



Telford & Wrekin Faith Action Audit
in partnership with Cinnamon Network

TELFORD FAITH ACTION AUDIT

Serving the people of Telford & Wrekin

June 2018

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to report on the outcome of the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit 2018 for Telford and Wrekin. This comprehensive report provides evidence for the social impact and the economic value of all that churches and other faith groups do in your local community.

Through our national research carried out in 2015 and 2016, we discovered that the contribution of churches and faith groups across the British Isles is worth more than £3 billion to society.

This report focuses on activity in your local area and we believe it will help to build confidence in the work carried out by church and faith groups locally. It is our hope that this new confidence will help local churches engage in conversations and form new partnerships with the Police, Local Authorities, health services, schools, businesses and other community organisations in order to help those people most at need in our communities.

Matt Bird

Founder of Cinnamon Network

“I am delighted to introduce the latest Cinnamon Faith Action Audit and that it now covers 87 towns and cities across the UK. Policing in this country has always been based on an effective partnership between the public and constabularies. Over many years churches and other faith groups have played an important role in those partnerships and it is great to see the range and extent of the work. In particular, the focus on vulnerable people is a priority which policing shares with churches and other faith groups and which we welcome.”

Sara Thornton, Chair of National Police Chiefs' Council

THE LOCAL SPONSOR



The Cinnamon Network Faith Action Audit has provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the support given by faith groups and faith based charities to their local community. We are grateful for the high response rate which reveals a clear picture of the significant impact for good that faith based groups make across Telford and Wrekin. The audit aims to provide a catalyst for building stronger partnerships and a platform for sharing resources as we seek to work together to build healthier communities in which individuals find their place and can flourish.

Rev Chris Densham, Telford Christians Together

DAWLEY FOOD BANK

We have helped 716 family units this year from the Food Bank which provides groceries, care and counselling as needed. We have been serving for over 7 years and have built up friendly relationships with many. We respond across the whole of Telford and Wrekin.



THE LIVING ROOM

The Living Room provides an inter-generational facility for the benefit of the community of Woodside. It organises activities and support for families and hosts drop-in facilities for all ages.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The value that faith groups bring

In Telford and Wrekin, we counted 278 projects, 67,500 beneficiaries, 1,525 volunteer roles and over £1.5 million of financial value being provided by faith groups during 2017. This shows that at a time when budget cuts, changes to benefits and rising housing costs are affecting many communities across the British Isles, there are groups of committed and faith-driven individuals who are stepping into the gap. The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit found that nationally, churches and faith groups give over £3 billion worth of time and resources annually to support those most in need through social action projects.

Local churches and other faith groups are involved in a whole range of social action initiatives including working with families, providing debt advice, coaching people back into work, offering emergency food parcels and providing

278

Total Number
of Projects

67,500

Total number
of Beneficiaries in
12 Months

84.5%

Response
Rate

125

Total Number of
Paid Staff Activities

40,450

Total Paid Staff
Hours Per Year

1,525

Total Number
of Volunteer Roles

a safe place to belong and build friendships. These groups are uniquely positioned to support those in most need on multiple levels and the Cinnamon Network believes that they should be celebrated and encouraged.

To reveal a picture of the current level of commitment of local churches and other faith groups, in February 2015, March 2016 and February 2018 Cinnamon Network undertook a comprehensive survey of local faith-based social action across the British Isles. 92 'Local Champion' volunteers worked in their area to create a list of as many faith groups as possible and invited them to take part in the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit. This report showcases the results from Telford and Wrekin.

