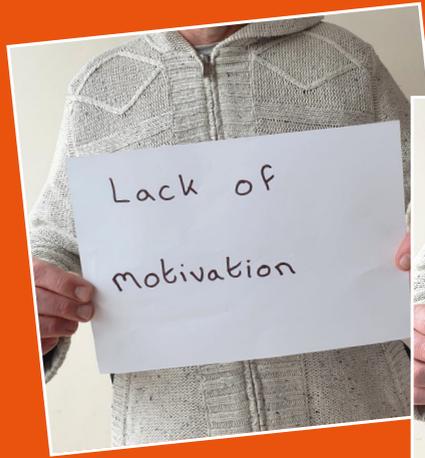
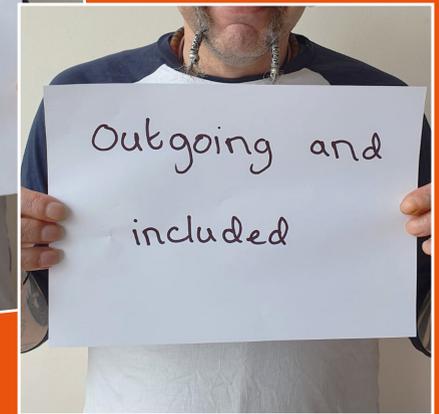


Little
Victories...

Big
Wins



IMPACT REPORT
2021 - 2022



FAITHWORKS

LISTEN | GIVE HOPE | ACT | INSPIRE



Volunteers at Jimmy's

Introduction

“Everyone was so kind and now I don't feel on my own.”

As we sat in Jimmy's, our Food Bank+ in Poole, listening to this lady's words, we were once again drawn to the importance of what we call “Alongsideness”.

At Faithworks, we want to see an end to homelessness in all its forms, an end to food poverty and an end to loneliness. And as a key part of this we want every single person in our area to be within easy reach of a place of welcome that radiates life, community, and immediate help – so that no one need battle hard times on their own.

In this Impact Report, you can read stories and examples of the different ways that we do this. Making sure people have essential items such as food, support with money and furniture; providing safe spaces to meet and gain confidence; doing purpose-filled activities and training that build resilience.

“He is very grateful for the help that has been given him so far, and feels much more hopeful for the future.

So I wanted to pass on his thanks and our thanks. You are all doing a fantastic job!”

- a local GP surgery

We wish we had room for all the “little victories” that people have seen this year – from completing a form to weekly attending a wellbeing session. These little victories lead to “big wins” such as building up the courage to go to a rehab programme, getting debt free, getting back in touch with family. **Thank you for your part in making these little victories a reality in so many people's lives.**

PS: This focus on seeing new purpose in people's lives is reflected in our updated branding and website (thanks to a specific grant). The orange in our new logo is a positive, creative colour. It includes the cross on the T to remind us of our reliance on Jesus. And it has a new symbol or “logomark” that speaks of hands coming together in welcome, a journey with multiple lanes as we walk alongside each other, and a map marker pointing to our vision of local “life centres” within 15 minutes of every person. Look out for this on our new website: faith-works.org.uk

May God inspire you and us in this coming year,



Alistair Doxat-Purser

**Alistair
Doxat-Purser
CEO**



Karen Todd

**Karen Todd
Chair of Trustees**

FAITHWORKS 2021 - 2022

SMILE Lone Parent Families

60+ Lone Parent Families in the SMILE Community

10 Mums Now Volunteering

1+ Mum Now In Employment

Food Bank+

4,465 Food Bank+ Parcels Distributed

2,465 Individuals Helped

10%+ Supported Long Term

7,450+ Lives Impacted by Faithworks

Faithworks Recovery

40+ People Regularly Attending Recovery Activities

800+ Miles Covered on our Recovery Walks

Faithworks CMA (Community Money Advice)

£1.3 MILLION Total Debt Addressed

15 People Now Debt Free

42 With a Debt Solution In Place

Faithworks Homelessness

220 People Helped Out of Homelessness in Some Form

115+ Furniture Packs Distributed to Those Moving into New Homes inc

2 New Hope into Action homes and a 3rd on the Way





The Storehouse

Essentials: Furniture Turning a Room into a Home

The Storehouse is a furniture service for those moving on from temporary accommodation into their first home. They work with vulnerable adults who have experienced homelessness to take a positive step forward as they move into more permanent accommodation. We have provided starter packs of furniture and household items to 144 people over the last year to help transform a 'place to live' into a home.

