

# **journeying** *with*

***Meeting real needs in the Community ...  
Training & equipping ...  
Pastoral Ministry with a Mission***

Each day across Britain 100 people are told they are losing their sight.

## **What is your Church doing to help them?**

It is not unusual to hear people describe sight-loss in a similar way to grief. (They have lost, or are losing, something very significant that will radically change their lives.) Eye-care professionals offer expert help, but those in your local community who are struggling with the emotional and practical impact of sight loss need more. That is where your church can support.

We can respond with prayer and encouragement to find faith. But often the most powerful expression of Christian Faith is simply to 'journey with' people as they face personal struggles. Jesus calls us to walk with people for the 'extra mile'; giving them the gift of time, and practically showing the love of God in a holistic and non-judgemental way.

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Registered Charity number: 1095904

Ref: 8349

## Mobilising the Church to care about the 100 people each day who learn they are losing their sight

Torch's vision is to mobilise Christians to respond to this need by becoming companions to those who are in the early stages of losing their sight: journeying with them as they come to terms with the life changing impact of sight loss.

Our vision is to resource churches throughout the UK to set up teams of 'befrienders', and connect them with people at the start of their 'sight-loss journey'. These teams help people adjust to sight-loss, rebuild confidence, establish a support network and provide a 'listening ear'. Where appropriate, volunteers are also able to offer prayer and discuss deeper feelings and faith.

We provide training, manuals and on-going support to help you realise the vision of reaching out to people in your community who are facing sight-loss.

'Her coming through the door and 'shining'... Just coming to the door - that means a lot because I don't have many people coming here at all. I'm so lonely, very lonely.'

## Key Benefits

- Equips churches to demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical way.
- Provides new opportunities for Christians to be trained in pastoral work, with an emphasis on visual impairment.
- Demonstrates to the local community that the Church cares about 'real' needs.
- Connects local churches with new people and families who may never have been in contact with church before.

A member of the Torch 'presence' team is waiting to discuss with you how we can support you in Journeying With members of your community who are over 18 years old and losing sight. Contact details are below.

