CINNAMON NETWORK

Incubator

2026 CINNAMON INCUBATOR COMPETITION FINAL

12 NOVEMBER 2026

An inspirational evening celebrating the very best in faith-based community social action

ST PETER'S NOTTING HILL, KENSINGTON PARK ROAD, LONDON, W11 2PN

Welcome!

Dear friends,

The Cinnamon Incubator Final remains the highlight of the year, and I am delighted to have you with us this evening.

At a time when we see stories of hardship and challenge dominating our news streams and media channels, we hope this evening will show you that there are other stories unfolding in our communities – stories of hope, transformation and infinite possibility.

This evening you will hear from five remarkable projects changing lives in the heart of communities across the UK.

In getting this far, they have already secured a place on the Cinnamon Incubator Programme - a launchpad that has nurtured some of the UK's most impactful church-based grassroots projects.

Interestingly, all five of this year's projects are supporting families, children and young people, and we are excited to see them work together over the course of the next two years as part of the Cinnamon Incubator Programme.

But, of course, there will be only one winner who will walk away with a £20,000 development grant. As always, our panel of judges have the unenviable task of selecting who that will be.

Since its inception 13 years ago, the Cinnamon Incubator has supported more than 63 church-based social action projects which have been replicated thousands of times, transforming the lives of close to 200,000 individuals.

I truly believe that you will be greatly encouraged this evening, but I also hope you'll consider joining us on the journey by financially supporting one or more of the projects or the Cinnamon Network as they grow and replicate their work for the benefit of countless more lives across the UK.

We hope you enjoy this evening and leave feeling inspired by what you see and hear.

Amanda Bindon

CEO, Cinnamon Network

This Evening's Order of Events

6.45pm	Welcome
7.00pm	Presentations and Q&A
7.45pm	Meet our previous winners
8.00pm	Your opportunity to support our finalists
8.30pm	Winners announced

Your Impact

Hear how our 2025 Cinnamon Incubator finalists are getting on...

"It can be quite lonely being a start-up charity and just to have that sense of community, that sense of other people doing the same thing is just invaluable."

Emma Chisholm, Sparkle

"You're gleaning information from people that you wouldn't think about. The teaching and training is just fantastic."

James Baker, Garden Hope

"You're getting really good grounding in how to develop your organisation and take it forward and you're really connected with wise advice as you do that."

Emma Malcolm, Bridge The Gap

"I've got all these ideas in my head, that I can't process, so Cinnamon helps you to do that in stages to build and replicate."

Darrell McLeish, Christian Boxing Alliance

"BRITE Box first began out of a step of faith, so to actually walk that journey with people who want the faith to be at the heart of their projects is really valuable for me."

Sarah Clay, BRITE Box

The Cinnamon Incubator Journey

April 2026

More than 100 projects from across the UK express an interest in the competition.

June 2026

After rigorous longlisting and shortlisting, our expert judges select five outstanding projects to reach the final.

September 2026

The Incubator begins as finalists sharpen their skills at a presentation masterclass with Charlie Burnell.

November 2026

The big moment: one winner is awarded a £20,000 development grant, and all five finalists secure a place on the Cinnamon Incubator Programme.

January 2027

Projects start business planning.

February 2027

Our finalists gather for the first Incubator Residential joined by the second years and members of our Leadership Community.

Throughout 2027

Every other month, finalists receive expert coaching to fuel their progress.

February 2028

A second Incubator Residential pushes projects to the next level.

July 2028

Projects graduate from the Cinnamon Incubator Programme, equipped to create lasting impact.

All projects are then invited to continue their journey of growth and development as part of the Cinnamon Leadership Community.

What Makes the Cinnamon Incubator

For 13 years Cinnamon has been supporting Christian innovators and pioneers to create sustainable and scalable church based social action. We create safe spaces for leaders to follow their purpose, learn together and realise their dreams.

Replication

Our focus remains helping leaders to develop to a point where they can replicate their work and impact. We still find church partnerships to be one of the most efficient ways to grow and remain contextually relevant; but we also explore how other techniques build impact too.

Cinnamon Incubator Alumni Hannah Williams from Flourish and Rachel Woolf from Street Storage

Added Extras

Whether it's guest speakers at events or selected introductions to funders, we strive to find ways to add value throughout the programme. Last year, Incubatees were joined at their Residential by a panel of funders including Benefact Trust, Bishop Radford, Stewardship, and The Joseph Rank Trust.