The service depends upon donations of furniture from the public which the Storehouse then delivers to those who have been referred to the project.

"This is an essential service, we're giving people a chance to find somewhere they can call their own." - Mikey, Storehouse Team Leader

We are always looking for donations of:

Used Items

- Beds
- Wardrobes
- Chest of drawers
- Bedside cabinets
- Dining tables & chairs
- Coffee tables
- TV stands
- Sofas & armchairs

New Items

- Curtains
- Cutlery
- Crockery
- Pots & pans
- Fridges
- Counter top ovens & hobs
- Microwaves
- Slow cookers

If you would like to donate items please contact the Storehouse by phoning 07730 891433 or emailing: storehouse@faithworkswessex.org.uk

"The Storehouse furniture service has been a massive help to me by donating and delivering lots of furniture... Without the help & donations, my flat would have been empty They also set up the washing machine they delivered." - Storehouse recipient



Winston,
Storehouse Deputy Manager



Essentials: Food & Money Support

A young couple and their two girls had been visiting us regularly throughout lockdown. Dad had lost his job and Mum had been furloughed.

All their money was being used to pay the mortgage and bills. We agreed to support them through this time, none of us imagined it would go on past the year! One of the children had allergies and we were able to provide them with specific food and toiletries they needed. They also enjoyed our 'Meal In A Bag' scheme and cooking together.

A lovely relationship was built between the family and the team. The girls always had fresh fruit and a chat when they turned up. It was so wonderful when they came on their last visit to inform us that Mum was going back to work and Dad had a job that fits in with the children.

"We won't need to come to the Food Bank+ again. But as a family we will be donating into the supermarket box, we couldn't have got through without your help".

To say the Team were overjoyed, is an understatement!

And now there is one of our Community Money Advice (CMA) teams in every Food Bank+ to provide immediate support around money management.



SMILE Craft Session

Friendship & Support: SMILE Wellbeing

*"I am able to see where I have been going wrong and I believe that is the first step."
- Courage to Thrive participant*

When experiencing suicidal thoughts, the SMILE team came alongside Ashley*. They shared various coping strategies and connected her with support networks including counselling. Through SMILE Ashley also completed the Step Out of the Traffic course, run by the local organisation Courage to Thrive:

"Step out of the Traffic [taught that] you can be a Mum but you also need that time to yourself.

Whereas I was constantly running on empty because I wouldn't take that time for myself by asking for help."

"Because of the way that [Donna]... gives the course - It's not like you're sat in a classroom, you've got to do this... She did fun bits, we did a lot of craft.

