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Happy New Year and we hope you enjoy our January 2015 New sletter!

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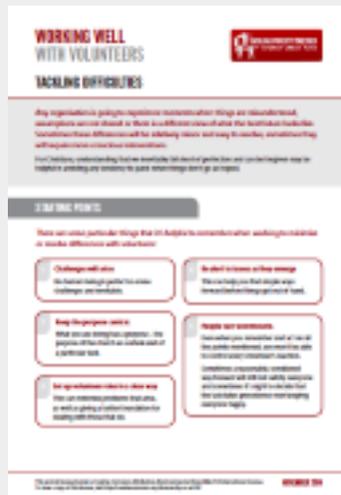
January 2015



New Charitable Status

Together Middlesbrough has been operating for two years now as part of the Together Network of the Church Urban Fund (which is now

operating in 15 areas around the country). We have recently applied for charitable status and this has been granted with the new official name of Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland (Charity No 1159355) It has long been a plan to work with communities and churches in Redcar and Cleveland as well as the work we have been doing in Middlesbrough, and this is now moving forward. TMC is working with churches and groups in the Redcar & Cleveland area to explore how best to support a range of activities, so watch this space for plans to emerge.



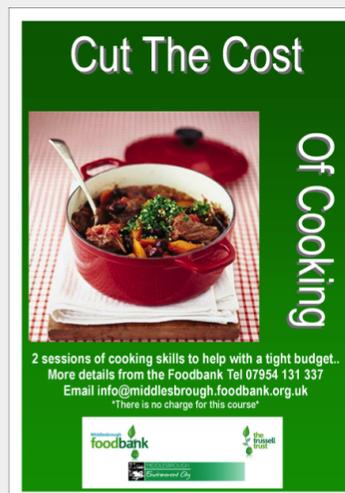
Working well with volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in enabling churches and church based projects to continue to serve. Julia Hill, from CUF, has been working with Joanna Cox from the Church of England education team on guidance for Christian organisations and churches to help them develop effective work with those in voluntary roles so that individual volunteers and the mission of the church can flourish. This comprehensive guidance is [now available on the CUF website](#) and covers seven broad areas: clarifying tasks, taking on volunteers, building good relationships, encouraging development, tackling difficulties, agreeing principles and managing formalities.

Feeding Britain - APPG Report

Feeding Britain was the final report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into hunger and Food Poverty in Britain. The Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton, co-chaired this inquiry into hunger and food poverty. The final report was published in December 2014 and received lots of press coverage. You can download a copy of the report and the full evidence to the inquiry [from the website](#). The Inquiry intends to pose a series of key questions to each of the political parties in the run-up to the next general election about how they

will respond to rising hunger and food poverty in this country.



Slowcooker Courses

Cut the Cost of Cooking is a practical way of supporting families to feed themselves on a low budget, cooking with a slow cooker. Les and Kim from Middlesbrough Environment City will be working with parents and grandparents, sharing cooking skills and teaching some simple recipes. At the end of the sessions each family will receive a slow cooker, tin opener and a larder pack and a recipe book of ideas to use their slow cooker.

The courses are being held over the coming months in church and community venues across the town, starting in January 2015. The project is aimed at families that have needed the support of the Food Bank, or they can be referred by schools, social services, health visitors, Sure Start, churches and community projects.

To find out more please contact Nigel Perrott Tel 07954131337 or e-mail info@middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk

Churches of Sanctuary - Support for Asylum Seekers

Following on from the excellent day conference in October 2014, "How Can you and I Welcome Asylum Seekers in our Church?" work is now underway to develop a group called 'Churches of Sanctuary', with churches and projects working together to improve the support and welcome offered to people seeking asylum in the Tees Valley. An evening is planned for **Thursday 5th February 2015 6.30pm with food, at the Trinity Centre, North Ormesby**. We will be joined by Rose McCarthy from the national Cities of Sanctuary movement www.cityofsanctuary.org If you would like to book a place to come along please contact us at together@trinitycentre.org



