



NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

I hope that you all had a blessed and joyful Easter, however you were celebrating. It has been great seeing how many of you have posted services online and are using social media to share pictures and prayers and connect with one another .

I have attempted in this newsletter to pull together some of the resources and information that might be helpful to local churches and Churches Together groups during the current crisis. Things are changing all of the time and there is lots of information around. I have tried to give signposts to pages that I have come across but if I have missed something or there are particular questions do get in touch and I will do my best to find out.

If there is anything I can do to help and support any of the Churches Together groups drop me an email or give me a call.

Joanne Thorns - Regional Officer

T 0191 3868049

M 07932513295

E regionallofficer@necat.co.uk

Follow us on FaceBook

<https://www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether/>

Church Coronavirus Webpages

Our North East churches or their national bodies have lots of information and answers to frequently asked questions on their websites. I have put links to some of them below

[Newcastle Anglican Diocese web page](#)

[Durham Anglican Diocese web page](#)

[Hexham and Newcastle Roman Catholic Diocese](#)

[Advice from the Methodist Church](#)

[United Reformed Church](#)

[Baptist Union of Great Britain](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

Another great source of information are the Local Authority websites. The Local Authorities have set up emergency response and volunteer groups.

County Durham the local Council is using their [Locate website](#) for groups offering support to register and a way of linking those that would like to [volunteer](#)

Darlington- [Darlington Community Support Hub](#)

Gateshead - have emergency contact details on their [website](#)

Hartlepool - [Hartlepool Support Hub](#)

Middlesbrough - [Help Boro](#)

Newcastle - [City Council Helpline](#)

Northumberland - see [website](#) for local response.

North Tyneside - The Council are using [VODA](#) to co-ordinate their volunteer response.

Redcar and Cleveland - see their [website](#) for links to support.

South Tyneside- the [website](#) links to local support for residents

Stockton- response is being led by [CATALYST](#).

Sunderland council are co-ordinating their response via a variety of [community hubs](#)

Churches Together in England

CTE have a special page for Coronavirus updates - [LINK](#)

Prayers of Hope - every Sunday at 7.00 pm

During the Coronavirus crisis thousands of Christians across Britain are praying together at 7.00 pm every Sunday evening. This began on Sunday 22 March after the [Presidents of Churches Together in England issued a joint call to prayer](#).

The [response was phenomenal](#).

To keep the prayer going, Churches Together in England is offering a poster to encourage #PrayersOfHope. You can download the poster below.

St Paul tells us to pray continually. However, it helps to know that others are also praying at a specific time, so we encourage you to pray at 7.00 pm on Sunday

evening. If you want to join in online prayer, there are two options of which we are aware:

Premier radio: [Prayers of Hope service](#) at 7.00 pm on Sunday

Baptists Together are [broadcasting](#) at 7.00 pm on Sundays (and Wednesdays)

[01 Coloured poster](#) (105.5KB)

[02 Black & white](#) (84.8KB)

[03 To be coloured in](#) (84.5KB)

Churches are working around the clock to demonstrate love to their neighbours through this global pandemic. With so much new information and initiatives each day it can be difficult to know where to begin. [YourNeighbour.org](#) equips church leaders with the latest updates and resources and connects people in need to churches. The website contains a whole host of information for church leaders and for churches and communities such as;

Tips on working with Volunteers

Daily thought for the day

10 ways to keep yourself emotionally healthy

Opportunities to bless key workers.

The latest newsletter from Churches Together in England

[CTE NEWS](#)

THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come begins on Ascension Day, May 21st and continues to Pentecost on the 31st May. I know that many Churches Together Groups were planning events across the 10 days and for Pentecost itself, which have now been cancelled. The TKC website has lots of resources to help us think about different ways of celebrating and praying together between Ascension and Pentecost.

[THY KINGDOM COME](#)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Will also be different this year but Christian Aid week will still be happening but virtually

[CHRISTIAN AID WEEK EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES](#)

Funding News

The COVID-19 Fund along with the National Emergencies Trust has been set up to support community groups and organisations through this period of uncertainty, to offer emergency funding to deal with emerging issues in the community as a result of the continuing threat of coronavirus. It is being distributed by the local Community Foundations across the region. In this rapidly evolving situation please check the websites regularly

<https://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/coronavirusfund/>

County Durham Community Foundation www.cdcf.org.uk

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland: [Covid Grants](#)

Tees Valley Community Fund - www.teesvalleyfoundation.org

VONNE, for voluntary organisations in the North East has a lot of information about funding and advice on their website. [LINK](#)

The National Emergencies Trust has launched a [Coronavirus fundraising appeal](#)

Civil Society have generated a list of potentially useful sources of funding which **have been** summarised in the attached document. Further information can also be accessed through the following links:

<https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/voices/what-funding-is-available-toC-charities-during-covid-19-pandemic.html>

National Lottery Community Fund is reaching out to grantees, partners, and other vital civil society organisations to understand how it can support communities and the sector during Covid-19. [The Fund aims to share](#) what it learns over the coming period.

The Indigo Trust: [The Indigo Trust is making £2.5m available](#) through emergency grants to help charities respond to the coronavirus emergency. .

Standard Life Foundation [has launched funding](#) for work directly related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Grants will be made to organisations which tackle financial problems and improve living standards for those on low-to-middle incomes in the UK. It is likely that grants will be made in the range of £5,000 to £50,000, however, there is no set amount that people can apply for.

