

### Funding opportunities

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Recently *AllChurches Trust* launched a new grants programme, *Growing Lives*, helping churches and Christian organisations to connect with children and young people and forge lasting links with families in their local area.

This new programme will provide support for churches and groups looking to build local partnerships through projects focused on improving the lives of young people (aged 0 to 18) and encouraging church growth as young people discover faith for themselves and begin to play an active part in church communities.

Grants of up to £25,000 are available, and the amount you receive will depend upon the cost of your project and the level of need in your community, ranging from 10% of project cost through to 80%.

[Find out more here.](#)

## World Suicide Prevention Day 10th September 2019

Elle Weaver would like to encourage Churches/Deaneries to hold an evening **Remembrance Service** on 10th September 2019.

Elle has produced a Remembrance Service booklet. You can download this from the Together in Sussex website [here](#)

Light a candle near a window at 8pm to show your support for suicide prevention and to remember a lost loved one and for the survivors of suicide. Use this leaflet to help:

Together in Sussex is holding a Remembrance Service in Eastbourne on 10th September, you'd be more than welcome to join us. Click [here](#) for more details or contact [Elle](mailto:Elle) if you would like any guidance or further information, [elle.weaver@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:elle.weaver@chichester.anglican.org)

There are other resources about World Suicide Prevention Day can be accessed [here](#)



**Faith Action is a national network** of faith-based and community organisations seeking to serve their communities through social action and by offering services such as health and social care, childcare, housing and welfare to work, including mental health.

## Useful links

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Faith Action has also recently produced an excellent report on loneliness.

*'Right up Your Street: How Faith-Based Organisations are Tackling Loneliness'*. The report aims to explore the wide-ranging work of faith groups in response to the problem of loneliness.

**key findings include:**

- The vast majority of Faith Action groups – **82%** - said that loneliness and/or social isolation was a key issue for the community.

- **Hubs and home:** faith-based organisations supply friendly meeting spaces or 'drop-in' centres in the heart of communities, but they also reach out, prioritizing home visits and one to one contact

- Faith groups are **in it for the 'long haul'** demonstrating the great longevity in the resources at their disposal, in the programmes on offer, and in the relationships build with the people they work with

- Faith-based organisations develop **shared vision among the people they work with**, allowing them not just to receive, but also to give back through ongoing input and volunteering

[Download the report here.](#)

If you would like to discuss any of these issues and how your church or community is affected by loneliness, please contact [Diane](mailto:diane.watts@chichester.anglican.org)

Check out their recent powerful blog on mental health:

<https://www.faithaction.net/blog/2019/08/01/mental-health/>

One in four people will experience symptoms of ill mental health in their lifetime. And we know that early intervention is crucial to recovery, especially when medication is required. Yet it is, on average, six months before people receive treatment for symptoms – and a shocking 75% will never be treated at all.

If someone came to you experiencing symptoms like this, how would you respond?

Elle Weaver, Mental Health and Wellbeing Facilitator is able to signpost information and resources to support churches and communities to respond to those experiencing poor mental health.

One way to become a Mental Health Friendly Church is to identify someone to take on the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Contact.

A quick check for churches:

- Is my church aware of Mental Health and Wellbeing issues?
- Are we friendly and welcoming?
- What does my church provide to support people?
- Do we provide 'no-strings-attached' help for those in need?

**Have you identified someone to be the nominated Mental Health and Wellbeing Contact? If not yet, when? You can download the job description and application form from: <https://togetherinsussex.org.uk/resources> Any questions, please contact Elle Weaver [Elle.weaver@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:Elle.weaver@chichester.anglican.org)**