



**For Immediate Release**  
**September 2019**

### **Cinnamon Network Receives Grant to Support Church-Led Community Action**

Cinnamon Network are delighted to announce that they have been awarded £447,474 from The National Lottery Community Fund to support community-led social action delivered by churches across England over the next two and a half years.

Building on a successful pilot funded by The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund in 2017/18, Cinnamon seeks to develop comprehensive resources and put in place an effective framework to help hundreds more churches deliver effective social action that impacts the lives of thousands of people in their local areas.

Cinnamon will use the funding to deliver:

- An interactive online toolkit, co-designed with churches, to help them get started in social action.
- Peer support and shared learning opportunities for churches engaging in social action.
- One-to-one and group support with professional community engagement specialists.
- Greater collaboration between churches and other sectors.

The potential impact is extraordinary. During the funding period, more than 300 churches will use the Toolkit and receive expert advice from a Cinnamon Advisor to help use their buildings and resources to respond to community need.

Training will be provided for 350 volunteers who will set up 70 best-practice projects, in partnership with others, which will impact the lives of over 2,800 of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society.

Learning from this project will also be shared with over 2,000 social activists through 46 regional events.



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Mike Royal, Co-Chief Executive of Cinnamon Network, said: “We are delighted to have been awarded this significant grant from The National Lottery Community Fund. The Church is bursting with potential and this grant will help us develop resources to ensure that even more local churches can put in place truly excellent initiatives that respond to the needs at their heart of their communities.”

**Sacha Rose-Smith, Head of Funding for London, has said:** “When people work together, good things happen. Thanks to National Lottery players we are able to support an exciting range of organisations, such as the Cinnamon Network, delivering the activities they want to see in their communities. Many of the projects we have funded this quarter are focussed on bringing those communities together and enabling people to make new connections. With their ideas, knowledge and passion, this money changes lives.”

In 2016 Cinnamon conducted a Faith Action Audit to assess the collective impact of churches and faith groups in their communities. Based on a detailed survey of more than 3,000 local churches and other faith groups, the audit found that churches were delivering 22,990 social action initiatives that were supporting 5,100,770 beneficiary interactions every year! The value of time given equated to an astonishing £3billion.

Cinnamon knows the impact that churches are making and hope this grant will enable them to extend their work even further.

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**Note to Editors**

**Cinnamon Network**

Cinnamon believes that every local church has the power to transform their community.

Each year the Cinnamon team interact with hundreds of local churches the length and breadth of the UK. They provide advice, deliver training courses and help



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churches start projects, secure funding and connect with local authorities and businesses in their area.

Through this broad range of activities, Cinnamon empower churches to do all sorts of things including, feeding vulnerable families, engaging with disaffected young people, helping ex-offenders to gain employment and supporting those with dementia.