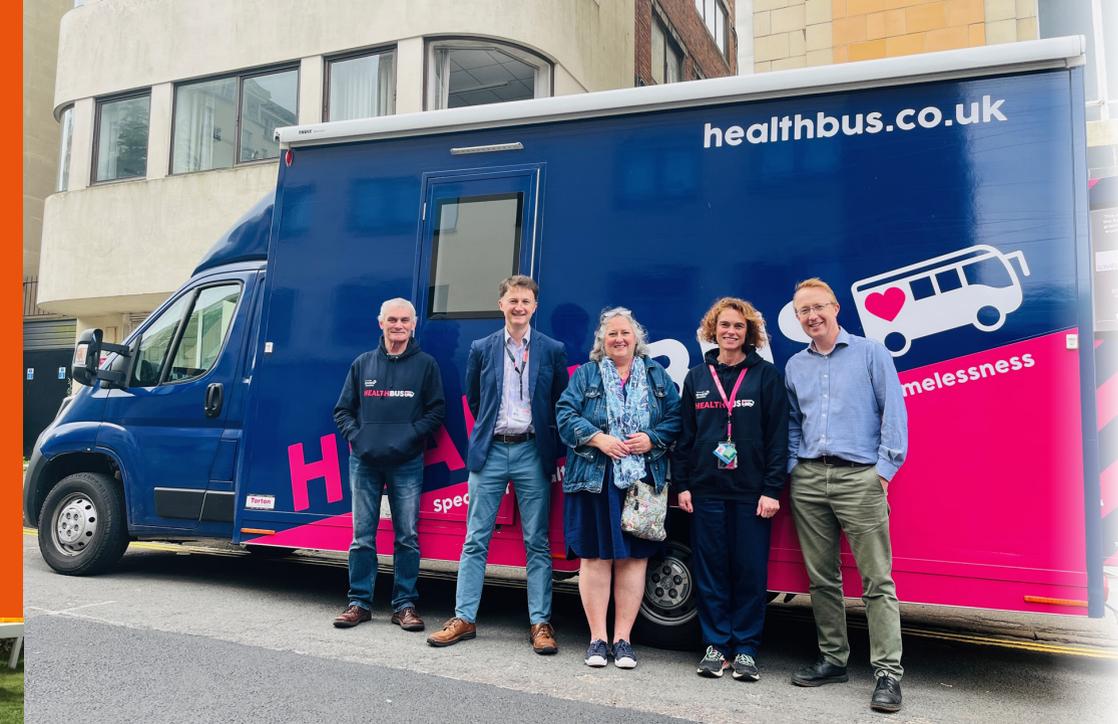
But while we were doing the craft... we were having conversations about our past, so that was helping without even knowing. She made it such a calm environment because we were all so chilled concentrating on our art... we ended up talking about anything and everything..."



Enjoying some rare R&R

SMILE provides safe, creative spaces for Mums through regular groups, days out and special events. This enables parents and their families to relax and take time to look after their own needs so they are in a stronger place for themselves and their children.

Families in the SMILE community are encouraged to look out for each other and care for each others needs so that resilience is nurtured and they become stronger together.



Friendship & Support: HealthBus Connection Station

We love working with other partners to enable people to find a way forward when in crisis.

Tucked away in a church hall every Thursday, are an incredible team of staff and volunteers who run the “Connection Station”. Medical doctors and nurses from the “Healthbus” team give exceptional clinical help to rough sleepers and those who are vulnerably housed, and our support worker, Claire, talks to the guests about ways to sort out housing and other challenges.