Leadership Community Workshop

Ongoing Support

Beyond the Incubator, projects are invited to join our growing Leadership Community. This ensures that a network of support continues for the project leaders. They benefit from residentials and online training, as well as WhatsApp groups where ideas and support flow willingly to help with the inevitable challenges ahead.

Programme Special

Christian Distinctiveness

A unique aspect of the Incubator Programme is that it helps leaders to explore how their Christian faith is expressed and defined in their project. We help them to develop clear and sustainable approaches that express the roots and identity of the project, as well as enabling it to dovetail naturally with the missional strategies of church partners.

Two Years of Investment

There are programmes and courses you can complete in a matter of days or even over a weekend. But to build a foundation for a strong charity takes years – literally! So, we're committed to journeying with projects, providing accountability, a sounding board and a team of experts to give initiatives the very best start.

Presentation Masterclass

Applicants are supported from the moment they apply and finalists attend a Presentation Masterclass and receive coaching to help them prepare for tonight. Even those who were unsuccessful in their applications get to attend a workshop to help strengthen their work. We've had many projects who applied unsuccessfully, taken the feedback and successfully applied later on!

Charlie Burnell leads our finalists in a presentation masterclass

Journey With Our Finalists

We know your heart breaks for the struggles so many people are facing in our communities. But we also know you're not content to simply walk by or look away.

You share our passion to see things change — and we'd love you to join us on that journey.

Not everyone is called to start a project, but every one of us can play a part in transforming our communities.

Our finalists bring incredible ideas, passion and first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing their communities. Cinnamon brings expertise, experience and connections to help turn those ideas into lasting change.

But we need partners like you to help make that possible. Tonight you can volunteer your time and skills or make a financial donation.

Your support can help provide the funding that enables our finalists to develop their projects, grow their impact and share what they've learned with churches and communities across the UK.

Together, we can help brilliant ideas take root, grow and bring lasting transformation in communities that need it most.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION VIA CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD ONLINE

Here's how it works

Cinnamon bring expertise and networks

Projects bring passion and knowledge

Supporters and donors like you bring finance and further skills

A thriving initiative set up to replicate in partnership with churches in communities across the UK.

We consistently see that every **£1** donated releases **£10** of volunteering time - an incredible return on investment.

£1 = £10

Cinnamon Incubator Programme 13 Years On

Over the past 13 years, this is the impact your support has made through the Cinnamon Incubator Competition.

63 INITIATIVES SUPPORTED

1175 PROJECT REPLICATIONS

£34.5M IN VOLUNTEER TIME GENERATED

198,962 LIVES CHANGED

MEET THE FINALISTS

Concrete Rose

What We Do

Concrete Rose provides one-to-one relational mentoring to students who have grown up in local authority care, or are estranged from their parents. This provides them with an encouraging adult to turn to as they navigate academic study at this significant transition to adulthood.

How We Change Lives

Having overcome incredible challenges to get to university, over two thirds of students with care backgrounds experience mental health difficulties, and they are twice as likely to drop out as their peers.

Many care leavers experience a 'cliff edge' at 18, where local authority support falls away and 40% have no contact with previous carers. The 'new beginning' they fought for is often frightening and isolating as they have no family support, no "home" outside of university, and limited help from local authorities.

Concrete Rose volunteer mentors come alongside these students, celebrating their achievements, standing by them when they struggle, and providing wisdom, perspective and loving support that many have never known.

Find out more at **concreterose.co.uk**

Outcomes have been transformational, with 100% of our students reporting that mentoring has positively impacted their wellbeing personally, relationally and vocationally, and they have all completed their degrees.

Our Vision for the Future

Concrete Rose mentoring is in its fifth year working with Cambridge students, and has seen life changing results time and time again. We seek to replicate the programme in many university towns, giving hundreds of care experienced and estranged students the support and care they deserve, enabling them to thrive at university, and become confident, independent adults.

Our Impact

"Through their support, I've gained confidence, stability, and a real sense that I belong and deserve to be a student at a University like Cambridge."

■ Concrete Rose Student

"Knowing that there was someone who would not give up on me meant that I was able to work through all the closed-off instincts I had that made me push people away, and realise how I wanted to treat people and be treated".

■ Concrete Rose Student

"Concrete Rose gave me an experience of love and care I had not had. I felt wanted and cared about."

