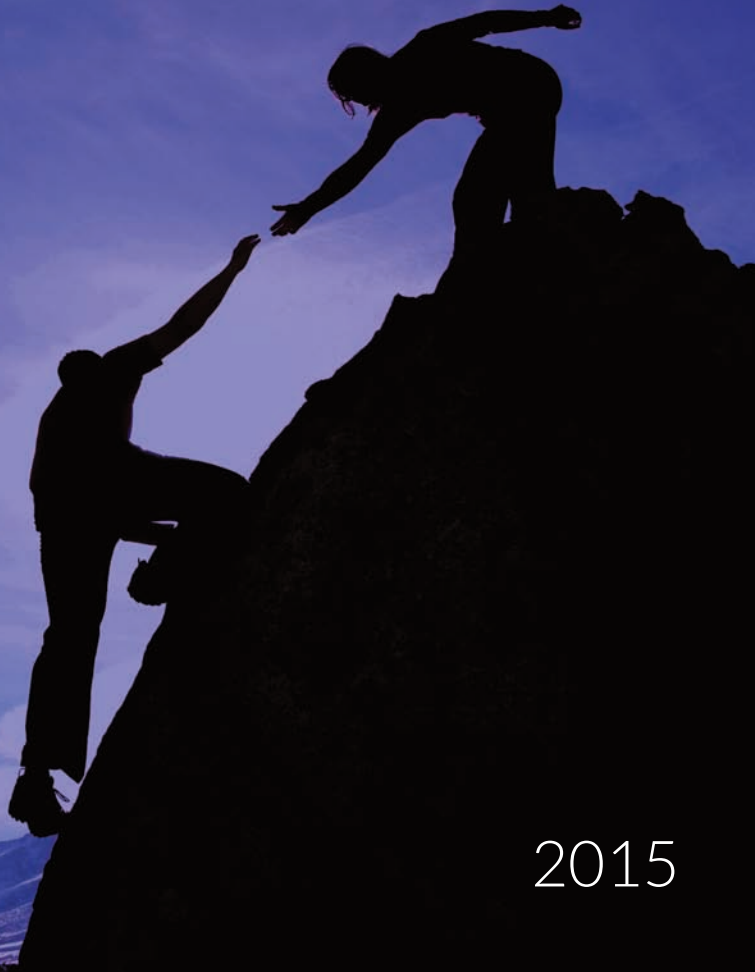


Jubilee+

Where Justice and Mercy Meet

CHURCHES THAT CHANGE COMMUNITIES



2015

Greetings from Jubilee+

It has been another exciting year in the life of Jubilee+ and this booklet outlines some of the highlights. We hope you find it informative, but also that it encourages you about all that the Church across the UK is involved with.

From feeding people in need to helping victims of human trafficking, the Church is once again at the forefront of supporting and empowering the most marginalised and vulnerable in our communities. Central Government and local decision-makers are increasingly recognising that the Church has a unique and pivotal role to play in society, not least of all because of the huge social capital at our disposal.

The last 12 months have been interesting for a number of reasons, not least of all the General Election, the ongoing refugee crisis, the further increase in foodbank use and many other factors. The Jubilee+ team continues to work hard at empowering Christians and churches to play their part in making a tangible, positive difference, not only in the lives of individuals in need, but also to our society as a whole.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about Jubilee+ from this booklet. Please contact us if you would like to know more about how you can partner with us in the future.



Martin Charlesworth • Jubilee+ team leader

The Jubilee+ team

Andy Biggs (Durham)

Heads up our Impact Research team
Runs his own business, director of Traidcraft and is involved with a number of other charities and social businesses.

Martin Charlesworth (Shrewsbury)

Leads the Jubilee+ team
Focuses on speaking, writing and advocacy; one of the leaders at Barnabas Community Church.

Geoff Knott (Dorking)

Jubilee+ website, national research and leads on social enterprise
Advises churches, think-tanks and businesses on business for the common good.

Peter Lyndon (Bristol)

Coordinates our partnering and networking
Background in church leadership and social work; advises churches on social action projects.



Sue Lyndon (Bristol)

Oversees our conferences and events
An experienced conference administrator; Sue has worked with Christian charities and churches over many years helping run and oversee works that help people in need.

Natalie Williams (Hastings)

Jubilee+ communications, including writing and social media
Former journalist, now working for Jubilee+, King's Church Hastings and New Ground churches.

Transforming lives and communities

The Jubilee+ vision

To see the Church in the UK be a champion of the poor and a means to healthy communities across the nation.

We have a big vision. It's based on the fact that we believe we serve a big God whose heart is (and has always been) especially inclined towards the poor. We also believe that His Church has a responsibility not only to care for and empower those in need, but also to speak up on behalf of the voiceless.

Our vision goes beyond seeing individual lives transformed – as important as that is – to seeing entire neighbourhoods and communities strengthened so that our society as a

whole is healthier. Our conviction is that when churches are at the heart of social action, social justice and social enterprise, society flourishes.

Jubilee+ was formed in 2011 and we have been on quite an adventure since then. The last 12 months, in particular, have been exciting. We gained charitable status, published our first book – *The Myth of the Undeserving Poor*, conducted some insightful research into the difference churches are making in their localities, held conferences and

roadshows, spoke at numerous events around the country, continued to lobby politicians and other key decision-makers, and had regular contact with 8,500 churches in the UK.

If you would like to connect with us in a more meaningful way, there are a number of options available to you. For example: you can attend events, sign up to receive our regular e-newsletter; you can become a financial donor through standing order or one-off gift; you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter; your church can join our Partner Church scheme.

For further information about any of these ways of connecting with us and supporting our work, email: admin@jubilee-plus.org.



