



Vital Link

The Newsletter for Through the Roof | www.throughtheroof.org

Transforming Lives Through Jesus with Disabled People

Celebrating our 1,000th Roofbreaker

What a joy to recently celebrate the milestone of reaching our 1,000th Roofbreaker!

We would dearly love to see a Roofbreaker (disability champion) in every church and ministry across the UK – ensuring disabled people can have access to Christian life, find belonging in the family of God and be commissioned to use their gifts and talents to God's glory.



Our 1,000th Roofbreaker was Clive (pictured) and he had a particularly special insight into why disability inclusion is so important. Clive and his wife, Hannah, have a wonderful daughter, Chloe, who is 20 years old and is a wheelchair-user with a learning disability.

Clive said that Chloe has taught him many things in life – the most important of which is that we are ALL made in the image of God. Clive and Hannah would love to see others in the Church engaging with the subject of disability inclusion. They want each church to be a community where everyone belongs and knows we are all made in God's image and ALL are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Celebrating our 1,000th Roofbreaker isn't just about reaching a target or increasing numbers; it's about recognising the urgency of sharing the Gospel. It's a call to action. With that in mind, we invited Roofbreakers to pray together in an online prayer event: 'Roofbreakers Together in Prayer: Breaking Barriers in Faith, Sent Together in Love.'

Katie Budd, the Roofbreaker Team Leader says: "It was such an encouragement to see so many people gathered live on Zoom, and to know that others were joining us in prayer at different times and in different places.

We were especially encouraged by the testimonies shared in the breakout rooms. Hearing people say they felt part of a 'movement for positive change within the church', and listening to prayers offered for a wide range of situations across the UK, was deeply moving."

In this issue:



Belonging without Barriers book



Joni's tribute to Colin Reeves



Elana's light shines on

If you don't yet have a Roofbreaker in your church or ministry, why not become part of this movement for positive change within the church?

We would love to support you in this. Find out more at <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/roofbreakers/>

Accessible formats available: large print, audio, braille.
Call 01372 749955 or email info@throughtheroof.org

Bringing back belonging in Kenya

Bringing back mobility to enable belonging is at the heart of our Wheels for the World project. On our recent mission to Elburgon, Kenya, over 180 disabled

people were restored as active participants in their communities through the gift of a professionally fitted wheelchair or mobility aid.



Samuel Kibet's story: belonging restored

For Samuel Kibet and his mother Caroline, belonging had long been out of reach. Samuel, 33, has learning and physical disabilities and is blind. With no usable wheelchair, Caroline carried her adult son everywhere.

Receiving a donated wheelchair transformed their lives. Caroline shared that they can now go outside together, visit friends, go to the market, and attend church. Samuel received an audio Bible and prayed with Pastor Sarah, being reminded that he belongs in God's kingdom. Together, Samuel and Caroline are no longer isolated, but fully part of their community once more.



Cecilia's story: belonging at every age

For Cecilia, aged 100, belonging had become increasingly difficult. After an accident around 20 years ago, and with the effects of ageing, she has been unable to walk for seven years. Carried to the distribution centre by her daughter Elizabeth, Cecilia's world had become largely confined to her home.

Our therapist Fiona provided a correctly sized assisted propelled wheelchair, restoring Cecilia's freedom to go outside again. Elizabeth shared the joy of her mother being able to see trees, flowers, birds, and animals — simple pleasures that reconnect her to life. Most importantly, Cecilia can now attend El Elohi Israel Church in Elburgon, no longer carried, but included and welcomed in her faith community.



Volunteer Jennifer: helping back to belonging

"It is so special to be able to help people – and even more special to be able to help a village! We were blessed today to be able to help six people from Lare Ward... The recipients ranged from Leonard, a young man of 17 with the most wonderful smile, to Esther who is 102 years old...

