**Organisations to Support the Development of**

**Church/Community Links**

**Introduction**

In these challenging times we are finding themselves under more pressure to support congregations and the wider community. Below is a list of organisations that can offer both direct and indirect support.

**Church Action on Poverty** [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

Working at a national level the CAP lobby Governments to do more to eradicate poverty. It also provides practical help through the development of a network of “Local Pantries” which provide fresh food. Individuals have to be a member and in return for a small weekly subscription they can say over £15 per week on their food bills. There are currently four Local Pantry open in Edinburgh and CAP has just partnered with the Co-op to expand the network to over 770 by 2025.

The website provides resources for clergy to incorporate dealing with poverty within their ministry, services and pray.

**The Trussell Trust** [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

A well know name, The Trussell Trust run a network of food banks across the UK. The website has useful information about how to get involved and establish a food bank within your community.

**Christians against Poverty** [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

Can provide debt counselling, job clubs and life skills. Churches can offer to host courses.

**Linking Lives** [www.linkinglives.uk](http://www.linkinglives.uk)

This organisation addresses loneliness and isolation in older people. It runs be-friending schemes across the UK both in-person and by telephone. It also provides training courses for volunteers.

**Transforming Lives for Good** [www.tlg.org.uk](http://www.tlg.org.uk)

The mission is to bring hope and a future to children facing heart-breaking challenges. The website has resources to buy and details of training courses. Churches can offer to run courses.

**Kids Matter** [www.kidsmatter.org.uk](http://www.kidsmatter.org.uk)

Work with local churches to run parenting programmes for low income/low support families.

**Renew Wellbeing** [www.renewwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk)

Supports churches to set up quiet spaces in partnership with local mental health services. Many spaces are café style and provide a safe place for those in need.

**Neighbourly** [www.neighbourly.com](http://www.neighbourly.com)

Small charities can register to gain access to large companies that offers regular giving programmes throughout the year. Access can be to grants, volunteer programmes and surplus food donations.

**Acts 435** [www.acts435.org.uk](http://www.acts435.org.uk)

Once registered, churches can then post requests for help from people who are in urgent need. Examples of support include white goods and beds, decorating new houses, grants for employment opportunities, grants for training courses, food parcels and utilities.

**Redeeming our Communities** [www.roc.uk.com](http://www.roc.uk.com)

This organisation is committed to building a safer society from the grass roots up by harnessing the goodwill of local people to develop long-term collaborative projects. Projects can include mentoring programmes, weekly cafes for young people, gardening projects for older people training young people in the process.

**Church Urban Fund** [www.cuf.org.uk](http://www.cuf.org.uk)

Similar to the Redeeming our Communities organisation the CUF work with existing community partners to across three main areas:

* **The Together Network** – connecting churches with other organisations, providing resources and support to enable them to have an impact in the community.
* **Near Neighbours** – encouraging people to get to know each other, work together and improve their neighbourhoods.
* **Just Financial Foundation** – helps people to understand the financial system and to build their knowledge and budgeting skills so they can manage their spending and saving. [www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk](http://www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk)

**A Warm Welcome** [Warm Welcome approach — Ageing Better in Camden](http://www.ageingbetterincamden.org.uk/warm-welcome-approach)

The toolkit sets out how to best engage older people in community activities and make sure they keep coming back.

**Stewardship** [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

Works with churches to maximise donations and fundraising efforts, lend funds for new building projects. They also partner with missionaries to build a solid base of financial support, provide guidance for church planters on pioneer ministries.

**Breadline Research** [www.breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk](http://www.breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk)

Explores links between Christianity, poverty and politics in the 21st century. The website have examples of local projects, resources and papers. Has created an Anti-Poverty Charter for churches to sign up to and has resources to include anti-poverty in church services, bible study groups etc.