Partner Churches

Jubilee+ Partner Churches commit to our work by praying for us, monthly financial support and providing information to help our research. In return, we offer discounted conference tickets, opportunities to host Jubilee+ events and speakers, to meet with team members, and more. Contact us for more info.

Jubilee+ by numbers

Our research found...

1 million volunteers gave **115 million** hours to church-based social action in the UK in 2014

This is an increase of almost **60%** on 2010

This would cost **£2.4 billion** at the UK national average wage

UK churches spent approx. **£393m** on social action in 2014

This is an increase of **36.5%** on 2010

Average of **8.9** social action projects per church

100% of social action projects have a positive impact on church growth

Thank you for your support over the last 12 months.

Here are some of our highlights...

1,118 survey respondents

Our small team of six has spoken/represented us at more than **40** events

Connected with at least **8,500** churches in the UK

Published

1



3

research reports

85

blogs and articles on our website

1,262 Twitter followers

Making a difference

A crucial part of what we do at Jubilee+ is our research: it's not enough to believe that churches across the country are changing their communities – we want to prove it!

Historically, churches have kept records of some of what they do – for example, the number of volunteers and people who come along to activities or events – but have lacked the resources or the skills to conduct more robust research into the impact of the initiatives they are running.

However, this kind of research is very important in demonstrating to politicians, decision-makers, the media, our churches and the public as a whole that what we are doing matters – that it makes a difference and would be missed if we closed our doors.

That's where Jubilee+ comes in. Over the last 12 months, we have published three research reports. Firstly, we explored the big picture of what churches across the UK are doing in terms of social action, with our biennial *National Church and Social Action Survey*. Many of the statistics you read on the previous two pages come from that survey,

which seeks to understand the extent of social capital in the UK Church: i.e. the energy and effort voluntarily given to church-based social action, as well as the finances poured into such projects.

Secondly, we carried out one of our most thorough Impact Research projects to date, exploring whether church parent and toddler groups really make a difference to those who attend. The answer is an emphatic YES! Not only do 98% of children and parents/carers enjoy being part of church-based parent and toddler groups, but 66% of parents/carers feel less stressed as a result of attending and 86% reported that children acquire social skills by being part of the group.

Interestingly, 91% of the parent and toddler groups that responded to our survey report that they have a positive impact on their church in terms of an outward-looking culture of community engagement.

This piece of Impact Research also found that 82% of parent and toddler groups have caused their church to grow numerically at least 'a little'. This is in



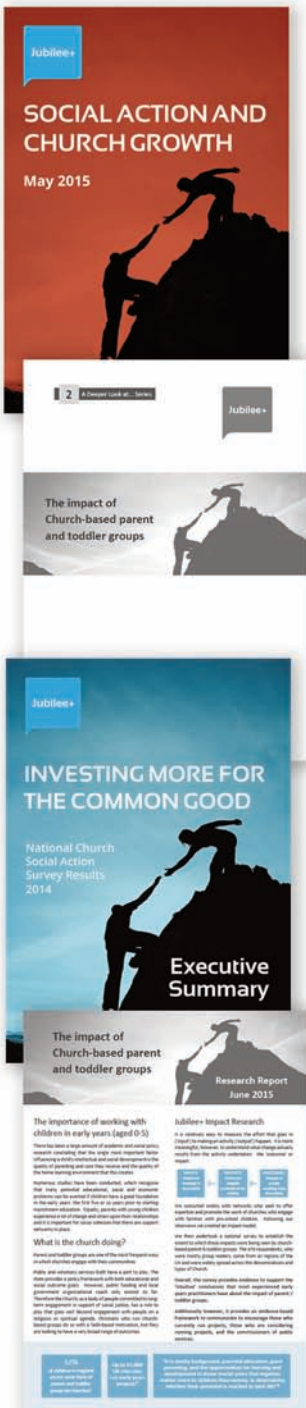
"A family who attended our group received a CD we produced with a Bible story, prayer and song we recorded on it for a Christmas present. The parent said her older child has listened to it and asked who God was. She wondered if we did any courses to help her answer her daughter. She came on an *Alpha* course then brought her husband. Both became Christians and the whole family now attends church."

line with our third research publication, *Social Action and Church Growth*, which revealed that ALL social action initiatives have a positive effect on church growth, whether that's moderately or a great deal. We've found that social action projects in our churches clearly lead to a number of people becoming Christians, joining churches and even

going on to become volunteers in those projects themselves.

Jubilee+ research focuses on the unique contribution the Church makes through social action. We have developed a robust, simple and consistent approach to discovering the impact this has on individuals, communities and the churches themselves.

You can find out more information about our research at: www.jubilee-plus.org/research including our recommendations based on the findings.



THE MYTH OF THE UNDESERVING POOR

In the autumn of 2014, Jubilee+ published our first book. *The Myth of the Undeserving Poor* offered a Christian perspective on poverty in Britain today, and included research into how the media portray this and what shapes the views of Christians.

You can purchase the book at Jubilee+ events or online.



Jubilee+

CHURCHES THAT CHANGE COMMUNITIES



The Jubilee+ vision

To see the Church in the UK
be a champion of the poor and
a means to healthy communities
across the nation.

Social action – the Church expressing the gospel through action that improves the lives of those in the surrounding communities who are in material, physical, emotional and educational need.

Social justice – equipping individuals to engage positively on behalf of the poor and socially excluded. Through research and biblical teaching, Jubilee+ seeks to help people to work for the common good in our society.

Social enterprise – advising and encouraging enterprises established either to produce goods and services beneficial to the disadvantaged, or to provide them with employment opportunities and skills training.

Churches that Change Communities conference 2016
Saturday 29 October

jubilee-plus.org

twitter.com/jubileeplus

facebook.com/jubileeplus

admin@jubilee-plus.org

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