

#people of hope

**TOGETHER
NETWORK** 



Together in Prayer

#peopleofhope

May - July 2020

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In the first few weeks of this pandemic the phrase 'we're all in the same boat' was being used in the UK to convey comradery, with the hope that it would foster the infamous 'Blitz spirit'. However, as many commentators have recently stated, whilst we are all experiencing the same storm, the boats in which we weather this storm are vastly different.

Some of our boats were already broken before being put out to sea, perhaps by the repeated knocks of austerity, welfare reform and ill health. Other boats are small with many occupants, little or no private space, limited Wi-Fi and certainly no personal laptops for each occupant to continue to work or learn from the boat. Several are lonely places, time is spent looking out to sea wondering when the next wave will come to knock our vessel. They may also be places of grief, as occupant of our boat or of other boats we care about have been lost in the storm. For some our boats are not the places of refuge we were told they should be. They are places of fear, as we are confined with other occupants who put our mental and physical health at risk.

The Together Network is working harder than ever to support local communities to weather this storm, and we've never been more grateful for your support. All over the country we're mobilising #peopleofhope, offering practical responses to connect and support people, especially the most vulnerable.

Thank you for supporting our work with your prayers.



Together we are:



Connecting churches

to the resources and funding they need to start local projects

Collating local information, knowledge and learning

so that people know what's available to them locally

Mobilising volunteers

to make sure that vital work can be delivered

Changing how we deliver our own projects

in this context

Working one-to-one with projects

to work out how best to deliver their work in a very different situation

Creating links between local charities, churches and local authorities

so that efforts aren't duplicated

Plymouth

Transforming Plymouth Together are reworking their Feast of Fun project, which would normally have run during the half term to support families with meals and fun activities.



Chris

Hannah

As this isn't currently possible due to isolating rules, and yet all the more needed, Transforming Plymouth Together are instead coordinating the delivery of food and craft activities directly to families to enjoy at home. Please pray that this new way of running this project with partner organisations and local churches goes smoothly.

Transforming Plymouth Together has also been supporting a local church to run a weekly foodhamper collection, sharing food donated by Devon & Cornwall Food Action and Fare Share.

✓ *One of the food hampers!*



"Last week as it was Holy Week, we bought all the people receiving the hampers a little bag of eggs. In total it was just over 100 parents and children, about 30 families from a number of different schools in the areas around the church. The families worker who is coordinating it all has had some lovely, grateful texts from families saying thank you. It's been a brief (and social distancing respected) but lovely chance for the church to see people and show support to those in need."

- Hannah, Transforming Plymouth Together



Andrew



Anna

Norfolk

In Great Yarmouth, Imagine Norfolk Together are working with Great Yarmouth Foodbank and the Borough Council to coordinate a food and essentials delivery service for anyone who is self-isolating.

They've so far made over 300 deliveries thanks to 90 volunteers. Please pray for energy and time for rest for the volunteers. Also in Great Yarmouth, Imagine Norfolk Together are organising hot meals to take away for vulnerable families and individuals, with a local church who are cooking the meals and a drop-in lunch project who are providing the contacts. Please pray for continued good relationships between churches and other organisations at a time when communication is more difficult than usual.

Imagine Norfolk Together are producing care packages for local care homes in Great Yarmouth, including knitted goods and chocolates. Pray that those who receive them will feel comforted and valued. Across Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn, Imagine Norfolk Together are working to link up local churches so that work isn't duplicated, and have been applying for funding for lots of projects churches want to get started on – so far they've raised over £10,000. Please pray for wisdom as Imagine Norfolk Together work on longer-term planning.



T C Together @impactpoverty · May 4

How does the money we spend and the choices we make protect people from #modernslavery lavery? In our latest video, Debbie explores Fairtrade and what the Bible says about Justice and preventing exploitation of workers #ModernSlaveryMondays

RMING
TIES

Hidden in



plain sight

In partnership with
Locese Mothers' Union and The Clewer

Hidden in Plain Sight - Where would Jesus shop?
How does the money we spend and the choices we make protect people from Modern Slavery. In our ...
youtube.com



Together Liverpool @TogethLiv · Apr 30

Great to work in partnership with @feedingpool - look how speedy our Project Development Worker is! #FoodQueen @TogNetworkEng

Feeding Liverpool @feedingpool · Apr 30

Sorting out our delivery for @MicahLiverpool @standrewslive @S_Liv_Foodbank and the L11 response hub @Croxfam_Matters @NGCAlliance - thank you @Feeding_Britain for helping us support these amazing organisations!



#people of hope



If you're on social media, follow us to see our #peopleofhope campaign, sharing encouragements, tips, stories and resources for this time.



@TogNetworkEng



TogetherNetworkEng



Transforming Plymouth Together @PlymTogether · Apr 23
 Another great week helping St Pancras Church for their food hampers for families in their community yesterday.
 Great to be working with @providedevon, @FareShareSW, @FareShareUK & @devoncf to support families in these complicated times.
 #SocialAction #PeopleofHope #Plymouth



Greater Together MCR @GT_Manchester · Apr 28
 With the #GMHAN Advisory Board today, looking at how people experiencing homelessness are being supported across GM during the covid-19 crisis, how we can improve provision and support people in new ways, and how we can continue to coproduce decisions at all levels.



Together Network @TogNetworkEng · Apr 28
 How can we love our neighbours in care homes, from a distance? Our partners in London @capitalmass, have put together some practical and innovative ways you could offer support - many ways cost nothing (or next to nothing)! ❤️

👉👉 bit.ly/3cUMPu1

#peopleofhope



Chester

Wendy



Transforming Lives Together are supporting a local church who are delivering liturgy, prayer lists, bible studies, and chocolate to everyone in the parish.

