



**CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY**

VOICES FROM THE EDGE

Annual Review 2009

A message from the Chairperson

For many people, living or working on the edge can be a frightening experience – but for those in the church, this should not be the case. It is from the edge where we should make our voices heard loud and clear. This has been the case for Church Action on Poverty over the last 27 years, as we have worked hard at giving the folk who live on the edge and those treated unfairly a voice, enabling them to speak out for themselves.

As a general election looms on the horizon, and that horizon gets ever closer, it is important that the voice of Church Action on Poverty and our supporters continues to boom out within society, and more importantly within the churches, encouraging them to sign up to the Get Fair campaign, to work for a society where there is justice for the poor and marginalised.

Revd Lewis Rose



Poverty is an injustice

- 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.

We have three aims in all our work:

- To enable people in poverty to develop more **sustainable livelihoods**.
- To help give a **voice** to people experiencing poverty.
- To **mobilise churches** to work with others to overcome poverty.

**If you oppress the poor,
you insult their Creator**

Proverbs 14:31

VOICES FROM THE EDGE

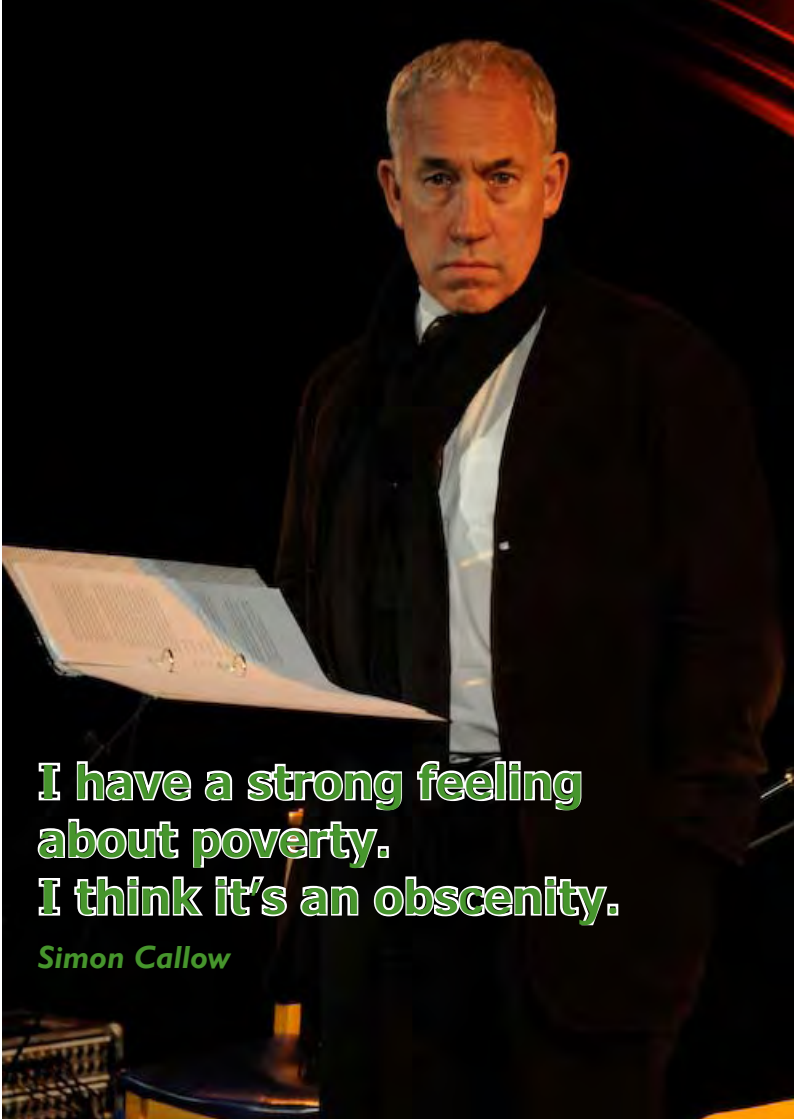
For Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2009, we collaborated with Housing Justice, Scottish Churches Housing Action and Actors for Human Rights.