Esther was with her youngest child, Daniel – himself 60 years of age. He explained that the wheelchair meant he would be able to leave his mum with his children to look after her and go out to work. Esther told us that she was thanking God for her wheelchair as she would be able to leave her house and visit the compound, to enjoy the sunshine and meet more people."

Please pray: for the ongoing impact of our International missions. May all the disabled people at the Kenya Wheels for the World distribution gain a new sense of belonging. Also for people at the recent India Roofbreaker events – may their churches catch the vision and reach out to support disabled people in Kolkata.

One body, many parts

Disability Awareness Sunday 27th September



▲ Triona shares insights for DAS 2026

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12 (NIV), verse 12 tells us **“There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.”**

This powerful message is to be the theme of our 2026 Disability Awareness Sunday, **‘One body, many parts’** and we are delighted to be featuring Triona Brading, a young autistic Christian who is one of the authors of the new book ‘Belonging without Barriers’ (see below).

Triona has already been a huge blessing to Through the Roof in sharing her experience and expertise by creating short videos about supporting autistic individuals in our churches, and understanding autistic meltdowns and shutdowns (available on our YouTube channel @TTRChangesLives).

Triona is a Roofbreaker with Through the Roof and also a ministry trainee, with a particular focus on accessibility. She is also the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities co-ordinator for the annual REVIVE festival for Co-Mission churches.

So put Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 in your church calendar: **Sunday 27th September**. We very much look forward to the message that Triona has to share with us, and to exploring together the important theme of **‘One body, many parts’**. A **new free DAS resource** on this theme will be available soon on the TTR website!

Belonging without Barriers: a must-read new book

Belonging is what the human heart yearns for. We all long to know we’re included and valued for who we are. ‘Belonging Without Barriers’ is a much-needed new book that seeks to open vital conversations in the UK Church about disability inclusion as a gospel issue. As our CEO Tim Wood writes in the Foreword, this is “not just another resource on inclusion; it is a call to action. Combining rich theological reflection with practical strategies, it is invaluable for leaders, Trustees, children’s and youth workers, and anyone involved in ministry.”

The book has discussion questions throughout and is co-authored by Triona Brading, an autistic Roofbreaker who works in SEND children’s ministry. Her co-authors are Lois Bunyan who works in disability arts, and Claire Wood, a teacher. Together, they bring professional insight and offer a compelling blend of lived experience, theology, and practice.

Part 1 explores what scripture teaches about inclusion, dignity, and interdependence – one of Through the Roof’s core values. Accessibility is shown to be a theological issue: the Church is the Body of Christ, and disabled people are indispensable within it (**1 Corinthians 12**).

Part 2 turns theology into action, offering practical tools such as access checklists, multi-sensory ideas, and strategies for supporting a range of different additional needs, both physical and neurological. Personal stories throughout the book share both the joy of inclusion and the pain of exclusion.

Belonging Without Barriers is available in standard print format from the TTR shop and other online retailers. **Please help spread the word, so together we can build communities without barriers** – places of true belonging where all God’s people can flourish.



Belonging

Reflections from our Chair of Trustees, Revd Trevor Hahn



Our Chair of Trustees, Trevor, shares stories about belonging: We have a new addition to our family:



Felipe, a 2-year-old Spanish rescue pointer dog. It has been challenging as he enters our household, including another (smaller, older) dog, Pepito. It takes time,

effort, and sacrifice to adjust for both Felipe into his new environment and family, and for us as we make changes, so Felipe is not only welcome, not only accepted, but so that he belongs and is part of the family.

One of my favourite gospel stories is of the healing of the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years who secretly reached out and touched Jesus (**Luke 8:40-47**). She had been ostracised from the community, not allowed to worship in the temple, utterly excluded; anyone who touched her would become unclean themselves, and yet she pushed through the crowd to touch Jesus. But that was not enough for Jesus! He stopped and talked with the woman.

Bear in mind Jesus was on His way to heal the daughter of Jairus, the Synagogue Ruler, who in fact died because of the delay. Why did Jesus stop? What was so important?