6

Average number of
Projects per group

£1,525,000

Total Financial
Value

65%

Working with
Other Organisations

55%

Wanting a Closer
Relationship with
Other Organisations

141,850

Total Volunteer
Hours Per Year

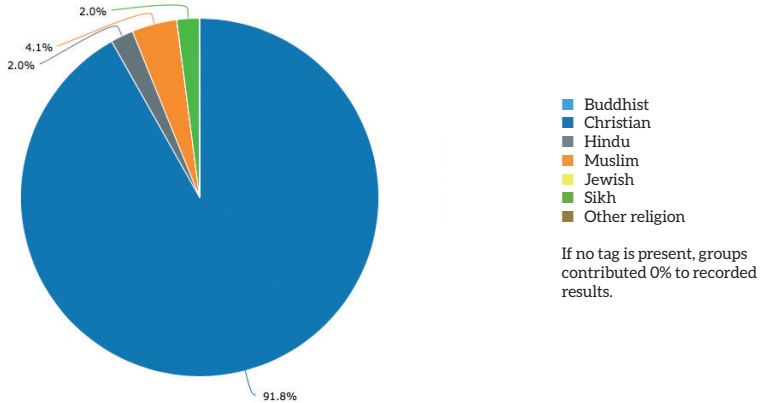
50

Faith Groups
Responding

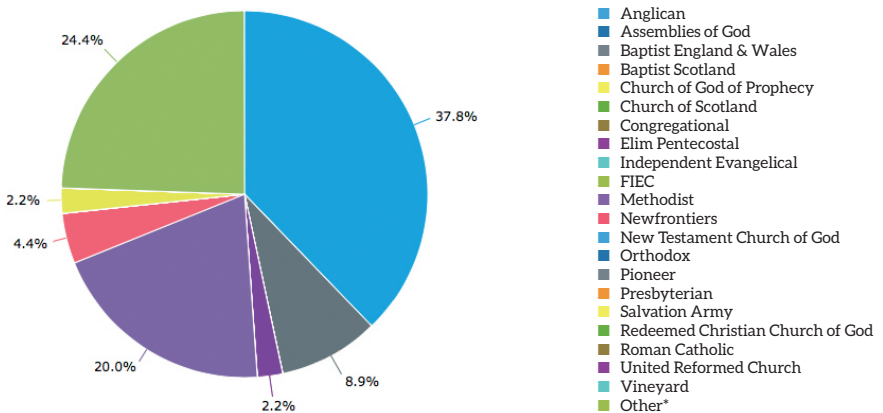
WHO RESPONDED

To create a full picture of faith-based social action, an integral part of the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit's approach was to extend the pool of respondents as far as possible.

Faith groups



Christian Denominations

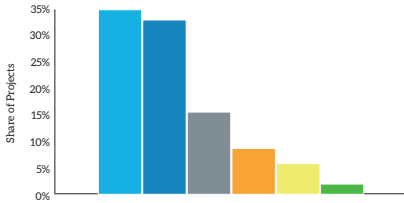


*The 'Other' category includes churches which represent more than one denomination, such as multi-church charities or groups and also a range of smaller independent church denominations and streams such as the Seventh Day Adventists, Ichthus, Quakers and Groundlevel.

If no tag is present, groups contributed 0% to recorded results.

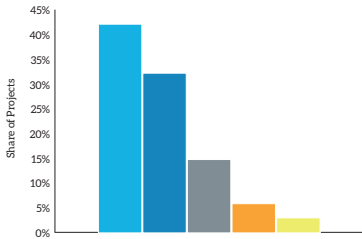
THE NEEDS BEING MET

Needs addressed



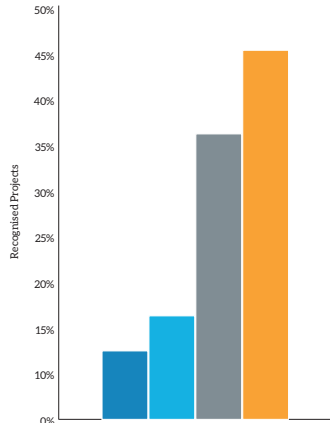
- Families, Children and Young People
- Community Life
- Social Inclusion and Helping Older People
- Social Action
- Improving Health
- Education and Business

Types of activity offered



- Community Activities
- Childcare, Youthwork, Family Support
- Training/Coaching/Counselling
- Providing Food/Housing
- Health and Fitness

Cinnamon Recognised Projects (This chart shows all available CRP's, active projects in Telford and Wrekin shown in Green)

