

Impact Report 2016-2017

FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR

Wow, what a year it's been. It is my privilege and joy to share with you this snapshot of some highlights from 2016-17, and to say a big thank you to all of you who've been part of the Alliance family over the last year – whether you've attended events, prayed, volunteered, given financially or simply read *idea* magazine, we couldn't have done it without you. So please read on to find out what you've made possible with your support.

As you know, we love to celebrate at the Alliance. And last year we had quite a milestone to celebrate – the **ALLIANCE TURNED 170** on 19 August 2016! That's 170 years of uniting evangelicals to make Jesus known; 170 years of protecting religious freedom and speaking out when it matters; 170 years of engaging, encouraging, challenging and informing the Church.

Since that first gathering of evangelicals more than 170 years ago, we have been fervent about bringing unity to the evangelical church in answer to Jesus' prayer in John 17 "that they might be one". So we continued to work towards this unity whilst celebrating the wonderful diversity of the evangelical Church across the UK, through the work of our **ONE PEOPLE COMMISSION** and **SOUTH ASIAN FORUM**.

And we continued to invest in local unity too through our **GATHER NETWORK**. Gather is uniting local churches and Christians across barriers of style, size and geography to share a common vision of transformation for their communities. We took 86 delegates from united church movements across the UK to New York last year to be inspired and equipped at Tim Keller's global Movement Day. And we now look ahead to October 2017 when Gather will co-host the first ever Movement Day UK.



GATHER

Our 170 years of experience in unity for mission also enabled us to launch a significant new resource for the Church last year – thanks to your support, the **GREAT COMMISSION HUB** went live in October 2016, and continues to grow exponentially with more than 200 evangelism resources, initiatives and projects to equip churches and Christians with the tools to make Jesus known.

Yet we know that unless we protect our freedom to speak and live out our faith, this will all be in vain. So we partnered with the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship last year to publish the **SPEAK UP RESOURCE**, an easily accessible booklet examining in lay terms the law relating to speaking about our faith.



Our advocacy team across the UK continued to use these freedoms to speak out for the vulnerable and the voiceless. In Northern Ireland, we launched the **BOTH LIVES MATTER CAMPAIGN** with CARE in January 2017. We are pointing to a better way, advocating for the life and health of both women and unborn children.



For all this, and much more, we give thanks to God for His work through us, and for His provision through you – the thousands of members and supporters who give generously to join with us in this work.

Thank you,

Steve

Steve Clifford
General Director



170TH

ANNIVERSARY FOR THE ALLIANCE

Last year we celebrated our collective 170th birthday. That makes us older than Canada, and strangely, that great British institution, fish and chips. Today, in a fractured world, it can be easy to feel divided, but there's much that unites us: that's all 3,800 church members, 600 organisational members and thousands of individual members. Everyone likes a celebration, don't they? And we're no different. So we got together key friends and influencers for a special event at All Souls Langham Place in November 2016 to give thanks and celebrate the impact that we've made together since 1846. What a day!



486



APPEARANCES IN THE MEDIA

If you've wanted to see an evangelical stance in the national media, this has been the year to do it. You could find us on Radio 4, BBC 2, BBC News 24, Sky News, Channel 4 News, ITV News, in *The Times*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Independent*, *The Sun*, *The Guardian* and many more outlets. When the Prime Minister commended *Speak Up* - our report on the legal freedoms we have to share our faith, with the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship - the phones rang off the hook. Issues we've been discussing include extremism legislation, prayer for healing and the Ashers' bakery court case. Our Northern Ireland team were featured in national press coverage on issues ranging from the 50th anniversary of the Abortion Act to the death of Martin McGuinness.

YOUNG LEADERS EQUIPPED FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

57

What do you need when you're starting out in work? A mentor. So, the Scottish Public Leader programme does just that. Launched in 2016, the pilot programme brought together a group of emerging Christian leaders in all areas of public life for a nine-month programme to equip and mentor them. Each participant was paired up with a Christian mentor at the top of their game to support them as they went forward in work. There was an evening of theology with NT Wright, as well as visits to the Scottish Parliament, BBC Scotland and Ross County Football Club. Over in England meanwhile, the Public Leadership programme saw 16 people take part in training, with a further 22 more on a two-day course and 19 more attending a consultation in November. And in Northern Ireland, interns worked closely with the team, receiving mentoring, training and support throughout the year.