The woman was healed, she had her prayers answered, her faith had healed her. Yet, that was

not enough for Jesus. Why? Because Jesus wanted her to be reintegrated into society. He wanted her to be included in the community. Jesus wanted her to know that she belonged. He refers to her as a 'daughter of Abraham', including her in the patriarchs of faith, part of the chosen people, a child of God, someone who belonged.

It may cost us to follow Jesus' example, but what blessings result. And God was further glorified when Jesus healed Jairus' daughter too! Our founding chair of Through the Roof, Colin Reeves, died recently. He, like Jesus, heard the Holy Spirit and changed direction when he heard Joni Eareckson Tada speak, inspiring him to set up Through the Roof in the UK with Paul Dicken, with a vision that every disabled person may not only know Jesus but know they belong and have a part to play.

It takes time, effort, and sacrifice to ensure everyone is not only included, but belongs, as we are discovering with Felipe. But there is so much blessing as we see people and communities transformed and God's Kingdom expanding.

Who is God asking you to notice in the crowd? In your everyday life? How can you continue Colin's legacy? How can you promote belonging?

Please pray: for God's work of disability inclusion in the Church, so all are truly able to belong and serve in God's Kingdom. Thank God for leading TTR in this important work through the years.

Joni's tribute to Colin Reeves



Founding Chair of Through the Roof, Colin Reeves, passed away recently. The TTR family are indebted to him and his huge role in our early years. Joni Eareckson Tada pays her respects...

"I have always thought of Colin as a British statesman for the kingdom of Christ, especially as it concerns disability ministry. My friendship with Colin goes back to the 1980s. Colin was instrumental in organising several of my early ministry visits to the UK, including book tours and speaking engagements and very kindly invited me to be a regular contributor to The Christian Herald when he served as publisher.

Colin attended our Second European Symposium on the Church and Disability in Budapest where



Colin helped lay the groundwork for Through the Roof UK. Colin also proudly served as a member of the International Board of Directors for Joni and Friends. He had a genuine heart for reaching people with disabilities around the world for Jesus Christ – his son Matthew helped inspire Colin's desire to see UK churches embrace families living with disability.

He will be missed by us all, but we rejoice that he is safe in the arms of his wonderful Saviour.

May I ask you to be an active part of carrying on the heartwarming legacy of Colin Reeves?

Continue to support, pray for, and participate in the programs of Through the Roof, so that people with disabilities and their families will enjoy a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for honouring Colin's heritage this important way!"

The Windows of the Soul: Online Pilgrimage



As 2026 began, we paused and reflected through The Windows of the Soul: a virtual pilgrimage on Zoom. Using the symbolism of church windows, the pilgrimage created a calm, prayerful space to listen to God's leading.

The sessions focused on God's light, shining from different compass directions. Looking north encouraged reflection on the values that shape and guide our lives. Turning west invited us to consider what may be fading or needs to be released. Facing south drew attention to sources of joy, nourishment and encouragement, while looking east opened our hearts to what is new, hopeful and emerging.

For each direction, we were offered questions for personal reflection, followed by time in breakout groups to share what God put on our hearts. Alongside this, we spent time contemplating striking images, including beautiful stained-glass windows.

One online pilgrim shared: "I loved the theme of light. The pictures were very helpful for me. The questions were very thought-provoking. My fellow travellers added to the experience." Another realised: "changes are like openings" and it is ok "even if it means moving to a new pasture eventually."

The pilgrimage was guided by its creator, David Smith, a former physiotherapist whose mobility was affected by a stroke. He creates Bible-based virtual pilgrimages, so those with limited movement can experience journeys spiritually.

To hear about future TTR retreats, email: together@throughtheroof.org

To work through The Windows of the Soul online, visit David's website: <https://pilgrimageoftheword.org.uk/>

'He Dances with Wheels' by Glynda Winterson

Through the Roof were deeply touched when Glynda Winterson got in touch to say the profits from her new book, 'He Dances with Wheels', will be donated to TTR.

