

Making the case: communicating the reality of poverty in the UK

CAP continues to make the case for tackling poverty.

- We believe that in a country rich in resources, **poverty is an injustice** that can and must be overcome.
- We believe that all people have the right to share in “**life in all its fullness**” (John 10:10). We believe that poverty actively prevents this.
- We believe in the **unique value** of each person made in the image and likeness of God, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, ability or wealth. We believe that poverty is a reflection of a society that places a greater value on some than on others.
- We believe that **people living in poverty** are the real poverty experts and have the right to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

Developing more sustainable livelihoods

CAP aims to enable people in poverty to achieve income security and paid employment which promotes dignity and justice. In 2006–07, we worked towards this aim through:

- the **Living Ghosts** campaign (see page 5);
- the **Thrive** project (see page 7);
- the **Debt on our Doorstep** campaign;
- engaging the churches in supporting **migrant workers**.



Living Ghosts

Thousands of people refused asylum are living in the UK with out any means of support – a ghost-like existence. The Government doesn't allow them to help themselves (and the rest of society) through paid employment. CAP's Living Ghosts campaign has been busy mobilising churches and the media to make the case to MPs and Government.

This year we met two Immigration Ministers and had motions in the House of Commons and the Assembly of Wales. The Government received 5,000 of our campaign cards. We helped the the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Commission on Urban Life & Faith to speak out. We have had regular coverage throughout the church press and radio, as well as occasional broadsheet coverage.

Crucial to our future success is our key role in initiating the Still Human Still Here campaign, which brings together the skills and constituencies of other outraged organisations. There is now greater awareness of the plight of people refused asylum – a crucial step towards changing the Government's policy.





Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
(Hebrews 13:2)

Thrive

Thrive is the first pilot in a UK context of the **Sustainable Livelihoods** approach, developed overseas.

The livelihoods approach takes people as the starting point and examines how their strengths are enhanced or inhibited by political structures. These strengths are in five areas which are required to build up a livelihood which is sustainable.

The initiative, in the borough of Stockton, has moved onto its second phase, with a team of volunteer researchers doing a household analysis in the area of Newtown. This round of work is aimed once again at raising the profile of poverty in Stockton and engaging service providers and power holders with evidence for the ways in which local services should be designed and delivered. It also represents a way in which local people can become active in being agents of change around the issues they face. Thrive is also continuing to set up a listening service in Thornaby.

For more information on the Sustainable Livelihoods approach, as used within international development, visit www.livelihoods.org, administered by the Institute for Development Studies.

Photos by Chris Worrall/Oxfam





Giving a voice to people in poverty

CAP wants all poor and marginalised people to have an effective voice in shaping decisions which affect their lives. In 2006–07, we worked towards this aim through:

- the **Changemakers** project (see below);
- pioneering **Participatory Budgeting** work (see page 10);
- a **National Poverty Hearing** (see page 12).

Changemakers

The Changemakers programme is essentially about enabling people to create their own political spaces from which to address their issues, in situations where being invited into other people's political spaces has not helped.

There is growing interest among people from faith communities and refugee organisations in developing the Changemakers initiative into a city-wide project in Manchester. CAP is developing a partnership with the Gamaliel Foundation

in the US, who have helped us with two 48-hour training programmes – one in June and the other in September – which have raised a lot of energy and commitment towards this goal.





Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a way to give people a bigger say in how money is spent in their communities. It was pioneered in Brazil to involve people at a grassroots level in public budgeting decisions.

PB is an embodiment of direct, deliberative democracy, empowering people to make a difference for themselves and their communities. Where PB has been instituted effectively, there have been real improvements in the lives of the poorest. CAP's PB Unit has been working on developing PB in Britain for the last five years.

The Unit has been helping local councils to run pilot PB schemes in many places for some time now. In 2006, there were some significant developments. Salford City Council have held a participative event around spending some mainstream highways department money. Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder project has held its first event to allocate funds. Newcastle City Council is now moving its PB focus from regeneration money to mainstream funds.

Extensive background information on Participatory Budgeting and the PB Unit can be found at www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk.





"Residents can participate successfully."

"I was given more understanding of how money is spent in the area and a chance to vote on where the money can go."





National Poverty Hearing

The National Poverty Hearing, held in Westminster Central Hall on Wednesday 6 December 2006, was a unique event that brought together a diverse group of over 400 senior politicians, high profile/influential policy makers and opinion formers in the media and public life, national and grassroots anti-poverty, faith and civil society groups.

The Hearing included a range of testimonies and presentations on child and older peoples' poverty, in- and out-of-work poverty, homelessness and asylum destitution. There were responses from, amongst others, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks and Muhammad Abdul Bari, General Secretary for the Muslim Council of Great Britain; Stephen Timms MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Oliver Letwin MP, Conservative Policy Director.

