

# TOGETHER FOR CHANGE COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE<sup>⊕</sup>

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE  
DIOCESE OF COVENTRY AND CUF



## TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

LET'S TACKLE POVERTY TOGETHER  
IN COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE

# A WORD FROM REVEREND JET JONES - DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



**REVD.  
JET JONES**

We are passionate about working together with multiple agencies to tackle issues of systemic poverty, seeking new and innovative ways of raising aspirations and creating opportunities for a better future for all.

Whether you are a church seeking to reach your community and raise funds, or an agency looking for potential partnership opportunities, we would like to hear from you!

*Jet Jones*

## ENDORSEMENTS



**THE RIGHT REVD.  
CHRISTOPHER COCKSWORTH  
THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY**

Poverty can only be tackled together: Christians together, Churches working together with other agencies, councils and government. Together For Change brings us together, locally, in an alliance with God and his promise to bring 'good news to the poor'.

*Christopher Cocksworth*



**HIGH SHERIFF OF WARWICKSHIRE  
MARK DAVIES**

I am extremely happy to be able to endorse Together For Change. The work they do at grass roots level has proven to affect positive change in Coventry and Warwickshire.

*Mark Davies*

# WELCOME! WHO WE ARE...

The Diocese of Coventry's mission strategy is:

**"WORSHIPPING GOD, MAKING NEW DISCIPLES  
AND TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES"**

With this in mind, 'Together For Change' was formed – a charitable joint venture between the Diocese of Coventry and CUF (a national network that supports local charities) to resource and equip churches to transform their communities and tackle issues of systematic poverty. The charity is directed by a board of trustees who oversee the ongoing projects that Together For Change is involved in.

**THERE ARE CURRENTLY 1 IN 2 CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY IN  
SOME AREAS OF COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE.**

Some of our partners include:



# MEET SOME OF THE PROJECTS WE HAVE FUNDED

Together For Change offers small grants of up to £2,500 for projects looking to make a difference in the community. We do also have access to further funding, but for more information on any funding we can offer, please contact John Scouller on [john.scouller@covcofe.org](mailto:john.scouller@covcofe.org)

## MOUNTAIN LIFE

Lower Ford Street Baptist Church were awarded £1,000 to deliver an adventure camp for 8-11 year olds who would otherwise not be given the opportunity to experience the great outdoors and go mountaineering.

## YOU CAN FLOURISH

This is a relatively new charity which seeks to improve life-chances among disadvantaged girls, who left unsupported are at risk of reaching a crisis point. The initiative is about building self-esteem, relationships, and resilience through courses and mentoring. The charity was awarded £1,500, and works in partnership with St Mary's Leamington, Champion School and Warwick District Council.



# WOMEN OF WILLENHALL

(St John the Divine) have been awarded £2,500 to focus on supporting women through issues of domestic abuse and empowering women from all walks of life, whether single parent families, or vulnerable adults, to make positive steps toward emotional, financial and physical freedom.

### Reverend Pam Howell – WOW Leader:

When I first moved to Willenhall, I spoke to the police and found that 50% of all crimes in Willenhall were domestic abuse. I knew that something had to be done about this, so we teamed up with Ignite; a group that looks to tackle crime through early intervention. We then decided to set up this group to help women build up their self-esteem, to grow in confidence and independence and to let the people of Willenhall know that they are not alone and there is more to life.

### Linda Farmer – WOW Leader:

When we were looking in to setting up WOW, we realised that there is support out there for when women hit absolute crises, but we want to reach them before it gets to that point! If we are successful in this then they won't need public services at all. I would say that we are doing this really well right now and we have a wonderful group of women who have all really grown in their own self-confidence over the past six months.

We didn't market this as a group for domestic violence because we knew that not all women believe they are in an abusive relationship, instead we wanted to meet with the people who maybe thought their relationships were ok, but in reality they may not be. People assume domestic violence is a punch or a slap, but actually there are other forms of it such as emotional abuse and coercive control, so we didn't just want to target physical domestic abuse.