The parish is also sewing scrubs, hats and bags for NHS staff, dropping off materials to doorsteps and collecting the finished products. Transforming Lives Together are also supporting a church with a soup and sandwich scheme, which delivers food to 23 vulnerable parishioners who would otherwise have attended their luncheon club. Please pray for coordination efforts to run smoothly and that all who need help in these parishes are connected with support.

James



Lichfield

Transforming Communities Together (TCT), as Chair of the Wolverhampton Homelessness Forum, have been liaising with the City Council and other partners so they can provide accommodation for all rough sleepers in the area.

TCT have also hosted a 'Faith and Finance' conversation over video call, bringing together leaders of multiple faiths online to discuss each faith's teachings on money and how they can increase financial resilience in the Black Country. Please pray that the many wonderful conversations had will continue to improve multi-faith working.

TCT are developing plans to support debt clients with financial guidance over webchat and calls, are encouraging the start of virtual online coffee mornings, and are developing an online version of Places of Welcome. They're also supporting local members through their team of coordinators, are producing awareness-raising videos around modern slavery, and are delivering training and support to dementia friendly church coordinators. Please pray that in all this work the team are energised, and that the coordination of so many projects run smoothly.

Naomi



Liverpool

Together Liverpool are supporting the operations of St George's Pantry, which is delivering emergency food each week to 40+ homes in Everton. Please pray for the safety of volunteers.

Together Liverpool's project worker Naomi is also coordinating Feeding Liverpool, which is distributing food supplies for organisations working with vulnerable families. Please pray for Naomi in this work – for the logistic of deliveries and warehouses.

Another way Together Liverpool are helping is through supporting Liverpool City Council to map food provision during CV19 . Naomi and Jen have been connecting with churches across Liverpool to listen, encourage and record how churches are responding to CV19. Please pray for open and clear channels of communication.



Cornwall

Transformation Cornwall are working with twelve of the Cornish food banks to provide a central hub of key information (locations, timings, supplies and volunteers needed) to those needing to access food banks and those who are in a position to support financially or practically.



Jane

This is helping improve the coordination between the foodbanks, and making sure that everyone locally knows where and how to get what they need. Please pray that everyone who needs to know how to access a foodbank is able to, through this work.

Manchester

Lily



Greater Together Manchester, like all of our ventures, are sharing ideas and best practice with local charities, faith groups and other voluntary organisations. One way they're doing this is through a dedicated Facebook group, where people can quickly get answers to questions from others, and share concerns and successes. Please pray that this group continues to be a source of help and encouragement to people working locally on the issues caused by COVID-19.

Greater Together Manchester has also set up a food distribution project, delivering vital supplies to people unable to access food, using staff, volunteers and venues from one of their their Winter Night Shelter projects. Please pray for good communication between the many people involved in this project.

Leicester



Sian

Together Leicester are connecting online with the people who would normally participate in their 'cook and eat' courses to identify food-related needs and gaps in provision.

Please pray that relationships are formed with other organisations so that this can be delivered in partnership. Together Leicester are also gearing up to deliver online financial help sessions for people locally who are being faced with financial challenges due to the virus. Pray for the logistics of hosting online sessions and that people are signposted to financial help as well as being equipped to plan and cope financially.

Birmingham

Thrive Together Birmingham are partnering with the Edgbaston Foundation on the 'Feeding Birmingham Together' campaign to use Edgbaston Stadium as a food sorting and distribution hub to get food out to charities and community groups supporting those in need. Please pray for the logistics of a complex and fast-paced project.



Sarah

Alison



London

Capital Mass in London have developed an online financial help webinar, 'Coronavirus: Helping people at a time of financial crisis' which they are delivering to churches and community leaders who are supporting people at this stressful time with money.

The sessions are covering general information, signposting to what help is out there, tips on money management, and how to deal with money worries. Please pray that there are no issues with technology so that all who attend the sessions can be fully engaged and empowered to support individuals who are in financial crisis.

Capital Mass are also holding fortnightly virtual coffee mornings as support for church and community leaders who need a space to reflect and talk about the issues in our communities that this crisis is bringing up. Please pray that these sessions spark valuable conversation.

Together Southwark, also in South London, are working together with another local charity to organise telephone support for those most isolated, ensuring people are not left without companionship and access to further support they might need. Please pray for smooth coordination of this project.

Coventry

Together for Change, in Coventry, have developed their Good Neighbours project to work in partnership with HOPE Coventry and the Coventry Foodbank RDC to support the isolated elderly with food and friendship support.

Jet



They're coordinating telephone calls and letters, food parcels deliveries, and a volunteer shopping and medicine collection service. Please pray for smooth coordination of the many volunteers involved in this work.

What is the Together Network?

The Together Network is a key and distinctive aspect of CUF's work. It is currently comprised of 20 partnerships with Church of England dioceses working to support social action in specific areas of the country, and continues to grow.

Together Network member organisations employ dedicated Development Workers who support churches and other groups that are seeking to bring about positive change in their communities. This includes offering encouragement and guidance, delivering training, helping to identify resources, and building connections between groups.

Being part of an established national network enables members to share best practice and promote strategic working. At the same time, members can respond innovatively and creatively to specific opportunities and challenges in their areas.



**TOGETHER
NETWORK** ⊕

**National movement,
Local action**

The Together Network is a subsidiary charity of the Church Urban Fund

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