44,000

PEOPLE HELPED TO SPEAK ABOUT JESUS

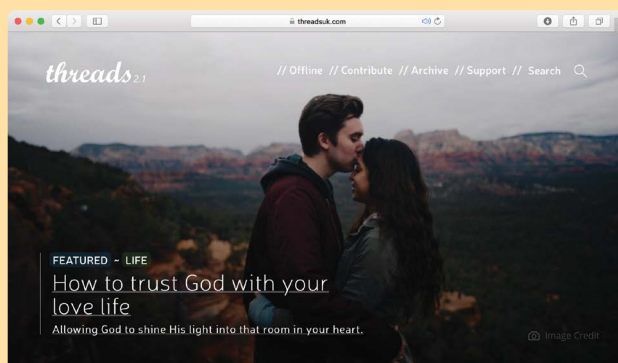
There was a big moment in Parliament. In response to a question at PMQs from Fiona Bruce in November 2016 about our *Speak Up* report, the Prime Minister Theresa May, welcomed the report and reaffirmed her commitment to religious liberty and freedom of speech. In fact last year alone, 44,000 people were equipped, through *Speak Up*, with the knowledge and confidence in their legal freedoms to share their faith. Events to profile *Speak Up* were held in parliaments in Westminster, Edinburgh and the Assembly buildings in Cardiff and Belfast.



350

YOUNG ADULTS WRITING ABOUT THEIR FAITH

With more than 350 contributors, all in their 20s and 30s, threadsUK.com is helping thousands of young Christians explore faith and life. There are daily articles on how God speaks into every area of our lives: doubt, debt, divorce, depression and work. *Threads* was launched in August 2012 as a response to the decline in young Christians in the Church and now it's a committed collective of spiritually-engaged young adults.



500

PEOPLE ATTEND THE MAYORAL HUSTINGS

Sadiq Khan and Zac Goldsmith were among the speakers at the London Mayoral hustings we held at Kensington Temple. Anglican and Catholic churches across London joined with us and the Rt Revd Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, opened the event. Some 500 people attended. And, we produced resources on the subjects of freedom, justice, democracy, economics and mission in the run-up to the EU referendum to help people think about how their faith might influence their vote.



475,000

PEOPLE REPRESENTED THROUGH MEMBER CHURCHES

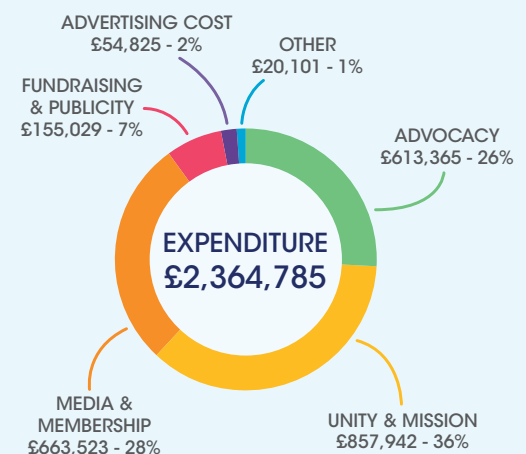
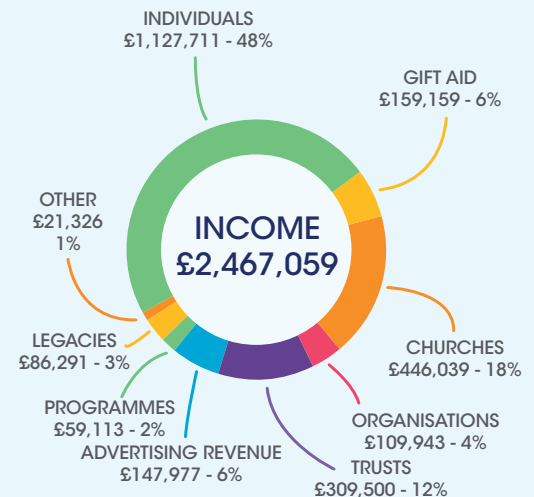
Thanks to all of you, the 475,000 people in member churches across the UK, our advocacy work has continued to build key relationships in parliament. We're busy meeting MPs, civil servants and the Charity Commission to influence public policy. Last year, we worked on proposals for extremism legislation and produced a paper on hate speech which will guide us as the government seeks to broaden the definition of this. We will also produce further papers on policy topics as we build a library of resources to help Christians have a voice in society.