Promoting Your Project

Together Middlesbrough has secured a regular monthly column in the Evening Gazette for another year, to share good news stories about the work of local churches and projects. For the past two years we have featured a different project each month, raising the profile of their work and attracting new volunteers and support. The gazette has offered us this opportunity for 2015, with a column on Saturday nights when more people read the newspaper than during the week. If you would like to use this opportunity to tell thousands of local people about your project please contact us at together@trinitycentre.org Tel 07446908451



Faith Group Funding

Well done to all the church and faith groups who took part in the participatory budgeting event in November. The afternoon in the Town Hall Crypt was truly inspiring, to hear about all the creative projects taking place in communities across the town. The funding was provided through Middlesbrough's Public Health department and was allocated to faith-based projects that improve health and well-being and build stronger communities. Thanks to Shahda Khan community cohesion officer for her work in securing this funding in recognition of the contribution of faith groups to their local communities.

Funding Opportunities

Here are some examples of current funding opportunities. If you would like help and advice re funding

please contact Heather Black on Tel 07446908451 E-mail together@trinitycentre.org

BBC Children in Need: Small Grants Programme

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects where a relatively small amount of money can make a big difference to local children and young people. In particular, grants are available for projects that help children and young people experiencing

- illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- any kind of disability
- behavioural or psychological difficulties
- living in situations of deprivation

Next deadline 1 March 2015 more details on the [CIN website](#)

The ASDA Foundation Trust

The Foundation can support UK charities and people/projects who require financial assistance, including everything from local charities and playgroups to football teams - as long as they have the support of local ASDA colleagues. For more details visit www.asdafoundation.org

National Churches Trust - Community Grant Scheme

Through the scheme, which opens 12th January 2015 grants are available for projects which introduce facilities to enable increased community use of places of worship. To qualify, projects must have an estimated cost of at least £25,000 (including VAT and fees).

The Community Programme considers applications from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship of any age and denomination that open regularly for public worship. Grants are available towards capital works such as additions and extensions, and the introduction of facilities, such as accessible toilets and catering facilities. More details at www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Postcode Community Trust

The new Postcode Community Trust launched its Community Grant scheme on 5 January 2015 for groups that support environmental protection, community development, engagement in sport, advancement of health, promotion of human rights and prevention of poverty. Grants to support projects of up to one year in length that deliver a positive impact to local communities in this region with a deadline of 30 January 2015, so you need to be quick! More details at www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk

Born to Read

Are you looking for a new challenge in 2015? Do you want to play an active part in your local community? Would you like to help children have a better start in life? Then help give children a brighter future by becoming a volunteer reading helper in a local primary school. Save the Children is looking for motivated and enthusiastic volunteers who are keen to make a lasting difference to a child's life. As a volunteer on our Born to Read programme you will provide one-to-one support through reading with a child, playing word games and listening to what they have to say.

Born to Read is a partnership between Save the Children and the children's literacy charity Beanstalk to place volunteers in primary schools to support children who are struggling to read. This consistent and regular support not only enables children to improve their reading but also boosts their confidence and improves their prospects. Born to Read is currently operating in several regions of England including Middlesbrough & Redcar & Cleveland, and are looking to recruit volunteers from local churches and communities. For more information on Born to Read visit www.savethechildren.org.uk/born-to-read or contact our Volunteer Support Team on 020 7012 6997, volunteersupport@savethechildren.org.uk

Building a Politics of Hope conference on 24 February 2015

The William Temple Foundation, the Joint Public Issues Team and Church Urban Fund are working together on this conference. From food banks to education, economic justice to community empowerment, faith-



based organisations are playing an increasingly central role in local communities. This conference is an opportunity for faith and community leaders, faith-based organisations and public policy makers to explore the impact of faith-based organisations, how they relate to 'secular' authorities, and emerging models of political leadership and engagement.

The conference takes place on 24 February 2015 at St Bride Foundation, Fleet Street, London from 10am to 6:30pm. Tickets cost £15 which [you can book online](#). And here's a [conference flyer](#) to circulate to those who might be interested.



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