### Lady from the WOW group:

WOW has really helped from a social point of view. It's very calming, relaxing and we just have a lot of fun together. There is no judgement in the group when we talk about our issues and since going I have realised that I do have a voice! When I first heard about the group, the very thought of walking into a group with a bunch of strangers frightened me, but I did go and I don't regret it. It has really boosted my confidence and, as I said earlier, helped me to find my voice. It has also helped me to make friend with other in the community that I wouldn't have spoken to. If there is anyone out there who is going through domestic abuse, or even just feeling lonely, come along and give it ago because I promise you it will change your life.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE IS 29% OF ALL VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF COVENTRY OF WHICH WILLENHALL IS THE NUMBER ONE AREA OF COVENTRY TO BE AFFECTED. IN COVENTRY 3,000-4,000 CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE.**  
**(SAFETALK)**

# TFC IN WARWICK

**“THE WARWICK TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING WITH TFC OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS SETTING UP A TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES PROJECT FOR WARWICK AND BUDBROOKE. THEY HAVE BEEN GREAT TO WORK WITH AND WE’RE BEGINNING TO SEE SOME EXCITING IDEAS AND INITIATIVES RESULTING FROM OUR ENERGISING COLLABORATION!”**

**THE REVEREND DR. VAUGHAN S. ROBERTS  
(TEAM RECTOR OF WARWICK)**

## STACEY’S WORK IN WARWICK

We are delighted to welcome Stacey Bains to our team as the Transforming Communities Development Officer in Warwick. Stacey currently worships at New Life Church in Warwick and is part of the leadership team whilst serving as Youth Pastor. Her past experience of working for the Herbert Art Gallery, focusing on bringing the arts, culture and history to life adds a dynamic aspect to the team.

Her primary focus of this role is to support and help resource the mission of the Anglican churches of Warwick and Budbrooke in reaching out to their communities. She is keen to channel the energies and abilities of local volunteers and we are certain she will do with energy and passion!

We are pleased to announce we are planning a series of exciting inter-agency projects to engage Children and Young people who are facing many challenges at a time when there are cuts to their local services. These include a detached team for youth outreach, a kids club and outreach events for families and young people. We are also looking to support the wellbeing of our older adults through, dementia work, friendship groups and bereavement support which we aim to do working with wider agencies. You can keep up to date with all these innovative projects and small grants available through our website.

[www.tctwarwick.co.uk](http://www.tctwarwick.co.uk)



**STACEY BAINS**

# OUR WORK WITH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

**“Fresh Start”** is a new initiative pioneered by Together for Change, seeking to mobilise churches in the Coventry Diocese to both befriend and provide practical support to people from different cultural backgrounds, paying particular attention to refugees and migrants. Although refugees, asylum seekers and migrants receive excellent professional

support here, the thing which they often lack is companionship. This initiative will seek to meet this need, and both help to reduce isolation and provide newly-arrived individuals with a warm welcome. If you would like to contact our Fresh Start Coordinator about anything, please do not hesitate to email [matt.robinson@covcofe.org](mailto:matt.robinson@covcofe.org)



## ENGLISH SPEAKING CONVERSATIONAL CLASSES

We are working in partnership with the Belgrade Theatre who have opened their doors of hospitality to allow us to run conversational classes on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

Up to 20 volunteers meet to run the conversational classes over a “cuppa”, building relationships and supporting immigrants with integration techniques.

## OSMAN IDRIS FROM SUDAN

### How long have you been in the UK?

I have been in the UK around 9 months now since moving from Sudan.

### How has Matt Robinson helped you since you moved here?

He has really helped me with my conversational skills and pointed me in the right direction for English speaking classes for my grammar. I feel these English skills will help me to be a plumber.

### Are you enjoying the social aspect of the groups?

Yes very much. I really enjoyed going to see the Wasps (Rugby Club) play at the Ricoh and I'm really looking forward to going to see England play at Wembley with Matthew.

### Has meeting with Matthew made you feel more at home in the UK?

Yes for sure, he has really helped me to feel at ease here and make friends. Thank you Matthew!