- We commissioned a special play, *Voices from the Edge*, based on real people's stories of poverty.
- Churches and projects around the UK staged over 100 local events, from Sunday services to dramatic performances.
- There were 10 professional performances of the play in high-profile theatres. Well-known actors including Simon Callow and Louise Jameson took part.
- Thousands of people learned about the realities of poverty in the UK today and were challenged to act.

www.actionweek.org.uk

**poverty &
homelessness
action week**

Simon Callow (Four Weddings and a Funeral) appears in a performance of Voices from the Edge at the Union Chapel in London



**I have a strong feeling
about poverty.
I think it's an obscenity.**

Simon Callow

GET FAIR



We have continued to play a leading role in Get Fair, a coalition of over 60 organisations calling for an end to UK poverty. 238 MPs were lobbied by activists. Many have now signed a Poverty Pledge, and we will hold them to their promises in the upcoming General Election!

www.getfair.org.uk



Prominent MPs including Nick Clegg (above) have signed our Pledge. On the right is CAP Chair Lewis Rose at the launch of Get Fair Scotland.

Without your help and support, our efforts as Government, however determined they may be, will not have the impact for which we all hope

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP



GET FAIR SCOTLAND 2009

THE POVERTY PLEDGE

As the leaders of the political parties represented in the Scottish Parliament and other elected parties represented in Scotland:

- ✓ We have agreed to work together to ensure that the Scottish Government will be able to meet its obligations to the people of Scotland.
- ✓ We have agreed to work together to ensure that the Scottish Government will be able to meet its obligations to the people of Scotland.
- ✓ We have agreed to work together to ensure that the Scottish Government will be able to meet its obligations to the people of Scotland.

(The document contains numerous handwritten signatures and names, including Gordon Brown, and several checkmarks indicating agreement.)

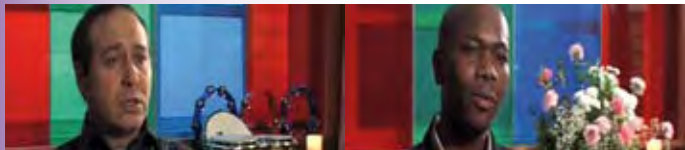
Change Makers

Our ChangeMakers project uses broad-based community organising techniques to give a voice to people in poverty.

We empower people from deprived communities with leadership training, and help them to build a coalition of groups. Working together, they have a stronger voice and can engage with people in power to bring about change.

A ChangeMakers coalition is now working actively in Manchester. We are also building support for a coalition in Bradford, and developing our Thrive project into a full coalition for Stockton-on-Tees.

www.changemakersmanchester.org.uk



These images come from our special video, Empowered Voices, which shows people sharing their stories of ChangeMakers. See it on the website.



The ChangeMakers training inspired me ... I said, "Wow, I have to do something to bring about change"

Sylvester Thomas, Manchester Refugee Support Network



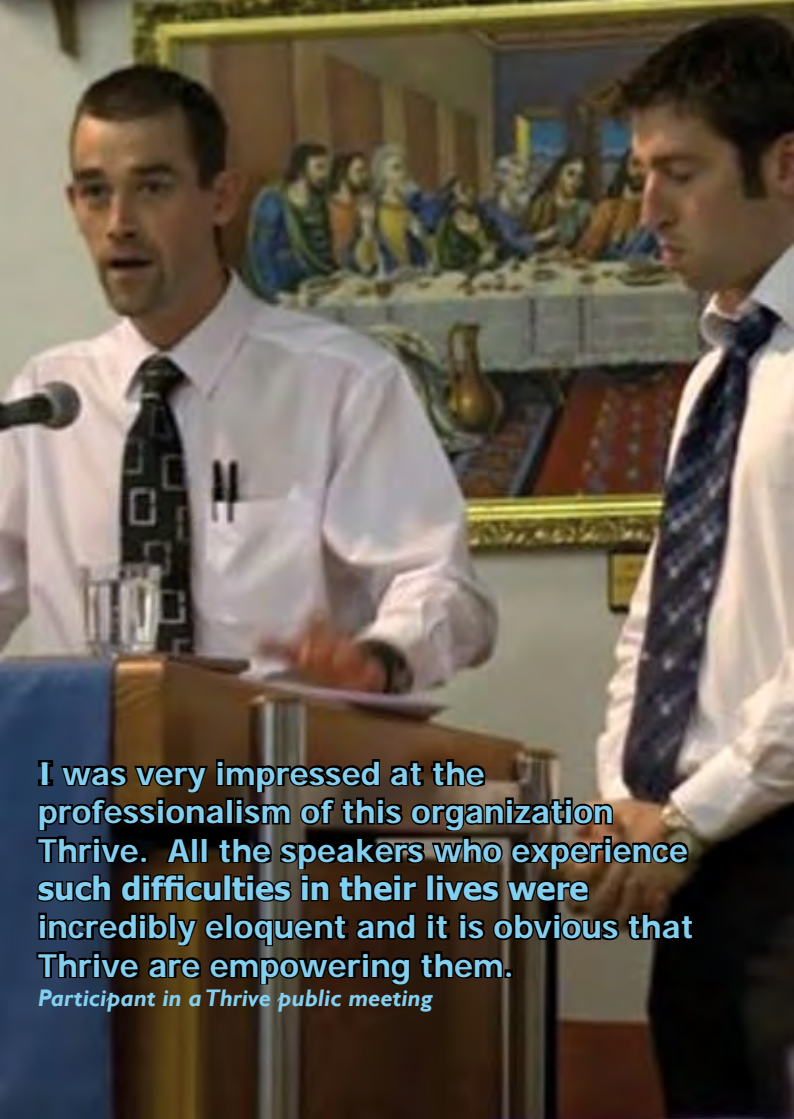
Thrive is our project in Stockton-on-Tees, working closely with people from some of the borough's most deprived communities. We use two innovative approaches – sustainable livelihoods and community organising – to empower local people to take public action to improve their livelihoods.

Public meetings organised by Thrive have led to concrete action and improved services from the JobCentre, the police and the local Financial Inclusion Forum. People involved in Thrive have shared their stories on national TV and radio, helping to raise awareness and challenge prejudices.

www.thrive-stockton.org.uk



Thrive public meetings enable people to tell their stories and have their voices heard.



I was very impressed at the professionalism of this organization Thrive. All the speakers who experience such difficulties in their lives were incredibly eloquent and it is obvious that Thrive are empowering them.

Participant in a Thrive public meeting



Our Participatory Budgeting Unit enables people – especially in poor communities – to have a say in how public money is spent in their area.

We are working with central Government and local authorities across the UK to introduce participatory budgeting (PB) techniques, which allow local people to get involved in deciding how to regenerate and improve their communities.

Over 70 local projects are already underway, and 20 more are planned. We have also begun introducing PB principles into new areas, such as policing and the health service.

www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk



Participatory budgeting events give everyone in the community a chance to have a say in decisions that affect them.



We're delighted that [the children] feel they have had a voice in making and influencing decisions – that they have seen the way the democratic process works

A Morecambe resident after their PB event

Living Ghosts



This is our campaign to change the Government policies that cause the destitution of people who come to the UK seeking sanctuary.

Our grassroots supporters in churches, together with some high-profile church leaders, have put pressure on MPs, ministers, and the media on this issue. We have also worked closely with the Refugee Council, Amnesty International and others. There have been some positive changes, including increased secondary healthcare provision and support for child asylum-seekers.

We also worked with a Churches Together group from the Cardiff area to organise a garden around the theme of Sanctuary. It won awards at the Cardiff and Birmingham garden shows, and made thousands of show-goers more aware of the problems faced by people seeking asylum in the UK.

www.church-poverty.org.uk/livingghosts

Bishop David Urquhart meets Gerald, who came to the UK from Zimbabwe seeking sanctuary, at the Birmingham Gardeners' World show



**We must not allow stereotyping
and stigma to strip [people seeking
asylum] of the dignity given
to them by their creator,
our loving God**

Bishop David Urquhart



Towards the end of the year, we were delighted to welcome Community Pride Initiative into the fold as a unit of Church Action on Poverty.

Originally set up by CAP, Community Pride has worked for many years with excluded communities in the North West. Their Schools of Participation empower marginalised or excluded people to play a more active role in society.

As part of Church Action on Poverty, Community Pride will continue to work alongside marginalised groups – particularly through the Take Part Pathfinder programme in Salford.

www.takepartsalford.org.uk



Community Pride work with some of the most marginalised groups in society, for example deaf-blind people.



Our supporters – building a just church and a just world

Church Action on Poverty's grassroots network of individual Christians and local churches across the UK is absolutely vital to our work.

- We have **local groups** in many cities. Our new Barnsley group has grown, holding an ambitious Action Week event attended by local MPs and councillors.
- Many local churches are using our free **Just Church** programme to explore ways of making a greater commitment to tackling poverty and exclusion.

www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups

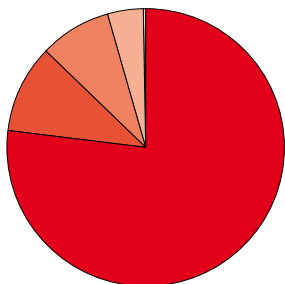
www.justchurch.org.uk



CAP Coordinator Niall Cooper presents a certificate to Trinity Church in Moss Side, Manchester on their completion of a Just Church programme.

