

TOGETHER MIDDLESBROUGH & CLEVELAND[⊕]

Annual Review 2018



Flourishing Lives and Communities

We work with churches and organisations in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland to help strengthen local communities. We look for the gifts and resources within local people and their communities, and work with them to bring about change.



5 New projects

Supporting Churches and Communities

TM&C provides one-to-one support for churches and community projects, and sign posts people to areas of expertise. A total of **30 churches and projects** received support during 2018 to develop new or existing projects and activities. TM&C helped to secure **over £95,000** in grants to support church and community projects, working with children, young people and families, people living with dementia, and intergenerational activities.



16 Churches supported

Partnerships and Influence

Supporting people to work together is central to our commitment to building stronger local communities. TM&C is involved in bringing people and groups together around common concerns, helping to develop partnership projects and contributing to local and strategic partnerships. We bring the values that strengthen all of our work to influence our partnership working, believing in the unique dignity of each person, the transforming power of welcome and human kindness, and the gifts that all people and communities hold.



14 projects supported

TM&C was instrumental in bringing **#LoveYourNeighbour** to Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland in 2016-7, inspiring individuals and groups to share how through simple acts of human kindness we can transform our communities.

This vision of Acts of Kindness has been growing in local communities throughout 2018.



£95,000
of Funding secured



Flourishing Lives and Communities

Here are some of the inspiring stories of people and communities working together during 2018.

Positive Pathways out of Homelessness

The Positive Pathways project is a joint venture between TM&C and DePaul UK, based at the John Paul Centre in Middlesbrough, working with some of the most marginalised people in the town.

A twice weekly drop-in provides a warm, safe environment where people experiencing homelessness can enjoy a drink and snack whilst taking part in a variety of activities. Providing a space where people can share their stories and be listened to is at the heart of the way Positive Pathways works. Through building up trust we help people to see their worth beyond their chaotic life stories, improve their all-round wellbeing, and assist them to link in with local support services, to build a more positive future.

We also offer wellbeing activities with Streetwise Opera, meditation, creative writing and a walking group. These small groups allow people to try new activities or rediscover gifts and talents, everyone has the opportunity to make a positive contribution, build up their confidence, and develop supportive relationships.



Feast of Fun

Since 2014, TM&C has been working with local churches and community groups to provide fun holiday activities with a feast of healthy food. It is a grass-roots response to offer support for the many families who struggle during the school holidays. Children are at home 24/7 and with no free school meals the weekly budget must stretch further for food, and there is little left for activities and treats. Feast of Fun is a great example of local people coming together to make a difference in their own communities. During the summer holidays of 2018, 1,000 children and their families enjoyed being part of Feast of Fun in 23 communities across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland.



"Thank you I can give the kids a bit less for tea tonight and not worry about it"

"Thank you for organising today, it's been fantastic, the kids have a great time and I have been able to relax a bit more"

Faithfully Ageing Better

Churches have always been open to people of all ages – but sometimes it takes specific work to help everyone feel like part of the family. Working with **Ageing Better Middlesbrough** we invited older people into Feast of Fun activities as volunteers, which made some people feel they had a new lease of life! Throughout 2018 we supported intergenerational trips and activities, drawing communities together with toddlers, ninety-year olds and every age in between having fun and learning together!



'It makes me feel young – it's better than medicine!'

Dementia Friendly Churches

Partnering with Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough, our work has helped transform thinking around how local churches welcome and support people living with dementia. Organising the annual Dementia Friendly Carol Service, and supporting activities like Singing for the Brain and Sporting Memories, based in local church halls has made a significant difference to people living with dementia and their carers.

Working with you



1,056
People reached

Bringing People Together

We believe it's important that people can come together to share ideas, learn from each other and develop their skills to bring about change in local communities. In 2018, **1,056 people** attended events that we organised or contributed to.

There were inspiring events like **#RaiseYourVoices2018**, raising awareness about local projects we work with. Our conference 'Creative Responses to Dementia' brought people together from across the North East, and helped inspire church groups to make small changes, or set bigger ideas in motion. Training and workshops helped people to improve their knowledge and skills for working with children & young people, supporting people living with dementia and getting ready for Universal Credit.

A Network of Support

TM&C has a growing network of **20 champions**, especially in more prosperous areas of North Yorkshire. They help TM&C to raise awareness and financial support, directing resources and skills to where they are most needed. Finance, food, clothing & household items, as well as individuals' time and skills are shared across local communities. Champions volunteering within projects and also hosting some of our vulnerable groups on regular trips to areas of outstanding beauty, helps to build strong and supportive relationships.

Churches and organisations also partner with us and offer support. St Nicholas Church in Guisborough celebrate the Feast of St Nicholas each December, when everyone is invited to bring toys and gifts for local children. After the service the toys and gifts are distributed to families in need across Redcar and Cleveland through the partnerships TM&C has developed. Working with schools, social workers, youth and community groups demonstrates that the Church is active and passionate about supporting local people and communities.

Spreading the Word

Over **400 individuals and organisations** receive our e- newsletter. We keep people informed with our latest news via blogs on the TM&C website and social media. We share good news stories of local projects to thousands of people via local radio and through our regular features in local newspapers.

Why not keep in touch by signing up to our newsletter and following us on social media?

**TOGETHER
NETWORK**⊕

National movement, Local action

Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland 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.

**TOGETHER
MIDDLESBROUGH
& CLEVELAND**⊕

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