The book tells the moving story of Glynda's husband, David, who lived with MS and became a wheelchair user. Glynda also shares her own journey as his carer and seeks to support others through her website, Comfort for Carers:

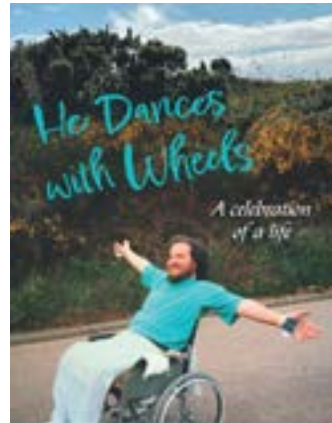
<https://www.comfortforcarers.co.uk/>

Glynda and David were creative souls who met on a bus in 1982. 'He Dances with Wheels' traces how they fell in love and chose to marry, knowing David's health would deteriorate. It paints a picture of their 28 years together, and of the comfort, guidance, and unexpected joy they found through faith.

Glynda shares: "This is not a tale of gloom and doom... By sharing some of these amazing events, my hope is to encourage and to bring comfort to anyone identifying with our circumstances."

Written in a lively, engaging style, the book is full of love, humour, music, and faith. The landscape of the Northern Isles of Scotland features almost like a character, reflecting life lived creatively and courageously.

All proceeds from the book will go to our Wheels for the World project, helping disabled people get access to life-changing mobility aids.



Get your copy (in standard print format) from the Through the Roof shop.

Tell any carers about Glynda's book and website.

New ABC resource will amplify voices of disabled people

Through the Roof is creating a high-impact, Bible-based video resource with study guide on disability for UK churches. Featuring Bible-teaching and personal stories we want to amplify the voices of disabled people to spread the message and equip churches on the ABC journey of disability inclusion...

Access: everyone knowing Jesus, with disabled people fully welcomed into Christian life

Belonging: all growing together as the family of God, flourishing in community with others

Commission: everyone reflecting the character of Jesus, with disabled people making disciples to the glory of God.

**Would you help make this a reality?
Please consider donating towards this project using the accompanying form.**

Update your details: You are important to us and we want to ensure we have your correct contact details and communication preferences in order to continue sharing news with you and steward our resources effectively.

The enclosed form will help you update/confirm your details and/or make a donation. You can also let us know by email: info@throughtheroof.org or phone us on: **01372 749955**.

Sharing Together: we'd love your feedback

'Together' is the name for Through the Roof's fellowship community encompassing activities such as holidays, home groups and retreats through a mix of online and in-person events.

We currently have five initiatives which are: **Together ...in the Lounge; ...at Home; ...on Retreat; ...on Holiday; ...News.**

Whether you have taken part in any Together fellowship events or not, please tell us what you value and would like to see in future events. Equally, we'd love to know if anything specific prevents you from joining.

The QR code will take you to a short survey to share your thoughts and ideas. If you are unable to access this, please email together@throughtheroof.org

'Together' activities please share your thoughts and ideas!



Elana's light shines on

Anyone who met Elana-May Blackmore couldn't help but be impacted by her personality, her faith and her passion to include everyone. Elana was one of our young Roofbreakers, living in Devon. Elana was herself autistic, with a physical disability which made walking more difficult, yet she always had a heart to reach out to others, especially to bring people to know Jesus. We were devastated to hear of her death at the age of 24 following a sudden stroke last year. But Elana's legacy lives on, in many different ways...



Through the Roof has been blessed to be named as one of the two charities to benefit from donations in memory of Elana, so those donations will help to ensure the work of transforming lives continues. A total of over £2,600 was given in donations in her memory. We treasure that memory, and the impact Elana had on so many lives, and we are so honoured to play a part in continuing the legacy of Elana's life.

People will also continue to be impacted by Elana through a video her parents have shared with us which we will use in training for churches. In the video Elana speaks about the passage in **John chapter 9** where Jesus meets the man blind from birth.