This partnership approach has not only seen

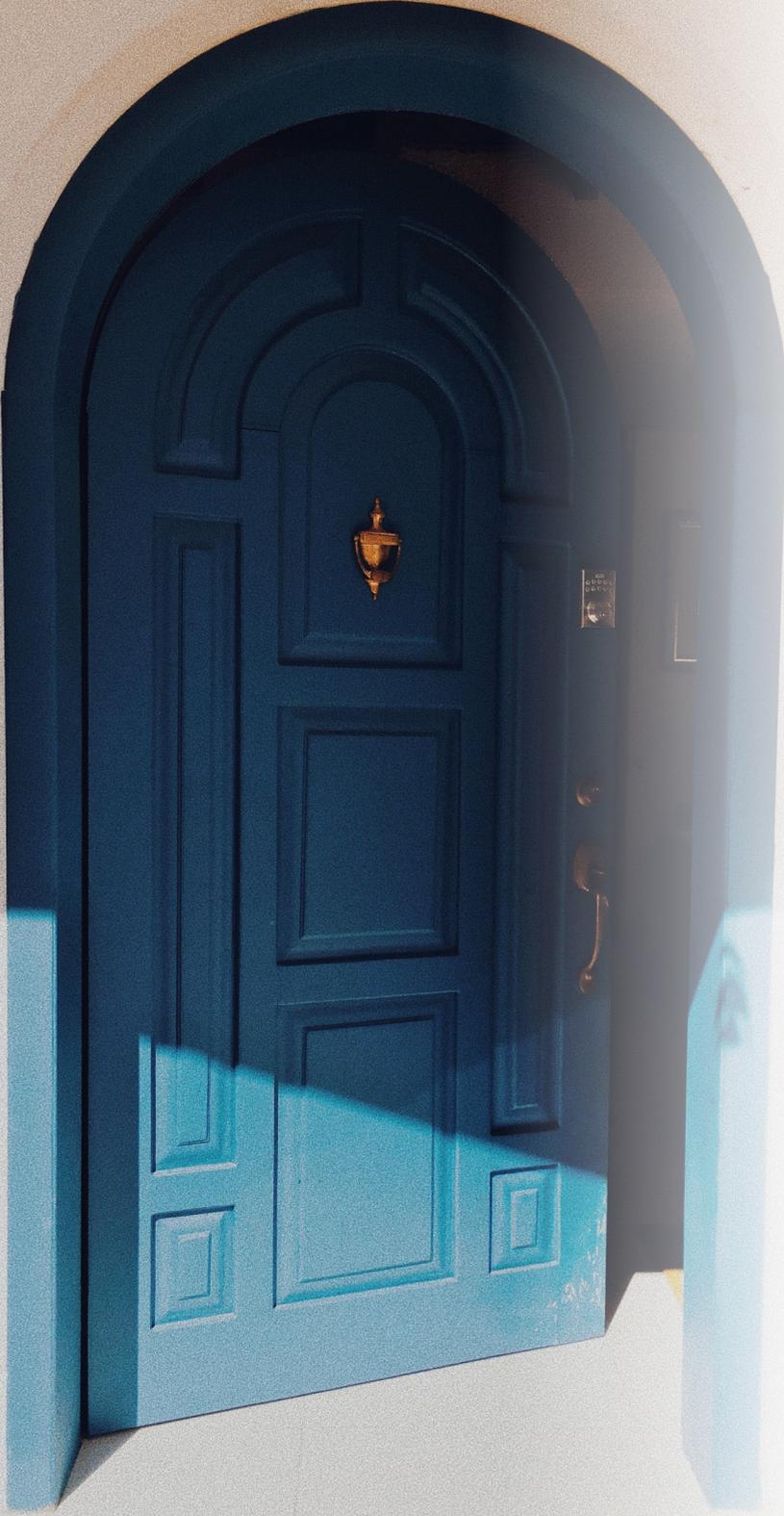
people get critical medical help, but has got people into shelter who were on the street.

We are proud to play our part in this and other Connection Stations that demonstrate the impact of the Homelessness Partnership in BCP.



“It’s only when people feel safe that they’re able to open up, they’re able to acknowledge what help they do need.”

- Kate, HealthBus Operations Director



HOPE^{into}
ACTION

**BOURNEMOUTH,
CHRISTCHURCH & POOLE**

Enabling churches to house the homeless

Purpose: Hope into Action Homes

People don't just need shelter; they need a home: a place of safety, a place for friendship.

Faithworks is partnering with Hope into Action (HIA) to provide homes for those escaping homelessness using HIA's highly successful and unique model: local investors buy a property and then lease it to Faithworks; we work alongside a local church's "Community & Friendship team" to help individuals or families settle in, build friendships and find confidence for the future.

A tenant from our first HIA home has successfully moved on to his own accommodation - the home gave him just the stepping stone he needed! And after two years in B&B, the family who moved into our second home have got a fresh lease of life alongside their new friends in the local church team.

Could you invest so we can continue to build to our dream of 20 such homes across the Conurbation? You can find out more at: bcp.hopeintoaction.org.uk/ (or scan the QR code).



Purpose: Financial Know How

Mick's Story

Four years ago, having undergone an amputation, Mick expected his life to improve. However, he realised that other things were not right. Mick said:

***“Before I had my amputation I was suicidal.** When I had my amputation I thought those thoughts would go away, they didn't. I had no money and didn't think there was any way out. Then I met my Debt Advisor, Dawn. She was kind and had no agenda but came across as genuinely wanting to help.”*

The team worked with Mick to set a realistic budget. He began to live within his means and made token payments to creditors. The team are in the process of applying for a DRO (Debt Relief Order), which will enable Mick to have a fresh start, free of debt, able to look to the future.

