

Regional  
gatherings –  
see back cover!



# spark

news from Church Action on Poverty  
autumn 2019



## Ending UK Hunger - what's the plan?

We support  
**END  
HUNGER**  
UK



A portrait of a man with glasses and a beard, identified as Martin, looking directly at the camera. The background is a solid red color.

# speaking **TRUTH** to **POWER**

Through our  
gifts and  
prayers, we  
can help  
people like  
Martin take  
opportunities  
to speak truth  
to power

I just snack, I don't eat proper meals.

The children always come first

and I just eat small bits here and there.

**Church Action on Poverty Sunday**  
**23 February 2020**

Order a resource pack at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday)  
or call 0161 872 9294



# speaking truth to power



'Speaking truth to power' has always been at the heart of Church Action on Poverty's work. Our Director **Niall Cooper** explains how it will feature even more prominently over the coming months.

**I**n a time of political turmoil, when the whole idea of 'speaking truth' seems to have been devalued, it is all the more important for the rest of us to speak up for values of truth and justice in public life.

Whether it is Heather and Penny from Newcastle (page 8) or Mary and Sydnie from York (page 11), people with direct personal experience of poverty have a powerful role to play in 'speaking truth to power.' Part of our role is to enable them to do so, powerfully and effectively, via the national media and directly to politicians and others who wield power in society.

But all of us have a role to play in 'speaking truth to power', in amplifying the voices of people like Heather and Penny,

or in adding our own voices to the call for Government action to end hunger in the UK, as part of the End Hunger UK campaign (page 6).

World Food Day (16 October) and Church Action on Poverty Sunday (23 February) provide an opportunity to encourage our churches and congregations to reflect on the challenge of speak truth to power in prayer and worship.

Finally, if you are interested in finding out more about how we will be taking forward the theme of Speaking Truth to Power in the wider work of Church Action on Poverty over the coming year, why not come along to one of our regional gatherings this autumn (see back page for further details)?

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## give

**Raise funds on Church Action on Poverty Sunday**

See the enclosed leaflet

## act

**Call for a plan to End Hunger in the UK on World Food Day**

See page 6

## pray

**Hold a service for World Food Day**

See page 14



# news

## A fond farewell...

This autumn, Church Action on Poverty is sad to say goodbye to Janet Gee (right).

Janet retired this summer after managing our membership database and the admin for our Manchester headquarters for the past 28 years. If you have attended a Church Action on Poverty event, or called our office with an enquiry, the chances are that you were helped and supported by Janet.

She has worked with two of our three directors, and helped Church Action on Poverty to smoothly deliver many programmes that have really helped to loosen the grip of poverty in the UK. She was here for our National Poverty Hearings; for the Pilgrimage Against Poverty in 1999; for the Debt On Our Doorstep campaign that first brought public attention to rip-off lenders; and for many other vital campaigns. We are grateful for all she has done, and we will miss her a great deal.



## ... and a welcome

Gloria Martin (left) took over as our new Office Manager and Membership Administrator at the start of September, and we are delighted to welcome her to the Church Action on Poverty team.



## Your Local Pantry is growing

Several new 'Your Local Pantry' member-run food stores joined our growing national network over the summer. Pantries opened at the Intact Centre in Preston on 19 June, and at Dusty Forge in Cardiff on 9 July. Yardley Wood Baptist Church in Birmingham is due to open another store soon.

Visit [www.church-poverty.org.uk/pantry](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/pantry) to find out how Your Local Pantry loosens the grip of food poverty, and watch video messages from recent Pantry openings.

## Poverty: not a laughing matter

Church Action on Poverty is proud to be supporting the new Manchester Poverty Truth Commission, which was launched on 27 June at the Manchester Comedy Store. Grassroots commissioners shared powerful stories about their experiences of poverty, and began the process of working together with commissioners from public life to find ways of unlocking poverty in Manchester.

Follow @TruthPoverty on Twitter to learn more about what the Commission is doing.



# events

## Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield 11th annual Pilgrimage, 12 October

A morning of walking and visits to projects tackling poverty locally. Learn about the community work of Madina Mosque and Heeley Christ Church; Heeley City Farm; St Vincent de Paul; and St Wilfrid's. Find out more at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups/sheffield](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups/sheffield)

## World Food Day, 16 October

Call for an End to Hunger in the UK – hold a photo stunt, organise a church service, or knit food to send a message!

