



ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-16

*Developing leaders,
growing churches*



THE CENTRE FOR
**THEOLOGY
& COMMUNITY**



WHAT DID WE DO IN 2015-16?

COMMUNITY ORGANISING

CHURCH LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our year-long congregational development programme engaged 7 churches

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Our month-long summer Urban Leadership School trained 15 young leaders in community organising

Our year-long Buxton Leadership Programme placed 3 people in both Westminster and local churches to learn Christian political leadership

STORYTELLING

Our storyteller facilitated the Shadwell stories project and promoted storytelling in churches



**THE COMMON
GOOD**
**GROWING CHURCHES
A MORE JUST SOCIETY
STRONGER COMMUNITY**

RESEARCH

We published 8 reports including original research and reflection on **church planting, London's housing crisis, monasticism and community organising**. We also published **Keeping the Faith** jointly with Theos.

CTC also continued to deliver Near Neighbours for DCLG/CUF and delivered media training to the Diocese of London as part of London Witness.

ENTERPRISE

SOCIAL INVESTMENT

The **London Missional Housing Bond** purchased its second house and has now raised nearly £1m

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

We played a key role in developing and then project managing **Clean for Good**, a new ethical Living Wage cleaning company for London

AFFORDABLE FINANCE

Our pilot **Church Credit Champions Network** exceeded its targets, had Credit Champions commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury and is to be rolled out nationally by CUF

**CLEAN
FOR
GOOD**



NEW IN 2016-17



We equip churches to transform their communities - through the practices of community organising, theological reflection and prayer. We also help them to use their resources more effectively for this mission.

We believe churches in deprived and diverse areas have a vital role to play in the transformation of their communities and of wider society.

CTC is an independent, ecumenical Christian charity based in the heart of east London. We work with a growing range of churches, from various denominations and styles.

JOIN THE CTC COMMUNITY

Stay in touch and become a partner for change. Members receive regular news, a termly prayer letter, hard copies of all our publications and an invitation to our annual celebration. Your support is essential, as we rely entirely on donations and grants.

For more information about joining our Community and all of our work:

Go to our website	theology-centre.org
Follow us on Twitter	@theologycentre
Email us	hello@theology-centre.org

COMMUNITY ORGANISING

- We have appointed a new Director of our **Urban Leadership School** – Revd Richard Springer – who will be leading its expansion
- We are running the third year of our pioneering **Congregational Development Learning Community** for churches engaged in community organising
- We are establishing two new **church development programmes** – the Cardinal Manning Programme for Roman Catholic churches and the William Seymour Programme for Pentecostal and Baptist churches



Baroness Sherlock delivering Buxton Lecture

- Our **Buxton Leadership Programme** also enters its fourth year

ENTERPRISE FOR MISSION

- Autumn 2016 will see the launch of **Clean for Good**, a new ethical cleaning company for London, which we have been project managing (see cleanforgood.co.uk for more information)

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

- Forthcoming research reports include Property for Mission, Ministry on the Margins and Music for Mission

We also continue to run the east London **Near Neighbours** Programme for DCLG and the Church Urban Fund.

HALLMARKS OF A 'COMMUNITY ORGANISED' CHURCH

STRAND 1 - FAITHFUL AND EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

1 - The church integrates theology, spirituality and action

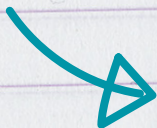
2 - The church has a relational culture

STRAND 2 - PLANNED AND SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP

3 - The church is constantly reorganising, to renew its focus on people.

4 - Leaders are being developed through public action - and the pace is sustainable

5 - Power and responsibility are shared

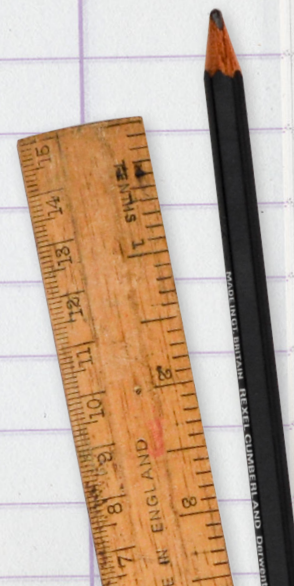


STRAND 3 - ENGAGED WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY



6 - The church has an instinctive readiness to work with those beyond its walls

7 - The congregation tells and embodies the Christian story



GET INVOLVED!

We run a full-time month-long **CTC Summer Internship** every July which provides training in community organising in association with London Citizens, and a placement in a church in east London.

Our year-long **Buxton Leadership Programme** recruits graduates each year to learn how to be a Christian political leader, with each participant placed in Westminster and a local church.

A number of free courses and resources are also available from CTC:

- There are new Bible study guides and resources to help churches think through how to respond to the housing crisis in London – **Building Something Better** and **Who Is My Neighbour?**
- The **Seeing Change Course** for churches is a much-used series of five short films which helps churches to engage with their neighbours and consider how best to respond to the financial crisis. It ensures that any social action is rooted in theological reflection, listening and prayer.
- We have a growing range of booklets, reports and reflections on how to use the practices of **Community Organising** to support the mission of local churches.



CTC Summer Interns 2015



Citizens Assembly

- We produce prayer and worship resources for **Living Wage Week** each November, and are developing parallel resources for Citizens UK's campaigns on Social Care and Housing.

Information on all of the above opportunities and resources, together with all of our research reports and regular blogs, can be found on our website.