Mick said: *“I feel really supported and I think that's what keeps me the way I am. It's the thought of having somebody there that I can count on.”*

It's not just about sorting your finances out. *I need direction, I get flustered if things aren't working. One of my kids left home, so that meant I had to pay Bedroom Tax, the*

CMA team were there to help me work through it. I am actually happy these days.

I'm indebted to Faithworks, to Becky and Dawn. *I felt really guilty that I owed so much money. It was another thing I had got wrong. They've never made me feel bad. They've given me a path to make things right and I think that's what I needed.”*

The thought of getting into more debt meant Mick did not use the heating. *“I think this year I've used 3 days of gas for the heating, which doesn't help with my health.”*

The CMA team realised that insulating Mick's home would help solve this. The team managed to get some carpets donated and fitted which made a huge difference.

“Getting something like carpets is life changing for me. I wouldn't say I am proud but I am not ashamed, it's like a really cool thing that you have done for me and I have no shame with that.”

“I feel much more hopeful for the future.”

“A lot of it is down to Becky & Dawn really because they have been able to sort me out so I don't make the same mistakes that I made before.”



Blandford Food Bank+ CMA Team



Tom's Famous Cheese Toasties

Little Victories - Big Wins

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE (WITH ADDED TOASTIES!)

Our weekly Recovery Day provides a safe space to make friends and enjoy food, fellowship and activities together. The sessions over the past year have included a fire safety workshop, drawing sessions, a laughter workshop and Tom's famous weekly cheese toasties!

Greg says it best when he describes the benefit of The Recovery Days: *"It's a chance for me to avoid negative, damaging, destructing behaviours and thoughts. So instead of going out to score or drink and thinking of that first thing in the morning, I go somewhere that's nice and safe. There's no one here that threatens my recovery."*

I've made good friends here, it is a supportive environment. It's also helping me on my career path. If I've got a problem there is someone I can talk to and it stops me

from slipping into bad behaviours as well as being a productive use of my time."

SNACK AND CHAT - A SPACE TO LEARN TOGETHER

Vulnerable women, parents in schools and those who need emergency food are among those taking part in cooking sessions provided by the Food Banks.

Gill Payne, Poole Food Bank Manager, explained:

"The aim of the sessions is to increase self-confidence, communication skills, provide friendships and increase resilience in addition to learning new recipes."

The sessions provide a time to reflect on wellbeing and to encourage each other through things like craft activities. A simple cooking demonstration is also included and a recipe bag with all the ingredients to cook the dish later and "test" it at home!



Local organisations including Shelter and LEAP also join the group, providing an opportunity to find out what resources and support are available in an informal way. One woman was struggling with anxiety around going out, but now cannot wait to come to Jimmy's.

"Thank you for inviting me on the course, it's done the world of good"



Thank You

At Faithworks we are highly dependent on the incredible commitment and contributions of many people. We would like to say a special thank you to:

- Over 235 super-adaptable volunteers who have gifted their time through one-off and regular commitments.
- Wise and generous funders of all sizes - whether grant-making bodies or individuals.
- 404 faithful and big-hearted individuals who gave to Faithworks for the first time in 2021, and those who make that a regular gift.
- Partners, old and new: especially those who allow us to use their venues, and our friends in the

Access to Food and Homelessness Partnerships across BCP.

- Local churches and Christians who prayed with us.

“God is our strength, an ever-present help in trouble”

You can find a full list of our funders on our website [here](https://www.faith-works.org.uk), and our partners [here](https://www.faith-works.org.uk): [faith-works.org.uk](https://www.faith-works.org.uk)

“The great thing about helping at the Food Bank is that I am contributing to the community in which I live. I have also become a member of the ‘Food Bank Family’...where we look out for each other and laugh along the way.”



FAITHWORKS

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Become a friend of Faithworks by donating £10 or more a month
by setting up a direct payment or regular payments:

Bank: CAF Bank

Account Name: Faithworks Wessex

Account Number: 00015300

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Alternatively you can donate via our CAF Donate campaign here:
<https://bit.ly/3H4aB7m> or scan the QR code:



*All individuals shown in this publication have given their specific permission for their photographs to be used. Names with an * have been changed to protect individual's privacy.*

“A more caring bunch of people (volunteers and staff) I could never have imagined.”



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