

# TRANSFORMING NOTTS TOGETHER<sup>+</sup>

Summary Annual Review  
2021

Inspiring, equipping & connecting  
churches as they help people  
break free from poverty



**111** Projects supported



**25** Places of Welcome



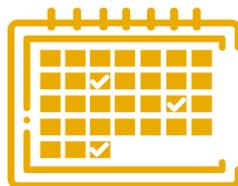
**6** Networks coordinated

**149**

Churches supported



**32** Network meetings facilitated



**60** Workshops delivered



**£85,000** received in grants, funding and donations this year- thank you!



**6** Newsletters circulated

Please see <https://transformingnottstogether.org.uk/funding-partnerships>

## A snapshot of some of our work



Hannah Buck (left, TNT) and Ruth Rice (right, Renew Wellbeing)

### 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".



**Notts  
Dementia  
Friendly  
Churches**

### 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'.

From attending the Grief and Loss Workshop, I feel more equipped to support those who have been bereaved or experienced loss:

Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly Agree	48.57%
Agree	45.71%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	5.71%
Disagree	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

**"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."

"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.

(Clare Buckby, Salvation Army Modern Slavery and Anti-Trafficking)

[www.transformingnottstogether.org.uk](http://www.transformingnottstogether.org.uk)

Transforming Notts Together (TNT) is a registered UK charity, limited by guarantee and registered in England (Company No.8399842 & Registered Charity No.1152870)

## 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

### Places of Welcome (inc. coordinator meetings)

- 25 venues with more already planned for 2022

### Grief Cafe Coordinators

- 17 members representing 10 organisations

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.

## 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

Transforming Notts Together is a Joint Venture between the Church Urban Fund (CUF) and the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham and is one of 21 joint ventures in the **Together Network** all of them linked by faith and driven by the desire to tackle social inequality across England.

## 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)**



'Connections' Place of Welcome at Holy Trinity, Southwell

"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)



transformingnotts



transformnotts



@TransformNotts

[www.transformingnottstogether.org.uk](http://www.transformingnottstogether.org.uk)

Transforming Notts Together (TNT) is a registered UK charity, limited by guarantee and registered in England (Company No.8399842 & Registered Charity No.1152870)