Find out how you can be part of it on page 6.

We support  
**END HUNGER UK**

## Regional gatherings, November

Get together with other Church Action on Poverty supporters in your region to share ideas and how our projects are loosening the grip of poverty where you are. See the back cover or the enclosed leaflet for more details. Or visit [www.church-poverty.org.uk/truthtopower](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/truthtopower)



# we are stronger together



**Sarah McLoughlin** of Nesta explains why they are funding and supporting Church Action on Poverty's Self-Reliant Groups (SRG) programme. (A longer version of this article first appeared on Nesta's blog at [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk).)

**P**overty destroys lives and communities and we have to find a way to eradicate it for good. The SRG movement is one of the most exciting, asset-based programmes that has emerged in the community development sector in the past few years, and has the potential to radically improve the lives of many more people and move them from a life of poverty to a life full of possibilities.

SRGs are small groups of people (4 to 10) who come from a shared economic and/or social background to support each other and develop friendships. They meet regularly and agree to start saving, rotating leadership and responsibility, learning together and sharing skills. Many of them start a small business which, in time, will help them earn an income to support themselves and their families.

The regular meeting of the group develops a sense of purpose and ownership among members from the outset. Members can rely on each other and are encouraged to offer peer support and development opportunities, further enhancing a shared responsibility and accountability within the group. Through the SRG way of working, group members believe that helping themselves, each other and together creating opportunities for change and enterprise in their local communities, is the best way forward.

The SRG model is well tested – having foundations in the Self Help Group (SHG) movement in India which was founded in the 1970s, and is now a national movement where it is transforming rural and urban communities with thousands of active groups. The *Times of India* recently highlighted that “the social capital of SHGs could be an asset for solving various social issues in India”.

The SRG movement in the UK was sparked by a Church of Scotland initiative called Passage from India (now WEvolution) in 2011 when 13 women from across the UK visited established SHGs in India. The SHG model was then adapted to the UK, becoming SRGs. Over the last 5 years there has been some exciting growth of the SRG model throughout Scotland, and with partners in England, Wales and elsewhere (helped in part by funding from Nesta and DCMS). There are now 90 emerging and operational SRGs UK wide. The success of this growing movement has led to an interest in the way SRGs can be supported to address a range of social and economic issues.

On the potential benefits of SRGs, Niall Cooper, Director at Church Action on Poverty, said:

“I would emphasise at least as strongly the fact that SRGs improve people's social circumstances as well as economic ones. In sustainable livelihood terms, SRGs boost peoples own personal assets of self-confidence, capacity and agency, and significantly increase social assets/capital through the common bond of the SRG and the sense of being part of a wider movement. In anti-poverty terms, this can be hugely empowering and transformative.”

## Self-Reliant Groups

Church Action on Poverty is supporting 16 Self-Reliant Groups in Greater Manchester with 103 active SRG members, and several new groups are emerging.

During the past few months, SRG members have been meeting up across Greater Manchester in joint social events, sharing food and friendship and generally inspiring each other. One new recent initiative has been a monthly evening gathering at a café in central Manchester. SRGs have the use of the kitchen where they take turns to cook for each other. SRGs share their progress over delicious food and can bring their products to show or sell. They can also invite people who want to know more about the SRG movement. At the last gathering, 32 meals were served, and already one new SRG has emerged from the event!

In June, a party of 20 people (see photo) travelled to the national Peer Gathering in Glasgow held by our partner organisation WEvolution, and made connections with SRG members from Scotland, Wales, South West England and Holland!

For more information about the SRG movement, contact [joyce@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:joyce@church-poverty.org.uk)





# End UK Hunger: what's the plan?

We support  
**END HUNGER UK**



End Hunger Community Campaigner **Annie Connolly** explains how you can keep up the pressure for action to loosen the grip of hunger and poverty, even in this time of political turmoil.



## Making our vision a reality

End Hunger UK's vision has always been of a UK in which everyone can afford good food, and no one has to go to bed hungry. Food banks, community meals and soup kitchens are absolutely essential at the moment in that they are helping people in times of crisis, but household food insecurity is caused by poverty, not too little food.