■ Concrete Rose Student

MEET THE FINALISTS

Onside Soccer

What We Do

Onside Soccer uses football to help children and young people build confidence, belonging, character and purpose. Day-to-day, we run regular football sessions alongside mentoring and leadership opportunities in schools, churches and communities, particularly for young people who may be overlooked or disengaged. Through Onside Playmaker, we equip ordinary local churches with training, resources and simple digital tools to deliver consistent, relationship-centred football programmes and create natural pathways into mentoring, youth activities and wider church life.

How We Change Lives

Football is often the starting point, but lasting change comes through consistent relationships with trusted adults. Young people develop confidence, resilience, character and a sense of belonging, with some progressing into mentoring, leadership and coaching. Families gain positive, affordable activities and wider support, while churches and communities become better connected to young people who might otherwise be overlooked or disengaged. During the past year, Onside Soccer has worked with around 850 children and young people.

Our Vision for the Future

Over the next five to ten years, our vision is to establish Onside Playmaker as a proven, repeatable model that churches across the UK can use within their own communities. We want to train and support a growing network of churches to provide excellent football, trusted relationships and meaningful pathways for young people. Digital resources will support delivery and impact measurement, while local volunteers and churches provide the relationships that make the work sustainable.

Our Impact

"Onside supported them to gain their FA qualifications and both went on to study Sport Science at university. One is now a secondary school PE teacher, while the other has worked at the Juventus Academy in Bahrain and now performs analysis and scouting work with Premiership and Championship clubs."

■ Richard, a parent of Onside Soccer participants

Find out more at onsideministries.com

MEET THE FINALISTS

ParentFuel

ParentFuel

BREAKING CYCLES. FINDING JESUS

What We Do

ParentFuel equips churches to become places of hope for parents and families living with trauma, poverty and isolation. Through our evidence-informed Root & Rise and Freedom Fuel programmes, facilitator training, mentoring and ongoing support, we help churches build relational, trauma-informed ministries that strengthen families and create natural opportunities for people to explore faith. We believe every church can become a place where families experience hope, healing and belonging.

How We Change Lives

We change lives by starting with parents. When parents begin to understand their own story, heal from past trauma and develop healthier relationships, the impact reaches their children, wider family and community. Parents grow in confidence, regulate their emotions more effectively and build stronger relationships at home. Churches become trusted places where people who may never have considered walking through their doors discover acceptance, practical support and lasting hope. Through Freedom Fuel, many participants also begin a journey of faith, with 95% of participants now connected to a local church and 100% reporting they are more open to Jesus.

Our Vision for the Future

We believe the local church is uniquely placed to bring lasting hope to families. Over the next 5–10 years, our vision is to equip churches across the UK to become safe, trauma-informed communities where parents can heal, children can thrive and families can flourish. Through training, mentoring and ongoing support, we want to see churches confidently reaching those who would never normally engage with church, breaking generational cycles and introducing people to the transforming hope of Jesus.

Our Impact

"Working with ParentFuel has been incredible. Through Root & Rise and Freedom Fuel, we've seen families find a safe space, experience healing and become part of our church community. Many are now encountering Jesus for themselves. If you're a church wanting to see families experience healing, freedom and hope, we cannot recommend ParentFuel highly enough."

■ **Ben Woodfield, Church Leader, New Life Church & Director, Every Life UK**

Find out more at parentfuel.co.uk

MEET THE FINALISTS

The Pillar

What We Do

The Pillar equips churches to support young people's mental health. We create Pillar Spaces within local churches where young people can find somewhere safe to belong and access early, ongoing support. Our unique approach brings together evidence-informed mental health practice, relational youth work and faith-rooted hope.

Alongside our Spaces, we provide training, resources and support, helping churches turn their heart for young people into safe and practical mental health support in their communities. Our work has been recognised nationally, with a recent General Synod paper highlighting The Pillar as an example of "good practice in responding to mental health needs of congregations and communities at parish level."

How We Change Lives

Too many young people fall into a gap: not unwell enough for specialist services, but not well enough to thrive. We provide the early, relational support that is often missing, before things reach crisis point and for as long as a young person needs it. Through consistent relationships, young people feel known, supported and less alone, while churches are equipped to respond safely and confidently alongside existing services. The Pillar has supported more than 45 young people through our Pillar Spaces.

Find out more at **thepillar.org.uk**

Our Vision for the Future

Our vision is to see a future where the Church plays a vital role in supporting young people's mental health, and no young person struggles alone. Over the next 5–10 years, we want to see Pillar Spaces growing in churches across different communities, while equipping many more churches through training and resources. As we grow, we want to keep learning from our practice and use that learning to help shape a better early response to young people's mental health.