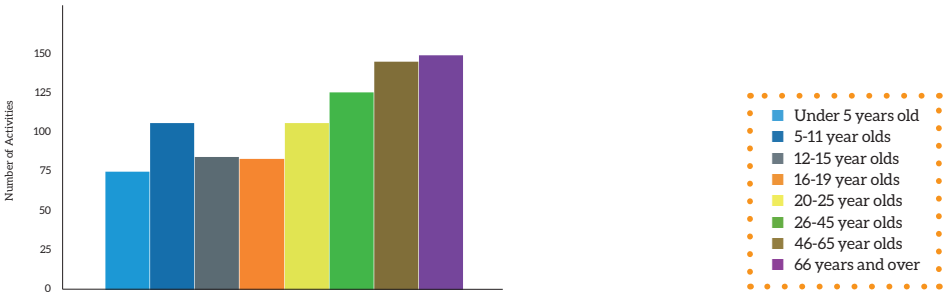


- **Enabling children and young people to flourish**
 - Make Lunch
 - Reflex
 - Resurgo Spear
 - TLG Early Intervention
 - TLG Education Centres
- **Supporting safer, stronger families**
 - 4 Family
 - Baby Basics
 - TLG Journey Makers
 - Welcome Boxes
 - Who let the Dads out
- **Building safer, stronger communities**
 - CAP Life Skills
 - CAP Release Groups
 - Christmas Lunch on Jesus
 - Clean Sheet
- **Fighting poverty**
 - Germinate Enterprise
 - Intentional Health
 - Linking Lives UK
 - Mega Fitness
 - Parish Nursing
 - Passing the Baton
 - Peaced Together
 - Street Angels
 - Street Pastors
 - Word 4 Weapons
 - CAP Debt Help
 - CAP Job Clubs
 - Community Money Advice
 - Housing Justice Night Shelter
 - Ignition
 - Trussell Trust Foodbanks
 - Hope into Action

THE BENEFICIARIES

The results of the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit show that local churches and other faith groups in the area work with a vast cross-section of beneficiaries. Rather than being focussed on one particular age group or gender, faith-driven volunteers and paid staff are actively working with people of all ages and with men and women in almost equal measure. This confounds the stereotypical image of a church engaging mostly women and children through a few coffee mornings and parent and toddler groups and gives an insight into the true breadth, value and impact on all sections of the community that local churches and faith groups offer.

The age of people supported in the community



Gender of beneficiaries



STAY: Alleviating homelessness



“STAY gave me a second chance at life. My life is great now, I live in my own flat with my partner and two cats and also work in a cafe with is brilliant.”

Emma

Providing support and training for young homeless people.

We work in partnership with statutory agencies and with other partners from the voluntary sector. STAY supports about 150 young people at any one time. We treat everybody who comes to us as an individual, working with them to overcome any issues to independent living and assisting them to develop and thrive in life.

IMPACT

In Telford and Wrekin the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit found that each church or faith group was delivering on average, per year:

- 7 social action projects
- Support for 1,378 beneficiaries
- 3 paid staff activities
- 31 volunteer roles
- 826 paid staff hours
- 2,896 volunteer hours
- £31,136 worth of support (paid staff hours, plus volunteer hours calculated using the living wage of £7.85 and a small supplement for management time)

The results highlight what a huge resource churches and faith groups are to society. With dedicated and mobilised volunteers and paid staff, they have the potential to make a significant and positive difference within their communities. It's worth noting that the financial value is really one aspect of the true value of these social action projects. Our data was based only on the time that volunteers and paid staff give in the direct preparation and delivery of social action projects. If it was to include the in-kind value of buildings and other resources used, the figure would be much higher. Similarly, the survey did not capture all the knock-on savings that the social action projects make for Local Authorities, the Police and other agencies in terms of demand reduction.

