

## 2019 Impact Report

# Supporting people and communities to thrive and flourish

### Our Key Themes

- 1) Social and Financial Inclusion
- 2) Health and Wellbeing
- 3) Community Cohesion
- 4) Developing Work

**43**



New Places of Welcome



**129**

Places of Welcome  
supported in total



**54**

Financial resilience  
workshops delivered

**323**

People impacted



**12**

Networks  
coordinated



**£41,090**

of Near Neighbours funding secured and shared  
between **13** groups across the Black Country



**708**

People attended one of our  
Modern Slavery awareness  
raising workshops or events



**122**

People attended our Real  
People Honest Talk  
community events

Over the last  
five years:



**101**

Dementia Friendly Church services

**4,150**

Dementia Friends trained

# Highlights of 2019

We asked our staff team to reflect on their highlights of the year

## Gulsoom Aslam



### TCT Places of Welcome Facilitator for Burton

I have met many unique individuals in my role as Places of Welcome Facilitator in Burton. Amongst them all, one stood out - Maggie. She was articulate and smart, kind and giving. She became a regular and valued member at the Burton Library Place of Welcome and began participating as a volunteer. Maggie then began visiting all the other Places of Welcome in Burton, becoming a familiar face and making friends along the way. She would make her way across the various areas of the town to attend a Place of Welcome every week day. So when she hadn't been seen for a couple of weeks' people were worried about her.

With some investigations, we found that she had very sadly passed away. As news spread around the Burton Places of Welcome network, I started to receive many messages from people expressing complete shock and heartbreak on hearing about Maggie's passing. They wanted to talk about her and share stories. By all accounts, she was a smart lady, who brought intelligent conversation, stories and warmth to all that she met. It was truly heartbreaking. We were able to pass on these messages to her family, in the hope that they found some comfort in the fact that Maggie was not alone in the weeks and months before she died. She was loved and had made many friendships and meaningful connections through Burton's network of eight Places of Welcome that TCT has set up with a wide range of partners. This meant that Maggie was missed, even before people knew she had passed. I wanted to pay tribute to a wonderful lady, who left her mark on many people's heart and minds. It remind us why we do what we are doing, as it impacts people's lives in ways that we wouldn't imagine.

## Sarah Thorpe

### TCT Dementia Friendly Churches Enabler for Northern Shropshire



Our Dementia-Friendly Churches conference was "Better Together: Join the conversation about dementia".

All our conversations were led by people with lived experience of dementia. It has a huge impact when you hear of someone's first-hand lived experiences.

Transforming Communities Together is a Joint Venture between the Church Urban Fund (CUF) and the Diocese of Lichfield. It is one of 21 joint ventures in the Together Network, all of them linked by faith and driven by the desire to tackle social inequality across England.

## Rev Cassius Francis



### TCT Just Finance Black Country Development Worker

Mine is quite a small story - One young couple with their baby - struggling with Universal Credit, came to a CSCS Budgeting session that I delivered. At the end of the session, they were more confident about discussing their finances and managing their money as a couple.

He said that the CSCS certificate was the first certificate that he had received for anything, as he had dropped out of school without any qualifications. One of the community workers from whg (our partner Walsall Housing Group), was also able to support the young person to register for a numeracy course.

This is not a huge story, but it is my favourite for the year because I could physically see the body language of the couple change as they grew more confident about being able to talk about money together. Even if they made incremental changes following on from the session, I knew that could made a significant difference to their overall finances.



Our Staff Team

*"Ask us about it. Dispel the myths."*

*"I don't want to be pitied. I want to be understood."*



@impactpoverty

[www.tctogether.org.uk](http://www.tctogether.org.uk)

Transforming Communities Together (TCT) is a registered UK charity, limited by guarantee and registered in England (Company No.9010580 & Registered Charity No.1157772)