Our Impact

"The Pillar has helped me realise that I don't need to hurt myself because not everything's my fault."

■ Pillar beneficiary

For Annie, who came to The Pillar struggling with anxiety, depression and OCD and without a Christian faith, The Pillar became a place of belonging and trusted relationships. Through that community, she began exploring faith for herself. She describes The Pillar as giving her "building blocks and a firm foundation in Jesus." Today, she regularly attends church and brings friends with her.

MEET THE FINALISTS

Riverbank Trust

What We Do

Riverbank Trust is based in Richmond upon Thames and supports and equips vulnerable single mothers and their children through long-term emotional and practical support in partnership with the church community. We do this through one-to-one support, meeting women where they feel comfortable at home, for a coffee or out for a walk. We provide regular community groups, helping mums to come together for stay and play groups, wellbeing mornings and parenting support. We also work with a number of network partners to create bespoke support plans for the family and practically help them to fully access the support they need.

How We Change Lives

The women we work with are navigating life parenting alone. Riverbank brings support that increases their connection to others as well as creating community around them. Finding hope through building confidence and equipping families to heal and move forward. We have received national recognition, been cited in the Centre for Social Justice *Lost Boys: Boyhood* report as understanding the complexity of the issues single mothers face. Riverbank has also received the Ministry of Homelessness and Communities fund, the only charity within this fund to deliver support for single mother families in temporary hostel accommodation.

Our Vision for the Future

Across England nearly a quarter of all families with dependent children are single mother families and are overrepresented in every poverty indicator. Riverbank has seen over the past 15 years how providing long term specialised emotional and practical support, in partnership with the church community, creates families that can live life and life to the full. We would like to help the church reach more single mother families that are struggling and with Riverbank support bring hope in community to them.

Our Impact

"I was around 3 months pregnant when my partner left me overnight and I felt completely lost and alone. From the very first meeting with the Riverbank Outreach Worker, I felt welcomed, cared for and understood. For the first time since everything had happened, I felt hopeful and realised I didn't have to face my journey alone. "

■ *Riverbank Mum in the community*

"I am slowly getting back to feeling like me again. There are helpful groups to attend and I feel less alone. I am finding my faith again. Riverbank staff persisted with me in getting me to come out - they didn't give up on me."

■ *Riverbank Mum living in the hostel*

Find out more at www.riverbanktrust.org

BRITE BOX – 2025 WINNER ONE YEAR ON

How has winning the Cinnamon Incubator Competition changed the way BRITE Box operates?

Winning the Cinnamon Incubator Competition has given us a new opportunity to explore developing BRITE Box through partnerships with churches, building on our existing work with predominantly secular organisations. Alongside supporting children and families through our existing hubs, we are developing a clearer framework to help churches and community partners get involved. Winning has encouraged us to think more flexibly about partnerships and how to adapt our approach to working with churches.

What part of the Incubator Programme has been of greatest value?

The structure of the first year has been particularly valuable, helping us explore key questions: what makes BRITE Box work, what needs to remain consistent, where we can be flexible and what support partners need? Having the space and guidance to work through these questions has helped us strengthen our systems and explain our approach more clearly to partners. Alongside this, the coaching and the Cinnamon team's approachability, kindness and faith have been invaluable. Their encouragement and constructive challenge have helped us feel supported as we think about BRITE Box's integration in churches.

What activity that you've accomplished in the last 12 months are you most proud of?

We are particularly proud of piloting our new project, Baby BRITE Box, building on our experience with BRITE Box to explore how we can support families earlier. Between April and June 2026, we worked with Public Health teams in Westminster, Kingston and Surrey, alongside family centres and health visiting services. The pilot brought

practical food support into existing early-years provision, rather than creating a separate service for families to navigate. Feedback from these partners has already helped us adapt the programme to complement their work more effectively.

Has winning the Incubator opened up any new opportunities?

Winning has created an opportunity to explore a wider role for churches in BRITE Box's future. We are working to develop ways for churches to connect the project with their existing children's work, family support and community relationships, rather than seeing it only as an additional activity to take on. It has also opened opportunities to connect with wider Christian networks and build relationships with potential partners and funders, including through conversations with the Compassionate Communities team at the Diocese of London.

Do you have a message for those who donated to support you last year?