As such, the End Hunger UK campaign is about the underlying causes of food poverty – inadequate income caused by insecure and low-paid work, a broken welfare system and rising costs. Over the last few months we have been working on how best to achieve our vision, and we are going to put our weight as an alliance behind one thing – we are challenging UK Government and all the political parties to commit to a goal of ending UK hunger by 2030; to an intermediate target of halving household food insecurity by 2025, and to setting out a concrete plan for how they propose to achieve this.



## What you can do

### World Food Day, 16 October 2019

We are launching this next phase of the campaign on World Food Day, Wednesday 16 October 2019, in which we will be calling on Government to end hunger.

We are asking local groups to join with us in calling for an end to hunger in the UK by doing a simple photo stunt for the local media and for us to use on social media. This will involve a group of people holding up a message, and taking a photo. It's very easy! We will send you all you need. If you are interested, find more info on the End Hunger website – [www.endhungeruk.org](http://www.endhungeruk.org).

### Knitting to fight food poverty

When there is a general election we plan to welcome all the new or returning MPs with a knitted foodstuff and our demand that UK hunger is ended by 2030. If you are good with those knitting needles or that crochet hook, you can join the many people around the country who have been busy making woolly apples, fried eggs, cupcakes and even peas in a pod! There is more info and some free patterns at [www.endhungeruk.org/weekofaction2019/knitfood](http://www.endhungeruk.org/weekofaction2019/knitfood)

### Organise a worship service

Organise a worship service to support End Hunger UK on the Sunday before (or after) World Food Day.

See page 14 for some prayers to use. Or you can download a complete service outline, 'Faith that all can be fed' from the Church Action on Poverty website: [www.church-poverty.org.uk/pray/worship](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/pray/worship)



# Why is it important to end food poverty in the UK?

This might seem like a ridiculous question, but despite the UK pledging in 2015 to end hunger by 2030, there is currently no plan in place, by the Government or any of the major political parties, to do what is necessary to end food poverty in the UK.

So, how do we build a case to persuade policy-makers, the general public, and those in the media that we need a plan to halve household food insecurity by 2025? Here are seven good reasons:

## 1. Because it's the right thing to do

In a compassionate and just society, it cannot be right that people are unable to afford good food on a regular basis, and for anyone to have to go to bed hungry.

## 2. Children

All children should be able to eat 365 days of the year and live in families that are able to afford good food on a regular basis. Children's health, life chances and educational opportunities should not be damaged by hunger or the fear of hunger.

## 3. Security of income

All households should be able to afford good food on a regular basis from a combination of work and benefits, and to live free from the fear of destitution or hunger. This should be a core objective of the social security system.

## 4. Economics

Household food insecurity negatively impacts on health, educational attainment, reduces productivity, at a significant long term cost to individuals, Government and the country.

## 5. Human rights

The right to food is one of our most basic human rights, which everyone in the UK should be able to exercise. Government should progressively act to realise this for all people and disadvantaged groups in particular.

## 6. Health

Household food insecurity has damaging long-term consequences for the nation's health, including obesity, stress, mental health and other health conditions, placing additional pressure on an already overstretched NHS.

## 7. The political case

The growth of foodbanks has become politically damaging for Government. Publicly committing to reduce or end hunger in the UK would be popular with the public.

## Addressing the underlying causes of food poverty

We often say that food poverty is not an issue of food, but poverty – it is about not having enough money to be able to buy the food that we need for a nourishing diet.

So what is needed, to ensure that they are not locked in poverty?

1. More secure work
2. A level of benefits that allows people a decent standard of living
3. Access to good food for everyone
4. Financial support in times of crisis
5. Being able to access the benefits they are entitled to more quickly and easily
6. Reducing the extra costs that people on low income frequently pay for essential goods and services

The logo for End Hunger UK is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the words "END HUNGER" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "UK" in a smaller font size below "HUNGER". To the right of the text are three white diagonal lines of increasing length, suggesting a stylized flame or a signal. The entire logo is set against a black circular background.



# speaking truth to power



**Heather and Penny** from Newcastle know what it is like to live with poverty first-hand. With our support, they are working to tackle the injustice that trap them and other people in their neighbourhood of Byker in poverty and hunger. This is their story.

**I** **mag**ine a country with no food poverty. No need for food banks. No parents having to skip meals. No more hunger. It's not a pipe dream; it's what the UK has committed to achieving by 2030. But how do we get there? How do we create a just, compassionate society in which everyone has assured access to good food? How do we turn the aspiration into achievement?

