# Ashington Groups registered with NCC Warm Spaces and Places (confirmed by Locality Coordinator)

* YMCA Ashington
* Being Women
* Real Deal Plus
* Crossroads Cafe
* St Aidan’s Church
* Northumberland Pride
* Ashington Library
* Hirst Park Pavilion
* Full Circle Food
* Holy Sepulchre Church Ashington
* Asda Ashington
* Word of Life Church Ashington

All groups have been advised of the funding opportunity by the NCC Locality Co-ordinator as well as it being promoted via the Council’s website and FB page.

# Funding Available

Members may appreciate that many are NCC spaces that are open anyway, others receive already receive funding and may not have wished to apply for further funding. Those that have applied are Religious Institutions, but it was discussed that in view that many warm hubs are delivered by churches, that the policy of not funding religious Institutions would be relaxed for this particular pot of money (£6,720).

# Further Information

At the time of writing the information presented is what was available and shared. Where more information is available, this may be tabled at the meeting.

# Applications Received

## Word of Life WRU Church

69-71 North Seaton Road

Ashington

Northumberland

NE63 0AG

***Main Contact for the agency is:***

Senior Pastor & National Spiritual Coordinator

Rev Michael Hedley

**Outline of Funding Application**

We would like to submit the following application for funding for our Warm Spaces Events, which we are holding throughout the months of November 2022 till April 2023.

We are situated in the heart of Ashington and have been for over 97 years there has been a Church at the above address. Over the past 6 years, during my time as Pastor, the Church has delivered many services in our community. We have delivered a healthy living programme throughout the Covid Pandemic, both on- line and in person when restrictions were lifted.

We have also delivered an English as a second language programme for 2 years which has delivered success to 12 El Salvadoran Asylum seekers in our community, who have since gone on to studying higher lever academic and vocational courses at Ashington College. We have also helped 14 Iranian asylum seekers achieve the same level of success.

We also have over the past 3 years delivered a hybrid course of art/photography/journalling/creative writing and upcycling programmes which too have been highly successful.

We have also participated and supported many council events such as Woodhorn Colliery Remembrance Services as well as Council and British Legion events such as Armed Forces Day, the 100 Years WW1 Remembrance service & the Hugh Cairns memorial service as well as many other events.

We have helped to make a difference in our community in two wards of high economic deprivation, the Hirst and Ashington Central, where we have gifted many household items, such as duvets, and other bedding items, household kitchen items and many other types of support to those who arrive here as the most needy. We have done this through giving from many of the people who attend our church and have not sought funding for this.

For this coming winter we recognise that many people are going to struggle to heat their homes and face difficult choices of whether to heat or to eat. So therefore, the Word of Life WRU Church are holding a coffee morning and warm space event every Friday in our church building. This is an extension of what we already do. We hold a weekly coffee morning every Friday where everyone and anyone can come and have coffee, cakes, and chat. The extension of this coffee morning will mean that from November 17th instead of finishing at 12:00 we will now extend that to 2:00pm from a 10:30am start.

Anyone will be able to come to the Church hall and get warm, have a cup of tea, coffee, cakes, soup and a host of other refreshments, play board games, as well as charge their phones, use the Wi-fi, get help with filling in on line forms, get help in managing finances and just chat!

We are not using this forum as a means of evangelism, rather just to show that we care for our community and will do whatever we can as Christians, to help anyone, of faith, other faiths and no faith to get warm, stay warm and enjoy company.

For the past 6 years we have held a coffee morning, and all kinds of people have attended, and we find that having this kind of activity helps people struggling with isolation and loneliness. So we would like to extend this to help with what we believe will be an extremely difficult winter for many people, and so we are therefore applying for funding to help to support this activity. The Church will provide much of the cost towards the food and refreshments but we would like help to supply a further need of helping us to fund the extra heating costs, as well as providing those who are the most needy with blankets and hot water bottles. So therefore we are asking for help to fund this element of the warm spaces coffee morning.

We have already advertised this on the Ashington Town Council Website, and their Facebook Page, as well as on our own website, Facebook Page and GP Surgeries and other community venues. We will log attendance on an informal register, post regular photographs on our Facebook account to further publicise this and supply any information needed to help with monitoring this funding for Ashington Town Council.

I have outlined below what we would like help in funding and also what we will fund:

100 Fleece Blankets @ £12.00 £1,200.00

100 Hot Water Bottles @ £8.50 £850.00

Additional Heating Costs £450.00

Total **£2,500.00**

The Church will provide the following

Tea £200.00 approx

Coffee £400.00 approx

Soup £1,260.00 approx

Board Games £350.00

Wi-fi £189.00

Phone Charging £50.00 approx

Total **£2,449.00**

The approximate figures are based upon what we spend on each current coffee morning currently, with an increase of 80% which we expect that may be the increased attendance based upon 1 session already delivered with virtually no advertising. This will be over the next 6 months, after that we would expect a slowing down of this resource, however we will still continue to hold a coffee morning event without the stay warm element.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing funding for this important issue and we hope that we will be successful in gaining the funding to enable us to deliver this much needed service for our community in the harshest of times, for the most economically deprived wards in our town.

Should we be successful we can provide our bank account details for the transfer of any monies.

Many thanks

Reverend Michael Hedley

Senior Pastor of the Word of Life Church &

National Spiritual Coordinator for the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches.

## Holy Sepulchre Church Hall Warm Hub Funding /Estimate for New Boiler

Wansbeck Road

At the junction of Wansbeck Road and Station Road

Ashington

NE63 8HZ

We have recently been listed as a warm hum place and hope over the next few months to offer, warmth with a tea or a coffee and possibly a bowl of soup to those who will struggle during the colder months.

Ironically, just days after registering as a Warm Hub our church hall boiler broke down and was not fixable. We therefore have, just a week or so ago had a new boiler fitted at a cost of £2,200. Whilst I’m not expecting the council to help fund this replacement in full, I would appreciate some financial help if it is available.

Obviously, our hall is used by a number of groups around Ashington, and we believe serves in many ways as a town hall in this part of Ashington.

Fr Chris Groocock  
Priest in Charge of Holy Sepulchre  
and Are adman of Morpeth

## Crosslands Cafe

4 Myrtle Street

Ashington

NE63 0AP

The café has closed as a business, but Church Trustees have granted permission that the premises can be used as a warm hood two days/week. This will be Tuesday and Friday 10.00-2.00.

The warm hub will be run by Christine Rogers and her husband, both having experience in community work and enhanced DBS. The hub will offer some cookery demonstrations/workshops and have another experienced Home Economics teacher on board to help with the latter two.

The first date is Tuesday 6th December. We have advertised as a warm space with customers.

Details of costs associated with opening the premises and providing the service will follow.