

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

CUF WITH THE DIOCESE OF EXETER  
AND PLYMOUTH CHURCHES

- Helping enthuse and encourage churches - including their leaders and congregations - to engage with their local communities and become involved with social justice issues.
- Connecting people, organisations, ideas and resources through one-to-one meetings and communications, networks and events.
- Equipping people to engage in social action with greater confidence and skills, through training, talks or sharing examples of best practice.
- Providing 'infrastructural' support eg. with accessing funding, planning building projects.

Chris Forster was employed in September 2015 to co-ordinate Transforming Plymouth Together.



Chris Forster

The trustees of TPT are made up of church and community leaders in Plymouth, along with a representative from Church Urban Fund.

#### Trustees:

Bishop Nick McKinnel (Chair)  
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Bishop Nick McKinnel

*God of grace,  
Whose son Jesus Christ came  
that we might have life in all its  
fullness, bless, we pray, the work of  
Transforming Plymouth Together,  
that we might seek the welfare of  
the city and offer the life that only  
you can give; for the glory of your  
name. Amen.*

**The Rt Rev'd Nick McKinnel,  
Bishop of Plymouth**

#### Contact:

Chris Forster  
Transforming Plymouth Together  
c/o St Mark's Church,  
1 Sanctuary Close  
Plymouth PL2 1EN

Tel. 07710 096210  
[chris@transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk](mailto:chris@transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk)

[www.cuf.org.uk/transforming-plymouth-together](http://www.cuf.org.uk/transforming-plymouth-together)



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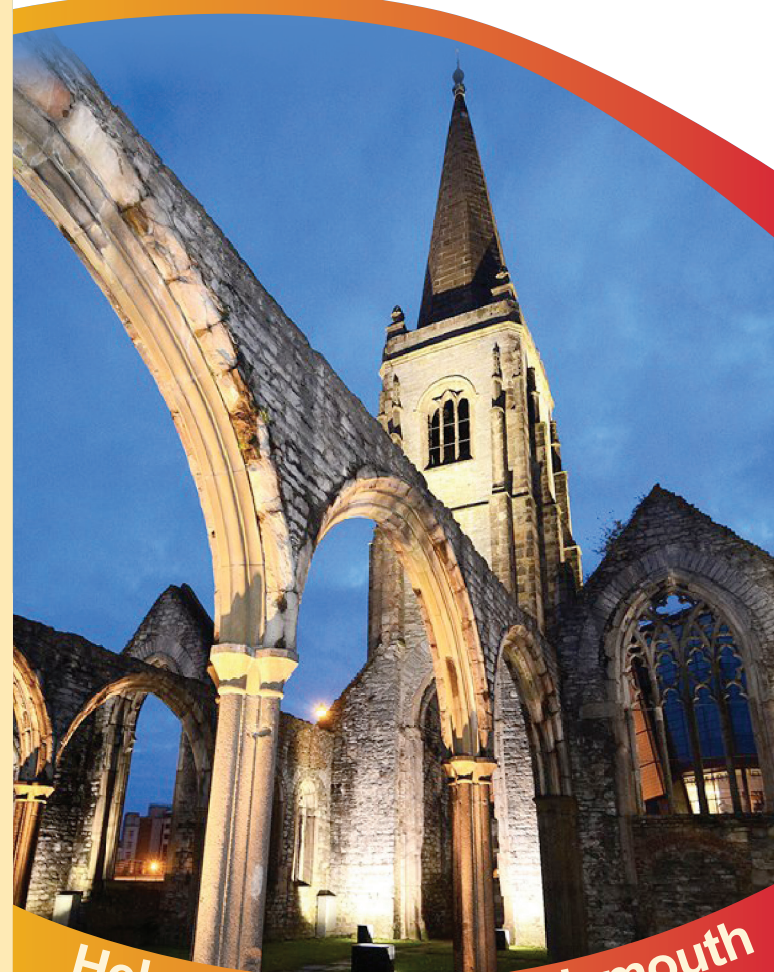


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**Help us Transform Plymouth**

Transforming Plymouth Together  
is a joint venture with Church Urban Fund,  
the Anglican Dioceses of Exeter and the  
Churches of Plymouth.



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## About us

Transforming Plymouth Together (TPT) aims to address issues related to poverty and inequality which matter to the people of Plymouth, through informal community work and community development initiatives.

TPT was launched in April 2016 as a direct church response to the 2014 'Plymouth Fairness Commission Report'. Working together with local churches, other faith groups, the third sector, statutory bodies and businesses, TPT works across the city, carrying forward the work of the Commission which identified these key issues:

- the need to strengthen local communities
- individual and family well-being
- discrimination of young people / young adults
- the escalating cost of living
- the need to strengthen the local economy
- housing
- implications of an ageing population

## Developing the project

After an extensive period of listening to church leaders and communities, six key themes were identified which could support existing ministries and increase the capacity of local churches to get involved and make a difference:

**Social Isolation** • **Financial Resilience**

**Migrant Vulnerability** • **Child Poverty**

• **Health Inequality** • **Modern Slavery**

During the year, TPT has achieved a number of activities to address these issues, such as:

- ▶ Raising Dementia Awareness, which has resulted in a number of churches becoming 'Dementia Friendly' - and a successful dementia-friendly carol service was held in 2016.
- ▶ Working with CTIP and ROC Care Plymouth to befriend isolated people in their own homes.
- ▶ Various Plymouth churches have worked alongside organisations working with refugees; this included the Lampedusa 'walk of witness'.
- ▶ As part of Financial Resilience for Churches and Communities, TPT and Transformation Cornwall held a 'Meet the Funders' session that was attended by over 100 people - followed up with training for churches on writing bids. TPT also inked with the local Credit Union and are taking part in the 'Just Finance' project called *Cash Smart, Credit Savvy*.
- ▶ Working with churches and charities such as the local Food Bank, Plymouth Soup Run and Shekinah Mission to help address child poverty.
- ▶ Raising awareness and addressing the problem of Modern Slavery.
- ▶ Other activities have included setting up a Plymouth group as part of the National Parenting Initiative, and exploring ways in which Plymouth Churches can work with local voluntary and social enterprises.



## How you can get involved...

- Contact Chris to chat about what your church is doing in response to the five key themes.
- Get support to conduct a community audit of activities and needs.
- Liaising with Chris, appoint a *Transforming Plymouth Together* champion in your church.
- Sign up to the e-newsletter and share it around your congregation and local community.
- Invite members of *Transforming Plymouth Together* to a church service or PCC meeting.
- Pray, Give and Act.