



## Information for churches and church volunteers

Many people need help to build up their own social networks. When people are introduced to members of a local community they can develop meaningful relationships. This reduces feelings of isolation and loneliness. People in a community can impact someone's life by reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness and so can help reduce someone's risk of homelessness.

Passing the Baton (PtB) is a Bethany Christian Trust project, recognised and supported by the Cinnamon Network that helps local churches to come alongside vulnerable people who are struggling to settle into the area they live in. It is a practical volunteering project, coordinated by trained staff and executed by the people that can really make the difference – the people from local church communities. It provides a befriending service to lonely and isolated people as isolation and loneliness are the biggest causes of resettlement breakdown. It can help vulnerable people develop supportive healthy relationships and become members of the community they live in.

### How your church can be involved:

Your church will need a **Team Leader**. The Team Leader, with the approval of the church leadership, will coordinate the team of befrienders for their church. They are the link between BCT and the church. They are responsible for recruiting, managing and supporting volunteers, for communicating feedback information to PtB head office and for sourcing and assessing referrals. A team leader may also be a befriender.

A team of befrienders can be as small as 2 people or as large as you like! Practically, it is unlikely that your team would be larger than 10-15 people

Your church will need a team of **Befrienders**. Our project befriends people in pairs for about a year. This may simply be meeting for coffee on a regular basis or attending social events that they are all interested in. The commitment is a couple of hours at least every other week. The idea is that the isolated and lonely person gets an opportunity to become more engaged in the community around them.

Your church may have a **Social Events Organiser**. Someone who likes organizing social events like quiz nights or day trips may be a PtB Social Events Organiser. They may organize social events for the clients being befriended by their church and also organize social events for other PtB teams in their vicinity.

### Please get in touch

To receive a copy of our information pack, which we ask everyone to read before applying to be an approved partner church, please contact us by email [ptb@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:ptb@bethanychristiantrust.com) or call us on 0131 561 8993.

Passing the Baton is a Cinnamon Network recognised project. You can view a short video about the project at [here](#).