Elana says, "What I love is that Christ saw the man; He saw potential; He saw faith. Jesus saw the blind man's heart, not what his physical limitation was." She goes on to speak about how we need to get to know people for who they are and the importance of making sure everyone's voices can be heard.



Elana absolutely lived this message out herself. In her own village, she led a team running monthly services called 'Celebrate Together' for people with additional needs, bringing the Bible to life in a visual way, in an atmosphere where everyone could feel relaxed and accepted. Numbers attending this service amazingly grew from four to forty over the time that Elana was involved!

Elana even donated her previous wheelchair to Through the Roof to be sent out to a developing country. She was so excited to know that it would completely change someone's life.

We thank God for the life of Elana, the impact she had on so many people, and the legacy she leaves which will continue to transform lives and bring others to Jesus.

Please pray: for all those whose lives were touched by Elana. Pray that others will catch her passion and vision for church disability inclusion.

International Mission opportunities

Wheels for the World trips

Ghana (Accra): Wed 20th – Fri 29th May 2026,
Partner: Royal House Chapel International

Rwanda (Kayonza): Aug/Sept 2026 final dates to
be confirmed, Partner: FoH Rwanda

Please email Kathy on kathy@throughtheroof.org to
apply or get more information.

International Roofbreaker events

We are planning locally led Roofbreaker meetings
throughout 2026, including raising awareness in
Burundi and Mozambique.

Please email Faith on
international@throughtheroof.org to get
more information.

Transformation continues: Appoffie preaches in Rwanda



▲ Appoffie's life transformed

It is wonderful to hear how transformation continues
after our international missions. We praise God
that disabled people who encountered TTR in
2025 recently preached at the Reformed Baptist
Convention in Rwanda, powerfully demonstrating
that God commissions disabled people to serve him.

You may remember Appoffie, whose wheelchair
enabled her to rejoin her church choir. She has now
preached before hundreds of people on God's mercy
and grace, drawing from **2 Samuel 9** and the story
of Mephibosheth. She shared how God restores
dignity and welcomes all. Appoffie testified: "A child
who was rejected because of disability or poverty
is now allowed to ... speak the truth of God."

Also preaching was Patrick Tuyishimire, a Deaf
believer, who, like Moses, was deemed 'slow of
speech' yet God fulfilled his purposes in them.
We praise God for commissioning these believers
to reveal his heart for disabled people in Rwanda.

Love that Lasts: Supporting Disability Inclusion All Year Round

Thanks to the generous support of individuals and
churches, we're able to share God's love in word
and action, making a lasting difference to the lives
of disabled people and their families around the
world. Together, we're opening doors – physical
and spiritual – for those who are often shut out.

Regular giving, whatever amount, provides
something invaluable: stability. Knowing what
support we can rely on each month allows us to
plan well, respond quickly to needs, and reach
more people longing for hope and belonging.

**Would you consider taking the next step with
us by becoming a monthly donor?**

Your ongoing support would consistently bring
light, dignity, and hope to people like Samuel,
whose story features elsewhere, and enables us

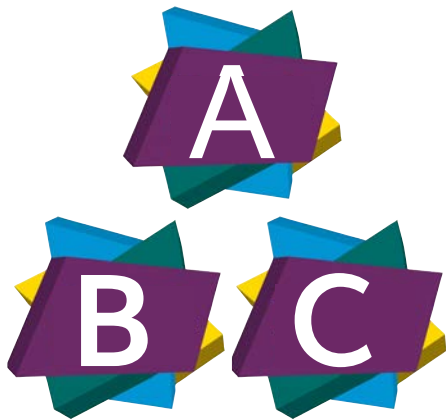
to develop new initiatives like our ABC Resource.
Will you help us reach someone still hidden in the
shadows to be seen?

You don't need to give large amounts to make a
meaningful difference. **A gift of £4 or £12 a month
can be truly transformative over time.** Additionally,
it sends a powerful message: disabled people are
valued, needed, and fully part of the body of Christ.

