



Grace Enterprises: Transforming lives through supportive employment in our sustainable businesses:

September 2023 Update

Context:

The mission of Grace Enterprises (“GE”) is to grow a network of sustainable, commercially competitive and socially responsible businesses that help reduce long-term unemployment and poverty in Nottingham and beyond. GE creates supportive, paid jobs for people who face significant barriers to work. Our teams include ex-offenders, ex-homeless, ex-addicts, people who have suffered domestic abuse and those with physical and mental health challenges.

The first business we started was Radiant Cleaners, a multi award-winning and pioneering Social Enterprise cleaning company. Along the way it has employed over 75 people, paying everyone the real Living Wage, and it has won the support of major corporate clients who believe in our mission and have seen us deliver a consistent quality service. Cleaning is not the answer for everyone though. The Grace Enterprises vision has always been to have multiple businesses with the same ethos and values. Our future ventures will provide different kinds of employment opportunities, to help those people whom Radiant Cleaners cannot.

Since October 2021 TTECF has awarded grants totalling £21,000 to Grace Enterprises as well as coaching and pro-bono IT application development support.

"In my life I've been abused, suffered domestic violence and been isolated. I had no qualifications and thought 'what's the point of life?' Now I've got a job my life is a lot better, I'm not isolated, I have the chance to get out and meet different people. It makes me feel a lot better. I feel like someone again. My confidence is a lot better, I'm more positive, I've got more hope."

Sarah, one of the first Radiant Cleaners employees and a positive role-model

September '23 Update:

Grace Enterprises: “Half the story”: biscuit success:

In this radio interview Matt Parfitt, Grace’s CEO and Stuart Cunniffe co-founder of “Half the Story” share how they are building a successful social enterprise business producing great biscuits but also transforming lives:

https://soundcloud.com/erewashsound/the-erewash-sound-business-show-8th-august-2023?utm_source=clipboard&utm_campaign=wtshare&utm_medium=widget&utm_content=https%253A%252F%252Fsoundcloud.com%252Ferewashsound%252Fthe-erewash-sound-business-show-8th-august-2023

If you’re up for having a great biscuit, which also helps transform lives, alongside your great coffee or tea then why not check out: <https://www.halfthestory.uk/>

Grace Enterprises: vision, impact, influence



Grace Enterprises' mission is to transform lives through supportive employment in our sustainable businesses.

We see creating rewarding jobs and working alongside people as a practical demonstration of Jesus' love for everyone - of all faiths and none.

With a vision for seven different businesses employing different people, the [Grace Enterprises](#) approach is centred around the following six areas:



The story so far: Matt Parfitt gave up teaching in 2007 to become an employer of people with major barriers to work. Initially this meant running a gardening business with godly employment principles at heart. After ten years of that, in partnership with the local church 'Grace Enterprises Nottingham' was launched in 2017. The executive team of Matt, Samantha (a former GP) and Roger (a former conference organiser) work with [a team of 6 trustees](#).

The present: we provide holistic employment, giving hope, purpose and dignity to disadvantaged people through our first 3 businesses: [Radiant Cleaners](#) (launched 2017), [Jubilee Events](#) (2021) and [Half the Story](#) (2023).

As winners of multiple national awards, our businesses have caught the attention of the media, plus social enterprise and faith-business circles. Matt has also recently presented a [12-part TV series](#) about entrepreneurs who are living out their faith. We see these platforms as part of our calling to influence a wider conversation about using business for good, to initiate systemic change, and to inspire others to live out their faith in radical ways.

The future: Our businesses have already employed over 100 people, paying them all the real Living Wage. We now have the opportunity to make the step change from local to national, and have a vision of employing 1000 people.

We have made the transition from *doing* to *managing* to *enabling*, and are now looking to begin *replicating* and *influencing* to a greater extent.

If you'd be interested in partnering with us to support what we do, help us to do it better, or start our next business then please get in touch:

[Matt Parfitt](mailto:matt@graceenterprises.co.uk) - matt@graceenterprises.co.uk - 07305 537500

The radio interview and the Grace Enterprise vision are great examples of charity and business leaders working together for greater benefit within the community, demonstrating: bravery, kind-

ness, humility, and the consistent delivery of high quality service (some of the “Nine Habits of Trust” <https://trustedexecutive.com/nine-habits-of-trust>).