As a starting point, the End Hunger UK campaign calls for a commitment to halving food poverty by 2025 (see page 6). The Government and all parties should commit to that goal, as a vital step towards ending hunger by 2030. That commitment will ensure the country makes progress early, tackling the underlying causes of hunger, redesigning the parts of the economy that aren't working properly, and building on the success of people and projects up and down the country who are achieving results on a small scale.

Policy-makers should start by talking to people like Penny and Heather, a mother and daughter in Byker, Newcastle. They have experienced poverty first-hand and seen it all around them among their friends and neighbours. Now they are tackling it head-on, working on new projects that will prevent countless others being swept into hunger.



## People-powered change: speaking out locally

Heather and Penny are part of Food Power Newcastle, one of 69 community alliances we are working with around the UK. The Food Power programme ([www.sustainweb.org/foodpower](http://www.sustainweb.org/foodpower)), run by Church Action on Poverty and Sustain, strengthens the ability of local communities to reduce food poverty in their own neighbourhoods and to tackle its root causes. By bringing together the alliances' shared knowledge, wisdom and experiences, the programme also helps to propel a growing movement for change.

Social change must be led by people with experience of the issues, and their insight must be at the forefront when it comes to solutions. Heather says:

**"We are the ones who have lived it, and who are dealing with it every day, so we know what is going on. Charities and organisations can only see so much, but they do not find out everything from people they are helping. We can know the whole story, from start to finish."**

Heather and Penny became involved in Food Power through the Byker Community Trust, a housing association in their neighbourhood, when they worked together on a community survey. They took part in initial community truth conversations, then met other campaigners and activists at the 2018 End Hunger UK conference and stepped up their efforts.



Heather Walters

**We are the ones who**

**have lived it, and who**

**are dealing with it every**

**day, so we know**

**what is going on**



## Telling their stories

Following the End Hunger conference, Heather, Penny and fellow group member Cath also spoke powerfully on Channel 4 News about the problems being caused by Universal Credit, and the anxiety it was causing in communities. Heather said:

“The experience we went through years ago has made us want to do something. 10 years ago I had just come out of college, my dad had just left so mum was working part time and paying the bills and I was paying for food. I was getting less Jobseeker’s Allowance, because I was under 25, and we were struggling then... What we do is bring all our local organisations and charities together so everyone knows what everyone else is doing, and everyone knows where they can signpost to other things. It’s about trying to connect everyone together.”



## Challenging unjust structures

A group from Food Power Newcastle travelled to the House of Lords in October 2018 to talk about food poverty and insecurity, and in July 2019 they met MPs Frank Field and Heidi Allen, who have been travelling the country to hear first-hand about the causes and impacts of hunger. They have also built up their skills by working with other groups, and in September this year they met fellow activists and experts from the United States to share ideas and experiences, at a conference in North Carolina. Heather says:

“This is about having those in power realising what it’s like to live like this, and how demoralising and horrible it can be, and for that to cause change. Changes that are going to be for the people, not necessarily for the Government, and realising that what they have been doing has been detrimental, and then trying to fix it. We want fewer people to be in food poverty.”

## Transforming and inspiring

Penny says the Food Power experience has been powerful for her personally, and says she is now motivated to speak for those who are rarely heard by the country’s decision makers.

“For me, it’s broadened my horizons and putting me front and foremost to help people who can’t do that. My campaigning is opening people’s eyes to the actual truth of what is going on, and how so many people feel – but they do not feel they can speak out so I do. When we went to the End Hunger UK conference in 2018, we just expected to turn up for the conference and talk to some people, and that would be it. I did not expect all the things it would lead to but it has been very exciting and I am pleased with what we have achieved, and certainly there is more yet to come.”

**My campaigning**

**is opening**

**people’s eyes**

**to the actual**

**truth of what is going on,**

**and how so many people feel**





# Strengthening the local safety net

Church Action on Poverty is working with **The Children's Society** on a campaign to ensure there is decent support available for people in crisis. We asked them to explain what it's about.