Starting regular giving is simple – arrange it directly
through your bank or email us for a form:
accounts@throughtheroof.org. If you'd like to talk it
through, we'd love to help, please call:
01372 749955.

However you choose to give, thank you! Your
partnership means so much – to us, and to the
disabled people we serve.

It's as easy as ...



ABC: a new resource for churches

We are currently producing a high-impact, Bible-based video resource and study guide to enable churches on the journey of disability inclusion from a Christian perspective.

Featuring disabled people's stories this new resource will cover Access, Belonging and Commission (ABC) by exploring biblical views, challenge misunderstandings and equip churches to be more disability-inclusive communities.

Would you help make this a reality by supporting financially?

————— Your support changes lives: —————



Access

everyone knowing Jesus, with disabled people welcomed fully into Christian life

Belonging

all growing together as the family of God, flourishing in community with others

Commission

everyone reflecting Jesus, with disabled people making disciples to the glory of God

Please update your details: for you to continue to access our news and resources, it's important that we have your correct contact details and communication preferences. This also helps us to steward our resources well. Please see reverse of form to confirm your details and/or donate and send it to us at the address overleaf.

Together, we can build a church where everyone belongs

Scan the QR code for our Just Giving page or visit www.justgiving.com/charity/ttr to donate directly and securely online – please state if donating for a specific purpose



Through the Roof is a Registered Charity no. 1087788 with registered offices at Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4TQ. It is also a Registered UK Company number 04201510. 01372 749955 | www.throughtheroof.org

Please return this form to:

Through the Roof, Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4TQ



Your details: *

Full name (inc. title):

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Giving / Supporting our work:

I'd like to donate to:

Please tick a box below to show your preference(s)

- ABC resource
- Where the need is greatest
- Wheels for the World (general support)
- Sponsorship: Wheelchair (name for certificate)

-
- £78 from the UK to destination country
- £46 to cover wheelchair refurbishment

- Sponsorship: Bible(s)
 - £24 to give an audio Bible
 - £10 to give a printed Bible
- 'Together' Fellowship
- UK Roofbreakers

Signature:

Date:

* We take your personal data and privacy very seriously and only use your information to best provide you with the products and services you ask for e.g. sending our newsletter, or accounting for donations. We only hold personal data for as long as it is needed, and it is held securely and never passed on to external organisations. More information can be found in our privacy policy at www.throughtheroof.org

** I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

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Tick here to receive our:

- Vital Link newsletter by email
- Vital Link newsletter by post
- Vital Link in alternate format
 - Braille Audio Large Print
- International Mission news
- 'Together' news
- Disability Awareness Sunday Information
- Weekly Prayer support email
- Please unsubscribe me

Gift Aid:

Gift Aid enables us to make your gift go further at no additional cost to you. To enable us to apply for Gift aid please advise your full name, including title and middle names, and your full address, in the 'Your Details' section (see top left) to allow us to apply for Gift Aid.

I would like Through the Roof to treat as Gift Aid donations** all qualifying gifts of money made (please tick all boxes that you wish to apply then sign and date below):

- on this donation in the past 4 years
- in the future

or I am unable to Gift Aid my donations

How to donate: By cheque made out to Through the Roof • By bank transfer (BACS) to: Through the Roof Charitable Trust, sort code: 82-12-08, Virgin Money account number: 20047444 (please use your name & purpose of the donation as the reference) • By Credit Card (please complete details below)

I enclose a cheque for £ made out to Through the Roof

I have sent my money by bank transfer, my reference is

I would like to donate £ by credit / debit card number:

Issue number (If applicable): Valid from date: / Expiry date: /

Name on card: Security code / CVV (Last 3 numbers on back of card):

I would like to make a regular donation of £ to be used for:

- I have set this up with my bank Please send me a form to enable me to do this.

I do not require an acknowledgement for my donation

Signature:

Date: