

**TOGETHER  
MIDDLESBROUGH  
& CLEVELAND** ⊕  
A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN  
THE DIOCESE OF YORK AND CUF

## January 2020 Newsletter

### Goodbye from Heather

This month we are saying goodbye to Heather Black as she moves on from Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland. Heather has worked as Development Officer since the start of TMC when it was launched in December 2012 by the Archbishop of York. She said:

“It has been a real privilege to work for TMC, I have enjoyed working with so many wonderful people in communities across Middlesbrough & Cleveland. We have developed partnerships with a wide range of organisations, to help local people and communities flourish. Thank you to everyone who has worked with me over the past seven years.”

Heather will be taking up a new post with the Diocese of York, as [Mustard Seed Programme Leader](#). The trustees hope to appoint a new chief officer very soon to lead the future development of TMC.





## Dementia Friendly Carol Service

Friday 13th December saw the 5th Dementia Friendly Carol Service in Middlesbrough.

It was held at the Salvation Army Citadel at Southfield Rd and was attended by around 50-60 people living with dementia who enjoyed singing carols to that wonderful sound of the Salvation Army brass band.

The service was led by the Revd. Jen Croft with the theme of "Follow the Star." The service was very visual with a giant gold star, people from the congregation carried the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the crib, some chose to wear crowns depicting the wise men.

There were moments of very deep reflection and lots of humour with short bursts of carols and short readings by people living with dementia. You can read the full story of the Carol Service [here](#).

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## Looking Forward to Easter

All those living with dementia and their carers are invited to [St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe](#) for a short service looking forward to Easter, followed by afternoon tea and entertainment on Thursday 2nd April, 2 - 4 pm. All welcome.

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## Food and Friendship

The Food & Friendship team have had a busy few months bringing people of all ages together to enjoy cooking, shared activities and eating together. The different projects have helped people to



**A Winter Wonderland** of activities came to St Thomas More parish in time for Christmas. Children from the school invited older people from the local community to enjoy 3 weeks of activities. Children and their 'mature' friends prepared food for more than 30 people, and made Christmas decorations in clay, paper and felt. They decorated plant pots and planted bulbs and everyone shared happy memories of winter and Christmas in a special memories book. Meal time was a delight with the sharing of delicious food and a chance to chat. Funny stories, telling jokes and laughter were part of our sessions.

You can read more about this and other **Food and Friendship projects** [on our website](#). If you would like to explore doing something similar in your community please contact [Julie McGee](#).



## St Nicholas Christmas Gifts

Huge thanks to the wonderful folk at [St. Nicholas Church Guisborough](#) who collected hundreds of children's gifts for St Nicholas Day on December 6th. St Nicholas, had a love for the poor and wanted everyone to enjoy an abundant life. We were able to share the gifts with churches and community groups across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland, to pass on to families who were struggling at Christmas. Thank you!

as we welcomed four new hubs to the [Warm Welcome Network](#) (WWN), doubling its size. There are now 8 places across Middlesbrough that offer a Warm Welcome each week, with more to come in 2020. Each venue works hard to ensure everyone receives a warm welcome. Volunteers have been 'learning to listen well' through listening training and have also become Dementia Friends to ensure each venue is Dementia Friendly. You can find out more about the Warm Welcome Network and the values that shape each place [here](#).



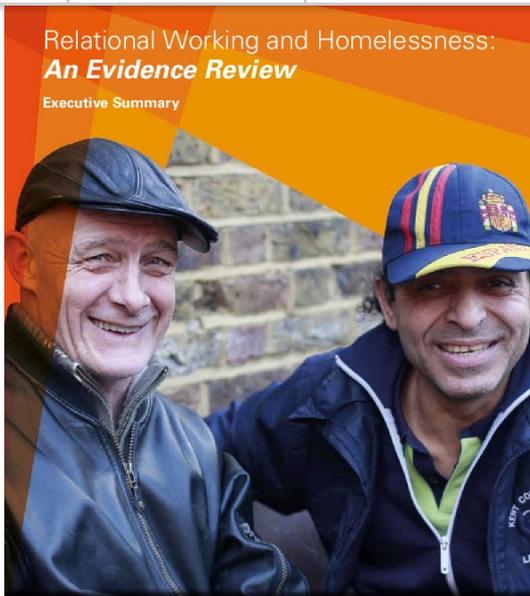
## Table Talk

In early autumn we hosted a [‘Table Talk’](#) session at the Trinity Centre led by Ruth Lewis, who has developed Table Talk as a great way to get people talking. People felt that Table Talk is a great icebreaker. People listened and showed empathy, there were so many common experiences, and people felt closer through talking.

Everybody who responded felt they would like more practice and training and so we will be holding another Table Talk session at the Trinity Centre, North Ormesby on **Thursday 26th March, 9am to 3pm** – no charge, lunch will be provided, and all groups attending will be provided with a free pack of ‘Table Talk’ cards. To book your place please contact [Billy Barnes](#).

## Positive Pathways out of homelessness

Read the latest research report from Church Urban Fund about the work of Positive Pathways in Middlesbrough,



## Relational Working and Homelessness: *An Evidence Review*

Executive Summary



**November 2019:** This executive summary has been produced by CUF and the Together Network, based on the full research report produced by Mark Bevan and Deborah Oulgars at the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York.

user commented on the unconditional attitude towards practical support they had experienced at Positive Pathways compared with statutory services, the latter which could be frightening. Others commented on the openness and availability of help “*they tried to help me like a brother.*” The full report is available here: [Relational Working and Homelessness](#).



## Funding and Grants

MVDA have produced a really useful [Guide to Local Funding](#). If you would like help and advice about funding please [contact us](#).

## Find a Funder

Find a Funder is a new online funding search tool brought to you by Middlesbrough Council and MVDA. [Find a Funder](#) allows you to search through hundreds of funding opportunities from a wide range of sources available to voluntary sector organisations. It's quick and easy to register, and you'll also have the option to sign up to a free funding news email.

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