## MATT ROBINSON FRESH START COORDINATOR

### What's your background?

Born in Chester, and studied politics at Durham University

### What experience do you have?

I worked for Action Language giving free English classes to asylum seekers in Newcastle, volunteered as an English teacher at the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre and I also worked as an intern at the Cathedral last September.

## FRESH START FOOTBALL

As part of this initiative we have begun a football group which works with local churches, befriending and supporting migrants, and then inviting them for a meal afterwards to seek to integrate them into church projects. 50 people attend this project and 16 of which are asylum seekers

and refugees. This fantastic initiative recently caught the attention of the BBC, which led to them putting together a news report focusing on the good work of the project. The football sessions run on a Saturday morning at Sydney Stringer School and are available to all.



**TWO NEW FAMILY LINK WORKER POSTS COMING SOON TO SALFORD PRIORS AND ALCESTER MINSTER!**

# FAMILY LINK WORKERS

**The Family Link Worker initiative places workers in both a school and local church to support families in need. The aim is to 'parent the parents' and work alongside families providing practical support in areas such as healthy eating, budgeting, food preparation, parenting classes, family routines and pastoral care.**

The Family Link Workers are based in Willenhall and Binley, and funding has been provided by the Multi Academy Trust, Together for Change and the Bishops Mission Fund to enable the project to

take place. The aim is to strengthen links between the school and church in an attempt to gain learning on how best to support families in need. The project is now well into its second year after gaining further funding due to its overwhelming success in the first year. It has been so successful that two new schools have requested for Family Link Workers to be placed in their schools.

**We are proud to support Willenhall with a Family Link Worker who has enabled a 'Summer Brunch Club' and a 'Cooking with Children' course to happen.**

**WE HAVE BENEFITED HUGELY FROM HAVING FAMILY LINK WORKERS IN OUR PARISH. THEY HAVE REALLY HELPED TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND OUR CHURCH SCHOOL. THEY HAVE SERVED AND SUPPORTED FAMILIES IN REAL NEED, AND HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TOWARDS THE LOVING AND POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN THE SCHOOL.**  
**– REVD. JON TAYLOR**

## OUR OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT

The whole school community is supported when times are difficult by two skilled Family Link Workers funded jointly by the school and 'Together For Change', run jointly by the Diocese of Coventry and the Church Urban Fund. They work with families, social workers, the Home Office, the City Council and other agencies to provide exceptionally effective support. This innovative project is helping many families and ultimately helping pupils feel more secure – *Ofsted Inspection Report: St Bartholomew's Church of England Academy, 11-12 July 2017.*

## MEET ROB & HELEN - OUR FAMILY LINK WORKERS IN BINLEY

Rob and Helen are our Family Link Workers in Binley. They run a wide variety of groups such as messy church, summer lunch clubs and after school activities. They currently have over 70 people attending their messy church group each session, which speaks volumes for the work that they are doing. They also received high praise in the schools' recent Ofsted inspection! Rob and Helen are doing a fantastic job in the Binley area and if you would like to hear more about what they are doing or if you can get involved, please contact them on:

[helen.tebbatt@covcofe.org](mailto:helen.tebbatt@covcofe.org)



**ROB & HELEN**

# OUR WORK WITH OLDER PEOPLE

The **“Good Neighbours”** scheme is an exciting initiative developed by local churches (via Hope Coventry and Together for Change) in partnership with Age UK Coventry (AUKC) to improve health and wellbeing amongst older people. The aim of the project is to increase the range of friendship

opportunities and activities available for older people within Coventry, as well as significantly increasing reach to isolated and/or lonely older people to help them engage with their communities and maintain their independence.



## CONTACT US

**Jet Jones**  
Transforming  
Communities Officer  
Phone: 02476 521 344  
Mobile: 07958 957 320  
E: jet.jones@covcofe.org

**John Scouller**  
Together For Change  
Development Worker  
Mobile: 07722 504 590  
E: john.scouller@covcofe.org

**Ryan Lapworth**  
Together For Change  
Operations Administrator  
Phone: 07949 792 210  
E: ryan.lapworth@covcofe.org



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**CUF**<sup>+</sup>  
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<http://www.cuf.org.uk/together-change>