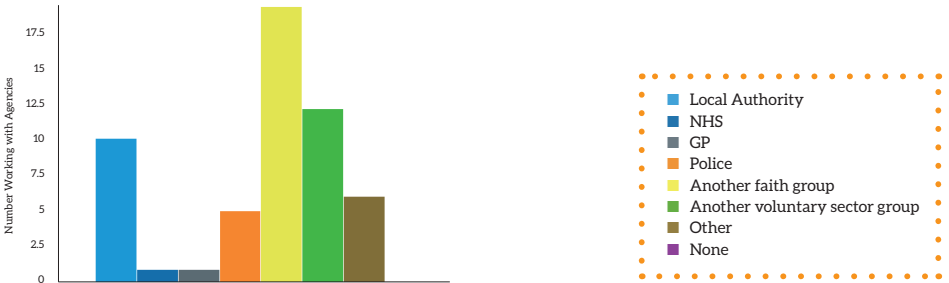


Hospitality for all at Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, Oakengates.

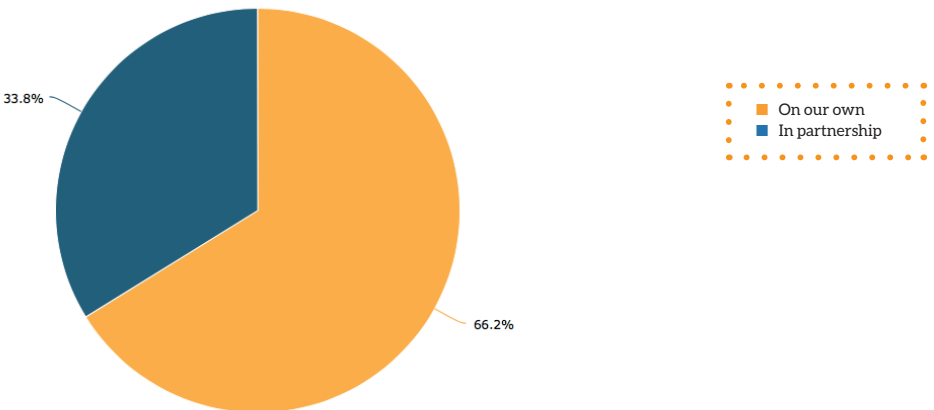
PARTNERSHIPS

The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit found that there were already developing partnerships between faith groups and the Local Authority, Police and other agencies, but more could be done to create a truly collaborative approach.

Working in partnership with



Who runs the activities?



CONCLUSION

Cinnamon Network wants to help local churches and other faith groups grow in confidence and capacity in their role at the heart of the community. We want to help local churches and other faith groups empowered and encouraged to take up their place, and be externally recognised and resourced as part of the overall picture of provision in any given community.

The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit was developed to map the scope of faith-based social action. We aimed to capture the broad range of social action which is being delivered by faith communities. From this we can see that collectively, local churches and other faith groups are a major provider of services and support to the local community.

The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit is a starting point, a way of gathering faith groups together to demonstrate the great wealth of service that they provide. It is hoped that from here, local churches and other faith groups will now take their place as part of the wider scope of recognised provision alongside Local Authorities, the Police and other agencies in both service delivery and strategic input.

Next Steps

From the many audits now undertaken, Cinnamon Network have seen considerable benefit in sharing the findings with local civic leaders and key influencers. Options we encourage are:

- Use this report to begin conversations at every level of your local community, including with the Local Authority, Police and other agencies
- Ask your Local Authority to sign up to the All Party Parliamentary Group Covenant on working with faith groups. www.faithandsociety.org/covenant/
- Encourage people of faith to take up roles in civic life such as Councillors, School Governors, Magistrates, Special Constables or Community Champions
- Attend and invite your Member of Parliament to the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast www.christiansinparliament.org.uk
- Start a Cinnamon Recognised Project in your area www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cinnamon-projects
- Look at the National Cinnamon Faith Action Audit and other local Audits by visiting www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/CFAA-reports

METHODOLOGY

For this piece of work, measuring the breadth of activity was of central importance. With this in mind, the mechanics of gathering the data and the design of the questions were geared towards collecting a large spread of results within a defined time-span. This created a snap-shot in time of activity across the country.