## Take action

The Children's Society has an interactive map on its website that shows you what the situation is in your area, and how you can contact your councillors and MPs to take action. Just visit [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/safetynet](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/safetynet)

In 2018, Church Action on Poverty also gathered data on crisis funds around the country, and found that the vital lifelines had become threadbare or had been removed in many cases. Funding has reduced by almost three quarters and many people in crisis now have nowhere to turn. We asked supporters to contact their councils and MPs, and many of you did so. As a result, the matter has been raised in Parliament. You can read more about this at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/compassion](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/compassion)

**W**hat would you do if you needed a new boiler but had no money in the bank? Or lost your job and didn't know how you were going to heat your home or feed your family?

We all would like to think that if the worst happened, there would be someone or something there to protect us. For some of us, that might be friends and family we could call on, or savings that could help us get out of a difficult situation. But there are many people for whom there are no savings, and no one they can turn to for help.

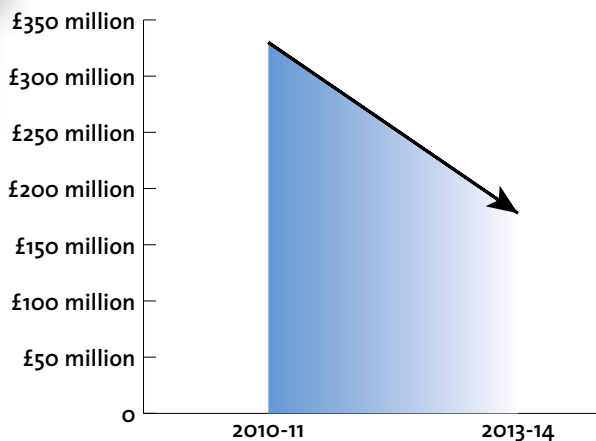
In these situations, a strong local safety net can help. Churches are part of a vital network of faith, voluntary, and community services that provide refuges, shelters, food, donations and advice to those in need. Along with council-run emergency funds, these schemes and projects provide a vital lifeline when crisis hits that can help prevent people spiralling into debt or destitution.

## Under threat

But with increasing financial pressure, and a lack of support from national Government, these schemes are facing unprecedented challenges. Since 2015, councils have not received ring-fenced funding for welfare provision. Inevitably this has had a devastating impact. One in every seven councils has had to close their welfare support scheme – and of those still running, two-thirds have cut their budgets.

This means fewer people can access the support they desperately need from their council. In turn, this is putting more pressure on voluntary and community services to plug the gaps.

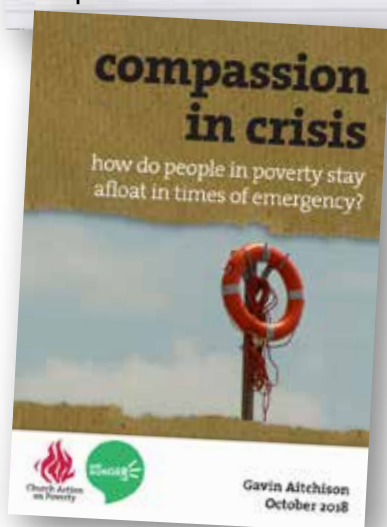
Help from volunteers cannot, and should not, entirely replace a well-functioning local safety net. And that's why we're taking action. The Children's Society, Church Action on Poverty, The Trussell Trust and others are working with churches like yours to tackle this hugely important issue. Your church might run a foodbank, or support families and vulnerable people living in poverty. As such, you are an important part of the local safety net.



Central Government funding for vital crisis support was cut by 41% between 2010-11 and 2013-14.

## The time for action is now

Autumn is a critical time to raise the importance of proper funding for local welfare support with councillors and MPs and push this up the agenda. Now is the time councils begin to plan budgets for the year ahead, and the Government sets out its spending plans nationally. This small but vital part of our incredible social security system is too important to be forgotten.





# Telling our own stories



**Gavin Aitchison** explains how mums with experience of food poverty have been sharing their stories in new ways, with our support.

**S**even local women took part in our new community reporters project, organise in partnership with York Food Justice Alliance. They recorded group conversations and short video diaries in their own time about the causes of food poverty, the impact it has, and possible solutions.

We are exploring this as a new way of ensuring that people's messages are as authentic as possible. Journalistic editing can often change or reduce someone's message, and there is also a risk that when charity staff or academics speak to people, they capture only a snapshot or set the topics too rigidly.

