

#### **4. DCDP Case Study: City Church Dundee**

The Friary on Tullideph Road in Dundee is a building where, historically, everyone has a connection – a granny, grandad, auntie or cousin, christened, married or buried here. This meant that when the building shut in 2012 people felt like they had lost an old friend.

When City Church Dundee took on the Friary, one of the key aims was to reconnect the community with the space, including the gardens, and to meet the community's needs. In Spring 2016, in partnership with the local community planning officer, we conducted a community well-being survey to gain a better understanding of those who live around the Friary and the things that they would like to see improved.

As a direct result of the survey we looked for, and were successful in winning, funding to establish a pre-school play park in a part of the grounds which are highly visible to the whole community. The play park has been well used over the summer by our toddler group, the home school co-operative (who currently hire the halls) and young families who live around the Friary.

In partnership with the Reconnections Project, another local charity, we have been able to offer garden-based work placements to unemployed people who are socially isolated, often struggling with addictions and affected by a poor sense of self-worth. From a neglected area of the garden, this group has worked hard to create a 'market garden' style space with various growing spaces, including raised beds. This autumn, we saw the group harvest this year's crop of onions, potatoes and beans, and then deliver to the local food bank to be distributed along with food parcels.

As part of the Dundee Community Development Programme, we have been able to make our facilities available to other funded projects. For example, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, who had to move from their previous base, have been able to move into the Friary.

Having someone dedicated to the task of community engagement, has allowed the project to be more focused, intentional and responsive, not just reactive. This has made a huge difference.

**Anne Stocks, Community Engagement Officer  
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