

FAITH PARTNERSHIPS IN LANCASHIRE - BRIEFING NOTE June 2026

Procession mapping

In these polarised times, *identity* is a hot topic. Whilst this has sometimes led to a narrow form of nativism, including the targeting of minorities, the faith sector as THE stable element in a town or village is well placed to offer a different narrative, one centred on love and inclusion. Religious festivals and traditions, which includes processions and walks, is part of a narrative of place.

So, of great interest is a project emerging from Manchester Met Uni that aims to map the locations and dates of processions and parades in the Manchester and Lancashire area. Researchers are asking for people to send information about processions they know of in their local area or details of ones they remember from the past. The link for this is at: [Processional Cultures](#)



Mapping the County: Understanding Need and Faith-Based Impact

As part of an evolving strategy, Movement for Recovery Lancashire is gathering data that reveals what churches and other faith organisations are doing through activities such as food banks, toddler groups, youth mentoring programmes, refugee support, elderly care, debt advice, and mental health initiatives. So far this has been done in three districts of East Lancashire. More details of this, and a description of the vision of Movement for Recovery Lancashire is at the website: <https://movementforrecovery.com/lancashire/> Now, the Children and Family Wellbeing service for Lancashire has agreed to pay for Gather to carry out this mapping in the remaining districts of the county. *If you are interested in helping with the mapping (renumeration for hours is available), please contact Peter Lumsden (details below).*

Connected Together: Community Strength in Early Help



The Children and Family Wellbeing service is shortly holding a one-day conference, bringing partners together to explore how we can continue to strengthen early help through multi-agency working and community collaboration. As another instance of how the faith sector is increasingly being recognised, one of the keynote presentations is about the Role of the

Faith Organisations in Early Help.

If you have any case studies from your organisation that could feature, please send to Peter Lumsden.

Wellbeing spaces

Yet another example of partnership working is a recent message from Rebecca, LCC's Head of Community Engagement and Place-Based Working - Refugee Integration & Community Systems, asking if any community or faith groups would be willing to work on developing a community wellbeing garden? Rebecca's team are working with estates to identify land and will provide the funding, but they want it to be developed and owned by community groups to address local needs.

Please contact Rebecca with expressions of interest RebeccaJoy.Novell@lancashire.gov.uk

Leadership training

Are you carrying a heart for your town or city and looking for the tools to see lasting transformation?



The City Leaders Development Course is a new, year-long journey designed to equip and inspire leaders across the UK in unity-based leadership. Whether you're an emerging leader, part of a unity steering group, or a seasoned leader seeking fresh perspective, this course will deepen your understanding, sharpen your skills, and connect you with a wider movement of hope. [City Leaders | Gather Movement](#)

Through monthly sessions, a two-day retreat, one-to-one mentoring and real-life city stories, you'll explore what it means to lead with wisdom, resilience and Kingdom vision. You'll gain practical tools for city transformation, rooted in prayer, relationship, and long-term thinking.

For more details, get in touch at: info@gathermovement.org

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