Finance

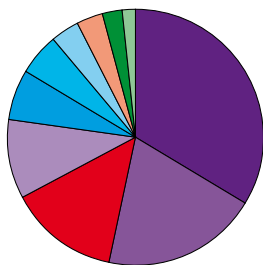
Income: where our money came from in 2008–09



Grants	£659,137
Donations	£86,198
Fees	£72,184
Membership subscriptions	£34,987
Bank interest	£1,466
Total	£853,972

Expenditure: how we spent it

Participatory budgeting	£253,452
ChangeMakers	£146,556
Campaigns & events	£104,663
Community Pride	£75,000
Thrive	£47,453
Get Fair	£40,973
Living Ghosts	£26,665
Governance & fundraising	£24,673
Action Week	£19,026
Just Church	£11,150
Total	£749,611



Copies of our full audited accounts are available on request.

Make a regular commitment

Use this side of the form if you wish to make a regular donation to support CAP's work. We depend on committed givers like you!

Turn over if you want to make a one-off donation.

STANDING ORDER

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

To the Manager of (Your Bank): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Sortcode: _____

Please pay Church Action on Poverty (Charity No. 1079986) £_____ every month at National Westminster Bank PLC, 33 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1LR (sortcode: 01/06/88, account no: 01125508). Please debit my account number _____ starting on _____ and until further notice.

Signature: _____

- I am a UK taxpayer and would like CAP to treat my donations as Gift Aid. (If you tick this box we can claim an extra £2.82 for every £10 you donate. You must pay income tax or capital gains tax sufficient to cover the amount CAP reclaims. If your circumstances change, please contact the CAP office.)
- I am donating at least £18 per year (£3.50 per year if unwaged) and would like to be a member of CAP. This gives you a say in the election of our Council of Management, and means that you are liable for £1 if CAP should fail.



Return to CAP, Central Buildings, Oldham Street,
Manchester M1 1JQ

Acknowledgements

Council of Management 2008–09

Sarah Baker, Frances Ballin, Elspeth Brighton, Millicent Dews, John Freeman, Julie Green, Wayne Green, Helen Hood, Alison Jackson, Chris Lawrence-Pietroni, Brian O'Neill, Cath Mahoney, Richard Marx, Bandi Mbubi, Norbert Mbu-Mputu, David Price, Lewis Rose, Val Simcock, Adrian Smith, David Stretton, Rose Tyrrell, Jackie Worthington.

CAP staff and volunteers 2008–09

Janet Ashton, Greg Brown, Alan Budge, Diana Campbell, Niall Cooper, Adam Dickson, Sarah Dumbleton, Liz Firth, Jez Hall, Ruth Jackson, Jenny Lazarus, Ocia Koranteng, Joshua Mutebe, Aurelija Polocenkaite, Liam Purcell, Lorraine Shaw, David Stott, Alan Thornton, Tom Viita, Mark Waters, Alexan Westlake.

Thanks

Church Action on Poverty wishes to thank all our members and supporters for your continued support throughout the year. Without you our work would not be possible. Unfortunately, there is not enough room to thank everybody, but we would like to make special mention of the following:

Anchor Foundation, Baptist Union, Eaga Partnership Trust, Ebico, Friends Provident Foundation, John Grant Davies Trust, John Laing Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, LankellyChase Foundation, Leigh Trust, MB Reckitt Trust, The Methodist Church, Open Theology Trust, Oxfam, Rowan Charitable Trust, Scurrah Wainwright Charity, Sherburn House Charity, Society of Jesus, Trust Greenbelt, United Reformed Church, Waterside Trust.

Help us to MAKE VOICES HEARD!

- **Make a donation or become a committed giver**
Use the fold-out form inside – or visit www.church-poverty.org.uk/give
- **Receive updates by email or Twitter**
www.church-poverty.org.uk/getinvolved
- **Join a local group** – or set up your own
www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups
- **Become a Just Church**
www.justchurch.org.uk
- **Tell them it's time to Get Fair**
www.getfair.org.uk
- **Run an Action Week event**
www.actionweek.org.uk



**CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY**

Central Buildings, Oldham Street,
Manchester M1 1JQ
0161 236 9321 • info@church-poverty.org.uk

A company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales.
Number 3780243. Charity number 1079986.