Let me tell you a story which demonstrates why being a CRCW is great.

One day in 2014 some visitors came to the church door and said - “We are from Transition Southampton and we want to start a Repair Café. Please can you help?”
We said - “Can you explain what that all means, please”
They said in a nutshell - “Transition in Southampton raises awareness of climate change, enables reduction of carbon footprints, invigorates bonds of community and provides help in reskilling individuals to promote resilience. A Repair Café would be perfect in that context”
“Phew! What’s a Repair Café?” we said and sat down!

That was the start of a process which led to a very small congregation at Freemantle United Reformed Church, working in partnership with a growing charity in Southampton, provide a place where bikes, laptops, jewellery, small electrical items and damaged clothes can be repaired where possible, rather than thrown away.
Not only that...the clients can learn how to do some of those repairs for themselves .... and more, they can sit at tables chatting with others whilst having a drink and eating our amazing homemade cakes. How brilliant is that!
All involved are volunteers. Transition finds the repairers and their other volunteers support the running on the day as well as the organisation behind this monthly event.
The church provides the space and tables etc and bakes cakes to be served with drinks at very low cost so that some can just come to find some company and watch what goes on. Those with repairs can eat and drink and chat whilst they wait.
We have met so many new people, found common ground and renewed relationships. Visitors can see that the church is welcoming and part of our everyday, real world.

It’s a great example of the community working together to help each other as well as benefitting Southampton in a bigger way by reducing landfill, introducing recycling ideas, helping people to help themselves by learning a new skill and introducing wider thinking about sustainable living in the city. Over 4 years on and going strong!