



taking action locally

Thank you for your interest in encouraging more Church Action on Poverty activity in your community.

There are many ways of getting churches and people involved. This leaflet suggests some ideas you could consider. Our team, will be very happy to help with your plans, and to visit and support you as you take action.

Starting a group

Local groups of Church Action on Poverty supporters can have a real impact on poverty in their community – and build support for our national campaigns.

Local groups usually meet monthly, to bring together a core group of people from across a town or area, and organise one or two activities each year that engage a wider group of people. Our current groups are listed at www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups.

Overleaf you'll find ideas for activities you could use to bring people together – whether or not you want to create a formal group.



Nick Waterfield is a former chair of Church Action On Poverty in Sheffield

The Sheffield group brings

Church Action on Poverty

campaigns to life in our

own city and communities

Ideas for action

Ask your church to give, act and pray

Each year, the last Sunday before Lent is Church Action on Poverty Sunday.

Why not get your church to take part?



**Church Action
on Poverty
Sunday**

- Hold a **collection or soup lunch** to raise funds for tackling poverty.
- Use our **worship materials** to reflect and pray for change.

Sign up and get resources at
www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

Tell us your plans and we'll spread the word to other Church Action on Poverty supporters in your area!
Email liamp@church-poverty.org.uk

Could you open a Local Pantry?

Pantries soften the blow of high living costs and create the conditions for communities to grow and thrive, by bringing people together around food. They operate as membership food clubs and neighbourhood hubs.



You could be part of it. Over half of the Pantries in the network are run by churches. If your church wants to build community and connection while tackling food poverty, perhaps you could open a Pantry too!

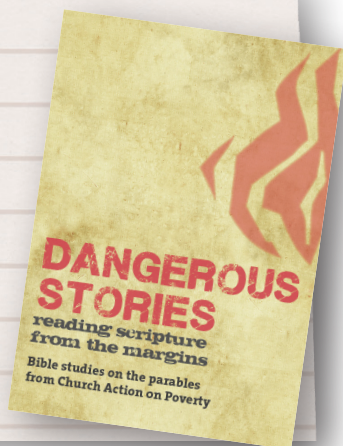
Find out more at
www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk

Get a group to discuss and reflect

Bringing together a group of people to discuss, reflect and pray about UK poverty can be a great starting point for further action. Church Action on Poverty has resources to help you explore the issues:

- Run a short **workshop** or give a **presentation**.
- Use our *Scripture from the Margins* **Bible studies**.

Get discussion and workshop materials at
www.church-poverty.org.uk/pray/programmes



Organise a Poverty Pilgrimage

Since 2009, Church Action on Poverty's local group in Sheffield has organised an annual Pilgrimage event. Local people walk and pray together, visiting churches and projects in the community, and learning about their work to tackle poverty locally.

A Pilgrimage is a great way to bring people together and motivate them to take action to tackle poverty. It also raises awareness of the work already being done by churches on the ground.

Could you organise a Pilgrimage in your community?

Get inspiration – read about the Sheffield Pilgrimages at www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups/sheffield



Organise a civic breakfast

Each year, our local group in Sheffield invites local church leaders, charities and politicians to meet over breakfast and hear about a local issue of poverty or injustice.

It's a great way to engage with local decision-makers and make a real difference. If you already have some local contacts, perhaps you could plan a similar event of your own.



Spread the word

If there aren't many other supporters of Church Action on Poverty in your community, you could start by raising awareness of our work and getting more people involved.

We have posters to display in your church, news updates that you can print and share, and postcards you can give to friends.

Get publicity materials at www.church-poverty.org.uk/posters



Get started!

We hope these ideas will inspire you to bring people together and start tackling poverty in your community.

Do let us know about your plans, and we will help you in any way we can. We could:

- Provide resources and publications
- Put you in touch with other Church Action on Poverty supporters and churches in the area
- Help to publicise your activities
- Send someone to give a talk, run a workshop, or help with your planning

Just get in touch and let us know what you need!



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on Poverty**

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