Thank you for believing in BRITE Box and in what children and families can achieve with the right support. Your generosity has given us an opportunity to invest in the project's future, alongside the practical work that happens each week. Behind every box is the possibility of a child learning a new skill, feeling proud of something they have made and sharing that experience with their family. You have helped us take the next steps towards bringing those opportunities to more communities. We are deeply grateful for your support and for the confidence you have placed in our work.

Find out more at voh.org.uk/brite-box/

Remembering Paul Garratt

Those of you who have been with the Cinnamon Family for a while will have known Paul Garratt. Paul was Cinnamon's Director of Business Development and Church Engagement who passed away on Friday 5 June after a long battle with bowel cancer.

Paul was instrumental in shaping the work of Cinnamon and establishing and growing the Cinnamon Incubator Competition. He made an extraordinary impact on Cinnamon as an organisation and, more importantly, on the people he encountered.

Paul radiated God's love and possessed a gentle charisma that drew people to him because they knew they would be heard, valued, and encouraged.

While it is desperately sad to lose such a dear friend far too soon, it has been a privilege to work alongside and learn from a man of such character, conviction, and faith.

His legacy lives on, not only through the organisations he helped build and the initiatives he helped launch, but through the countless lives he touched along the way.

We take great comfort in knowing that Paul is now with the Lord and Saviour whom he loved, served and trusted so deeply.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..."

— Philippians 1:3–4

The
Pillar
Space

Could You Be Our New Trustee?

We're looking for new Trustees to join our Board and help us find and nurture Christian social action projects that are making a real difference in their communities.

We're particularly keen to hear from people who can bring skills and experience in finance, HR, social media, communications and engaging with younger audiences.

If you can think strategically, communicate well, work collaboratively, bring fresh ideas and share our vision and Christian values, we'd love to hear from you.

You don't need previous Trustee experience, we'll provide all the support you need to help make wise decisions about Cinnamon's future.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, please send your CV and a cover letter to Sarah Taylor: sarahtaylor@cinnamonnetwork.co.uk.

Partner With Us to Impact Communities

This evening you can join our five finalists on their journey of growth and replication. Your support will enable them to develop their work for the benefit of communities across our nation. Use the donation form enclosed or the giving details below to make your gift.

Concrete Rose mentors university students who have grown up in local authority care, or are estranged from their parents.

Onside Soccer uses football to help children and young people build confidence, belonging, character and purpose.

ParentFuel equips churches to become places of hope for parents and families living with trauma, poverty and isolation.

The Pillar helps churches to support young people's mental health by providing somewhere safe to belong and access to early, ongoing support.

Riverbank Trust supports vulnerable single mothers and their children through long-term emotional and practical support.

Give Your Time and Contacts

If you have expertise or connections you'd like to share with any of our finalists, please let us know using the donation form or email sarahtaylor@cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION VIA CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD ONLINE

How to Donate

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

Payments can be made at the event or online via cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/donate

BANK TRANSFER

Please transfer your donation using the reference '2026 Incubator Final' to: Account Name: Cinnamon Network, Account Number: 10683279, Sort Code: 09 02 22.

CAF/STEWARDSHIP

Pledge to donate via your CAF or Stewardship account or another method and the Cinnamon Network UK team will be in touch.

CHEQUES

Send cheques to Cinnamon Network, c/o Enaid Accountancy, Platform 10, Engine Room, Hood Road, Barry, CF62 5QL.

CINNAMON
NETWORK

CINNAMON NETWORK

Churches are full of people with compassion, creativity and ideas for tackling the challenges they see around them. But great ideas need the right support, investment and connections to grow.

That's where Cinnamon comes in.

We find and nurture Christian social action projects that are making a real difference in their communities — helping their leaders develop, their ideas grow and their impact go further.

Our vision is to see locally led, relevant and sustainable social action flourishing across UK churches.

We do this by:

- Investing in leaders – equipping Christian social-action leaders with the skills, confidence and support they need to grow their projects.
- Nurturing great ideas – helping promising initiatives develop into strong, sustainable projects that can create lasting change.
- Connecting people and resources – bringing together leaders, experts, churches, funders and networks so that great ideas don't have to grow alone.
- Sharing what works – helping successful projects learn from one another and explore how their approaches can be adapted and shared in other communities.

Because we believe that when communities are equipped to find their own solutions, supported to grow and connected to others, the potential for transformation is enormous.

Find out more at cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

Cinnamon Network UK
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