she waved good bye to John Lewis as their Chaplain after over 15 years' service. John Lewis celebrated her contribu-

tion to their working life and acknowledged the unique contribution a Chaplain makes to the lives of people in their working day.

The year was a rollercoaster of vaccine and lockdown, testing and tracing, opening and closing, optimism and uncertainty. Throughout it all God was faithful and we saw and were able to show others his goodness in the midst of everything.

Nottingham citizens

‘Building the power of communities to work together for justice and the common good’

Numbers:

100’s of Anglicans received community organising training
Dozens of Anglican leaders on city-wide campaigns
40 – diverse member organisations across Notts

Taking action

Campaign teams have been taking action, bring together people from churches and other faith and non-faith organisations to tackle poor mental health, fair work, and racism.

Some highlights include:

Our ‘Better Books’ campaign raised over £25’000 allowing us to gift a diverse set of reading books to every one of Nottingham City’s 76 primary schools. The campaign also won a commitment from Nottingham City Council to increase the library budget by 3-5% in order to facilitate more diverse reading materials for Nottingham children. Our ‘Better Learning’ team worked with political and senior education leaders to form a new ‘Equalities Action Team’ for the region, working together to address diversity in the workforce and to develop an anti-racist curriculum in all



sectors

Our UK Living Wage campaign had it’s 20 year anniversary. We celebrated the 9000 responsible employers across the UK and the £1.7bn that has been put back into the pockets of the UK’s lowest paid workers. A new Fair Work action team was launched in February 2022 to continue this work.

St Martins Sherwood were our wonderful hosts for our first in-person training day for 2 years back in November. Nationally delivered online training has continued, alongside the development on a 3 day online training to compliment our flagship 6 day residential training which will begin again in March 2022.

You can find out more here:
citizensuk.org/learning

Work to establish a Race Equality Justice Council developed this year, with a steering group formed and registered charity status achieved. This council will hold our large public and private sector employers to account on their treatment of people from minority communities.

We struck an innovative partnership with LEAD Academy Trust, working with 6 schools to embed community organising in the curriculum and involve children and staff in neighbourhood and city-wide social change

Our campaign to win a real Living Wage at Nottingham Forest continued with several innovative actions taking place. Watch & share our campaign video here: tinyurl.com/RLWNFFC

It was wonderful to gather over 100 members for our Autumn Assembly in October, the first time we'd been in the physical space together for over 18months!

Connect:

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Other contacts

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