The event was organised by CAP in conjunction with a wide range of partners including Age Concern, ATD Fourth World, Barnardo's, Church Urban Fund, End Child Poverty, Help the Aged, Oxfam, the Refugee Council, the Scottish Poverty Alliance, Shelter, the UK Coalition Against Poverty and Unison. It secured good media coverage on BBC 1, Radio 4 and in the *Times* and *Guardian* newspapers.

"Please would you pass on thanks and congratulations for an excellent day ... I do hope it has a really powerful impact."

Revd Nicholas Sagovsky, Canon Theologian, Westminster Abbey



“We were extremely moved by what we heard and determined to take the work forward.”


*Eileen Devaney, Coordinator,
UK Coalition Against Poverty*



Mobilising churches to overcome poverty

CAP wants the churches to actively promote a “bias to the poor” both internally and externally, and to form alliances with those of good will from all faiths and none. In 2006–07 we have worked towards this aim through:

- promoting **Poverty Action Sunday** throughout the UK, and developing the **Just Church** programme (see opposite);
- holding an **annual conference**;
- **recruiting and supporting members** through outreach to churches;
- helping **local CAP groups** to grow and build capacity.



National Poverty Hearing

December, 2006



Just Church?

What can we do to put tackling UK poverty centre-stage in our churches' lives? How can we be more **Just Churches** in our worship, our work with children, our personal lifestyles, our local communities and our wider political engagement?



Responding to poverty on our own doorstep – in a society in which inequalities between rich and poor continue to grow – is no less of a challenge than promoting trade justice for people in poverty on the other side of the globe.

Just Church is a new programme being developed by Church Action on Poverty, with a range of partners from Faithworks to the Iona Community. It will enable local churches to engage more effectively with poverty on our own doorstep. **Just Church** was also the theme for Poverty Action Sunday – 18 February 2007 – when churches across the UK were invited to reflect on how to bring these concerns into the heart of their lives as church communities.

Where love is denied: let love break through.
Where justice is destroyed: let righteousness rule.
Where hope is crucified: let faith persist.
Where peace is no more: let yearning live on.
Where truth is denied: let the struggle continue.
Giver of life, we wait with you to bear your hope to our own and earth's darkest places.

Prayer for Poverty Action Sunday



An effective and sustainable organisation

We aim to model best practice in governance and delivery of our programmes, and ensure our own ability to take forward our mission into the future. In 2006–07 we have worked towards this goal through:

- a major **fundraising** programme;
- smooth running of our **office and finances**;
- regular **supervision and performance objectives** for all staff;
- improved quarterly and annual **reporting** to our Council of Management;
- carrying out a complete **stocktake and review** (see opposite).

“If CAP can continue to build its contacts across the whole church, then it can represent the whole church and have a greater impact.”

Jon Kuhrt, Shaftesbury Society



CAP Stocktake and Review

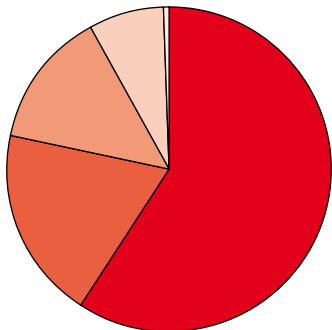
During 2006 we carried out a fundamental review of CAP's direction, in order to maximise our impact on the churches, poverty and exclusion in the UK. The Review confirmed that CAP has a clear and distinctive role to play in working with churches, people in poverty, and other organisations. We can have a significant impact, especially through developing alliances with other groups, for example via the Debt on our Doorstep network, and Living Ghosts campaign. We now have a sound financial basis for moving forward, but must build on our recent successes to ensure this continues to be the case.

The Review has given CAP a much clearer focus. Over the next 5–10 years we will continue to play to our strengths in campaigning, mobilising churches and giving a voice to people in poverty. We will develop a network of local partners and build on our track record of campaigning on debt and asylum destitution, promoting Participatory Budgeting and other ways to empower local communities to identify long-term solutions to poverty. We will continue to increase our profile within the churches, including particular efforts to expand our support within evangelical churches. We will build a small but strong staff team, and continue to build up size and diversity of our core income to ensure long-term financial sustainability.



Finance

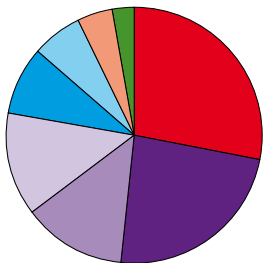
Income: where our money came from in 2006–07



Grants	£266,058
Donations	£85,563
Fees	£61,705
Membership subscriptions	£34,080
Other	£1,452
Total	£448,858

Expenditure: how we spent it

Campaigns & events	£115,980
Participation For Change	£96,616
Changemakers	£54,808
National Poverty Hearing	£53,605
Thrive	£34,567
Living Ghosts	£26,248
Just Church	£10,287
Other	£19,344
Total	£411,455



Copies of our full audited accounts are available on request.