19,000



PEOPLE INSPIRED BY GOOD NEWS STORIES

We're committed to telling people about the life-changing power of the gospel of Jesus. Since the launch of greatcommission.co.uk in October 2016, we've told a story every week of someone's life who's been impacted by the good news of Jesus Christ. And we all love stories, don't we? So far, more than 19,000 people have watched these stories and they've been downloaded more than 2,500 times. That means that people have been struck by the stories and want to share them with others, perhaps including their home group and church.



86

DELEGATES CHALLENGED AT MOVEMENT DAY IN NEW YORK

In October 2016, our Gather team took 86 church leaders and influencers to Movement Day in New York. The day was about inspiring some 3,000 people from around the world to take part in mission and helping to transform the communities in which they live. With your generous support, Gather is now planning a key role in organising and running Movement Day UK in London in October this year. It'll be a really significant two-day conference that will bring together 1,000 people from 130 organisations across the UK.



260



WELSH CHURCH LEADERS TRAINED FOR MISSION

Thanks to you, the Alliance in Wales was able to continue to work with key denominations to operate the Waleswide coalition. It ran two conferences in 2016 for some 260 church leaders, looking at the findings of a survey of churches in the nation and discussing how to do mission in the light of the challenging report.

91%

OF EXPENDITURE RELATED TO CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Coming up...

We have exciting plans coming up, and we need your help to make them happen – so please continue your generous support to make all of this possible:

PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

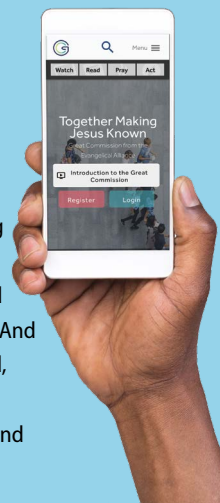
We're planning a significant extension to the Public Leadership programme next year – with your help, in early 2018 we will launch the English Public Leader course, to follow in the footsteps of the Scottish Public Leader course – a nine-month training and mentoring course for 15 young adults aspiring to lead in public life and bring their faith to bear on their leadership.

This autumn, Evangelical Alliance Wales will also be holding an event on 'The Theology and Practice of Public Leadership', in partnership with the Cymru Institute for Contemporary Christianity and the Net Wales.



GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission hub – www.greatcommission.org.uk – is growing and flourishing, providing all the tools needed by churches and individuals to make Jesus known. This year we are bringing on board a new Great Commission Coordinator, Eve Balshaw, allowing Rich Powney to spend more time alongside Gavin Calver providing evangelism training and inspiration to church gatherings across the UK. And the programme will be extending into Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. We hope and pray that more and more people will be motivated and equipped to share their faith as a result.



WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY?

In autumn 2017, our advocacy team will be publishing a new report called *What Kind of Society?* to give Christians a vision and a voice for our society in the UK. This resource will encourage Christians with examples of how faith and biblical values such as love, freedom, justice and truth can positively impact UK society.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

We are excited to be convening a summit of denominational leaders across the UK this autumn, to explore together which of the *Talking Jesus* research study's benchmark statistics we will commit to tracking over the coming decades. We hope and pray that through this we'll see significant change over the years in how the UK population views Jesus, and how open they are to an encounter with him. We will also be developing a tracking tool to allow churches to discover how often their congregation are talking about Jesus and what their thoughts and experience of evangelism have been.

MOVEMENT DAY

We are thrilled to be co-hosting the first ever Movement Day UK from 6 – 7 October 2017, a gathering of up to 1,000 delegates from unity movements across England, coming together to share a united vision for transformation of our communities. From morning celebrations to a series of seminars and tracks on different topics, we want to hear from God what our towns and cities could look like in 30 years as we unite in prayer and ministry for the sake of the gospel.



GIVE SHARE ASK

We're here to serve you – the Church. We love to equip, resource and support you with a whole range of resources; whether that's training and events in your area, theological, political or evangelism resources, or research materials to look at in your small groups. So get in touch and our dedicated information officer will do all she can to help you.

info@eauk.org

We love hearing your stories so we can encourage and inspire our member churches, organisations and individuals. Do you know someone who's recently come to faith? Do you have a story of the Church being good news to society? Are you a public leader who could share how your faith impacts your leadership?

Get in touch at stories@eauk.org

Thank you once again for your faithful support of this crucial work – I hope you've been encouraged by what you've read here. Please consider giving again or increasing your regular gift to make sure we have an even greater impact in the year ahead.

You can do so by ringing **0207 520 3830** or visiting eauk.org/support

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together making Jesus known

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