Charities Aid Foundation has launched an emergency fund offering one-off grants of up to £10,000 to small charities and social enterprises that are struggling during the current crisis. [Organisations with a turnover up to £1m can apply.](#)

National Lottery Awards For All have devoted all their immediate resources over the next 6 months to projects addressing the immediate effects of Covid-19. [read more here](#). You can apply for up to **£10,000** (even if you've already got another Awards For All grant currently live).

The Ballinger Charitable Trust has paused its normal application process and opened it instead to groups "actively responding to help the North East community they serve through the impacts of covid-19" specifically "older people, hospital discharges, support around domestic abuse and food and fuel support to communities in financially disadvantaged areas". Small amounts up to £1000 can be applied for via a very quick and simplified application process see their website for criteria and further details – <https://www.ballingercharitabletrust.org.uk/>

Karbon Homes Community Fund have also opened a community fund you can apply to for small covid-support related projects up to £5000 in areas (much of North Tyneside) where they have Karbon homes – <https://www.karbonhomes.co.uk/your-community/community-funding/>

Tesco Bags of Help Covid-19 Communities Fund £500 unrestricted core funding to help groups supporting vulnerable groups in their local communities. <https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/grant-schemes/tesco-cv-fund/>

Leathersellers Company Small Grants

Programme <https://leathersellers.co.uk/small-grants-programme/> Deadline 11 May for grants up to £3000 for Registered Charities across the UK providing support to vulnerable groups around Homelessness or at risk, provision of food/essential supplies and Domestic violence

RW Mann Trust This trust has not announced any specific COVID-related response but is already an excellent, quick response funder providing amounts up to £1000 for smaller Registered Charities – <http://www.rwmanntrust.org.uk/applicant-guide/>

Sir James Knott Trust - An excellent local funder, – <http://knott-trust.co.uk/applications/>

Clothworkers Foundation Emergency Capital Programme -Incredibly fast turnaround of around 2 weeks on this one for capital amounts up to £5000 for Registered Charities providing emergency covid-related support to vulnerable groups broken down into 9 programme areas as per the website –

<https://www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk/clothworkers-emergency-capital-programme/>

Resource Action Fund Covid-19 Emergency Surplus Food Grant Phase 2 &

3 This fund is to help existing food distribution organisations (like food banks). Phase 2: £5000 to £10,000 available to small/micro sized organisations, deadline 4 June 2020 – <https://wrap.org.uk/content/covid-19-emergency-surplus-food-grant-phase-2>

Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/campaigns/coronavirus-mental-health-response-fund/#>

£5M pot with fast-track grants of between £20,000 to £50,000 for projects lasting up to 12 months,

Morrisons Foundation Covid-19 Homeless Support Fund has just made £500,000 available for Registered Charities providing outreach & support, including provision of essentials, delivery of services in hostels & shelters and information &

advice to homeless people. Applications can be made for smaller amounts up to £10,000 with grants awarded on a weekly fast-track basis. Further information available via this link – <https://www.morrisonfoundation.com/latest-news/covid-19/>

Coronavirus Advice

There is lots of information around at the moment about Coronavirus, most of the national church websites have lots of information or links as does the Churches Together in England Website.

Some good Local connections that are regularly updated, include:
Community Action Northumberland have lots of information on their website [CAN](#)

[Durham Community Action](#) have a dedicated page on their website with links to sources of information for voluntary and community sector organisations including regular updates from NCVO and the Charity Commission, the latest information from Public Health. There are also links to our regularly updated guides

[Covid-19 Advice for Volunteers](#)

[Covid-19 Good Practice Guide for Volunteer Involving Organisations](#)

[Covid-19 Advice for Community Buildings](#)

[Covid-19 Emergency Funding Guide](#)

[Data Protection and Volunteer Groups - Advice from The Information Commissioners Office](#)

.Friends Against Scams

Please see attached a link to an Action Fraud news article about most recent scams relating to Coronavirus scams which will be useful [ACTION FRAUD](#)

Listening and Responding

I have been working with an action team of Tyne and Wear Citizens for the last few years to encourage more Living Wage employers in The North East. Along with colleagues from across the country we have been hearing that this may not be the key issue for individuals and families during this crisis.

So over the next weeks we are trying to listen to peoples' experiences of employment conditions & the benefits system during this crisis. The experience for people in the North East may differ from other areas of the country so if you could help us by sharing stories it would ensure our experiences are represented. You may have heard about issues from foodbanks, friends or family.

If you'd like to contribute to this, please either;

Email me with the story and I can feed this in – people can remain anonymous however if they are prepared to share their details this is far more powerful.

Or you can ask them to fill out [this quick \(3 min-ish\) survey online](#) (this is anonymous). If you do use this survey please let us know so we have an idea of numbers.

[BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme](#)

The BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme which **supports children and young people up to the age of 18 living with severe poverty as well as additional pressures** such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family is currently open for applications from **referral organisations** that will be able to apply for grants on behalf of families or young people.

The fund will **cover the purchase of critical items** such as essential household items, furniture and kitchen equipment, baby equipment and clothing in exceptional or emergency situations. Applications must be completed by a registered referrer who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs. The referrer's organisation should also be able to administer and supervise the grant on behalf of the BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme.

Advice for Charities and Trustees

Advice on staff, volunteers, beneficiaries plus contingency and planning implications [here](#).

What charity trustees need to be thinking about - [here](#).



Copyright © North East Churches Acting Together 2017. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Rev Joanne Thorns

19 Lumley Road, Newton Hall, Durham, DH1 5NP

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)