**Community Christmas Lunch at the New Life Church December 2022 supported by Transforming Communities Together Warwick and funded by the Town Council.**

* What the project was and where it took place

A two course Christmas lunch took place at New Life Church in December 2022 attended by pensioners, vulnerable adults, those living alone and those on low incomes or in reciept of benefits. Attendees were also given a food hamper to take home with pudding and homemade Christmas Biscuit box/gift and card.

* How it was advertised

The Community Christmas Meal was advertised to the attendees of the weekly Community Café and Community Shop at New Life Church. Letters were also sent to those living in social housing on the Westgate area inviting them to the meal. Social prescribers and Transforming Communities Together Warwick also advertised the meal to service users.

* How many people participated

41 meals were served on site and 3 meals were delivered to those who were unable to attend in person due to illness. A team of 6 volunteers helped to make the event happen. A team of 13 young people from the Crash Out Youth Club helped to prepare the food by attending the day before to chop and prepare vegetables and serve the meals on the day and entertain the guests.

* Monies received and expended

The grant was spent in full and the Community Café contributed £112.83 toward the project.

* What the benefits and outcomes were of the project

It brought people some much needed Christmas cheer, bringing them together with neighbours and giving them the opportunity to make new friends. For those spending Christmas day alone it was a chance to celebrate with others. It helped mark the end of a difficult year in a uplifting way as well as supporting people in need with the cost of living by making sure they had a traditional Christmas meal. It created a sense of community and celbration and gave young people the opportunity to learn hospitality skills. It also gave young people the opportuinty to serve and put others first and use their skills to help other people have a memorable positive Christmas. They said this made them feel good about themselves and they enjoyed the day and it helped to build their skills and confidence. Our older attendees really enjoyed having the young people around and serving them they said it made them feel special and cared for. Our most positive feedback came from the biscuit boxes that were given out with people telling us after Christmas how much they enjoyed them!

* Any issues/problems you came up against and how they were dealt with (if any)

We had a few people who had booked to attend who couldn’t make it and we did our best to deliver them a meal if we had their details.

* Future potential projects going forward

Transforming Communities do not currently have any potential projects for Town Council funding but have strongly recommended the New Life Church apply directly to the Town Council for future community projects they may have in the coming year.