An online survey enabled the Cinnamon Faith Action Audits to be carried out in 92 locations across the British Isles. Local Champions led on each Audit and invited as many faith groups of all types in their area as they could to participate. 6,876 faith groups were invited to complete the survey nationally with a national response rate of 50%, that's 3,444 faith groups completing the survey. In Telford and Wrekin the response rate was 84.5% or 50 faith groups.

'Faith groups' included places of worship and charities and community groups working at a local level for the benefit of the community and driven by their faith. This would include, for example, a local church running a MakeLunch kitchen, a Jewish-led charity working with older people at a local level, or a Gurdwara offering meals to the community. If respondents self-defined as a faith group then they were eligible to take part, thus enabling Local Champions to invite as wide a pool of different groups as possible.

The survey itself was designed to be as accessible as possible. It asked quantitative questions around the level of social action carried out regularly by the faith community, the type of social action carried out and the level of staffing and volunteers who work on it. In addition to this, there were questions about the number and type of beneficiaries who access the activities.

Respondents recorded how many social action activities (or 'projects') their faith group ran. These projects had to be regularly carried out and delivered for the social or economic benefit of the local community to be able to be included. For example a Street Pastors project, Job Club or parent and toddler group would qualify, but not a prayer meeting or worship service.

Where there was more than one faith group involved in delivering a joint project, Local Champions worked with the specific faith groups involved to determine whether it would be more accurate to count that joint project as a respondent in its own right, or for each faith group to record their contribution to the joint project. This was done in order to create the most accurate picture possible and minimise the risk of duplicating projects within the data.

For each activity or project, respondents detailed how many beneficiaries used the project, how many paid staff were deployed in running it and how many volunteers were involved. This data was then collated in order to provide an overall picture locally. The totals therefore for these three data points (beneficiaries, volunteers and paid staff) are cumulative and the figures may well include the same individuals more than once if, for example, an individual used a Foodbank, toddler group and debt centre. This would mean that they show up in the figures as three 'beneficiaries'. Similarly, if one member of staff worked across several projects they would be recorded for each project they worked on. On advice of those who had run pilot audits, it was agreed by the Cinnamon team that a cumulative approach was useful to see the overall impact of provision and its breadth in full.

To provide a balance to the cumulative volunteer and paid staff numbers, respondents also inputted how many volunteer hours and how many paid staff hours were spent on each project. This enabled Cinnamon and the Local Champions to assess the financial value of the time spent on each project, without double-counting or overlap. For volunteer hours, the financial value was calculated based on the Living Wage in England (£7.85 per hour). These figures, along with management costs, have formed the basis of the total financial value of each faith group.

Each local Audit was carried out over similar periods in February 2015, March 2016 and February 2018. This provided a coherent and like-for-like picture of the breadth of faith-based social action in 92 areas across the British Isles. From these results a comprehensive picture can be gleaned.

ABOUT CINNAMON

At Cinnamon we want to make it as easy as possible for churches to reach out and support those in need within their communities and cities.

We serve the nation by enabling people and resources to transform their communities and help those in social need. We do this by championing brilliant church-based social action, by building partnerships between churches and civic groups, and by delivering actionable research to enable growth.

Our work revolves around three key areas:

- **Cinnamon Incubation**
We help to identify and incubate great church-based social action projects, building their capacity to be replicated in other churches. We are committed to innovation and seeking out pioneering projects that meet some of society's most challenging needs.

- **Cinnamon Impact**
We help churches to positively influence their communities by guiding them as they select a Cinnamon Recognised Project that best meets these needs. We also provide start-up grants, training and civic engagement support to ensure projects are as effective as possible.

- **Cinnamon Influence**
We develop resources and publish research that gives churches confidence in what they are already doing and enables them to start conversations and build strong, effective partnerships with local authorities, the police and other civic organisations.





CINNAMON
NETWORK

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To serve the nation

© Cinnamon Network
Registered charity no. 1156985
Scottish Charity Registration no. SCO47733

Version 06/18