Might it be better, we wondered, if we just asked people to record what they wanted, when they wanted?

The initial results were powerful and impressive. Participants spoke in detail and very frankly about a wide range of topics, such as Universal Credit, in-work poverty, the difficulties in school holidays, the cost of fresh food, difficult household decisions such as keeping the heating turned down, and the feeling of having to use a food bank. They talked about their own situations and also spoke sensitively (and with personal details removed) about other people who they knew or had met. Tragically, one of the participants told how a near neighbour had recently died suddenly, while awaiting help with a PIP assessment. Shortly after their work on the video, two of the participants, Mary and Sydnie, also took part in a radio programme on BBC 5 Live about food poverty, sharing their experiences and solutions (see photo below).

You can see a compilation of the clips by searching for York Food Justice Alliance on YouTube, but here are a few comments from the film:

"There are so many people out there who are on the edges of disability, edges of poverty and actually on the edges of society that nobody is looking at."

"When I'd got that four weeks of no money, [awaiting Universal Credit], I'm paying it off for a very very long time."

"I come here to get fresh food, whatever I can get my hands on to feed my kids, and they come first before me."

"Fresh fruit is one of the things I obviously want to get into me and my kids but we end up being able to buy enough for maybe three days and then the rest of the week we end up eating rubbish"

"I'm already stressed to hell because I've got no money, I've got no way of earning any money at the moment above and beyond what we're already doing. I'm doing a second job already on top of the job I already do and my husband's doing as many hours as he physically can. My mum and dad are helping but there just is no more money."

## Make more voices heard

Church Action on Poverty is looking to replicate this community reporters project in Greater Manchester, and has begun working with a small group. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking part, please email [gavin@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:gavin@church-poverty.org.uk)





# Finding a focus: churches tackling poverty together

A local Churches Together group in North Wales found creative ways to be part of the movement to loosen the grip of poverty. We asked **Revd Kathryn Price**, a United Reformed Church minister, to share some of their experiences.

**W**ell, it was my turn to occupy the Chair of Mold Cytun (Churches Together) last year. Just for a year. It seemed to me that some new focus was needed that might take

us out of our little boxes.

Part of my remit as a minister is responsibility for Parkfields Community Centre (pictured). Parkfields used to be more active as an ecumenical centre for social action. There was a Peace and Justice group and every year a series of lunches with speakers on a range of subjects. Some of this had got lost when the Centre lost both leadership and income for a while, so I thought it was time to reboot.

I chose to focus on supporting Church Action on Poverty through the year because it offers a range of different approaches – worship, campaigning and real engagement with people on the edges. So how did we do? What did we do?

A very small group attended a meeting to think about this and came up with a rough plan for the year. We began with a lunch at the beginning of Advent, when diners were invited to bring stocking-fillers, which would be given to both the food bank and SHARE (a local charity that helps homeless people and refugees). It was moderately successful – the usual faces, but some new ones and half a dozen carrier bags of goodies to pass on, as well as superb soup!

I chose Church Action on Poverty because it offers a range of approaches – worship, campaigning and real engagement with people on the edges



Mold Cytun used our resources for Church Action on Poverty Sunday and Lent

The collection at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity united service was donated to Church Action on Poverty, with plenty of information to keep up the momentum. My Mold church used the special Sunday material, including a couple of the online videos, and promoted our ecumenical Lent group that used *Dangerous Stories*, Church Action on Poverty's take on some of the parables, as its material. The Easter coffee morning proceeds also went to Church Action on Poverty and my year as Chair ended with Niall Cooper coming to speak to the AGM.

It doesn't sound much, but the people who did get involved are also involved in so much else – in their own churches and also in the community. Some did find it helpful for us to have a particular focus when we came together.

What happens next? Well, we are hoping to get a new faith support worker at the Community Centre and part of their remit will be to engage with the issues that Church Action on Poverty focuses on and they will be encouraged to work with Church Action on Poverty, using their resources as well as their information and encouragement to make a real difference to our community. I hope that this person will be a champion for Church Action on Poverty in Mold. That's what it needs, when the rest of us are pulled in so many other directions.

Will that work? Ask me next year!



# church on the fringe?



**Hannah Brock** has been facilitating and supporting a new 'community of praxis' in Sheffield for Church Action on Poverty. She shares some thoughts from their first day of reflection in Sheffield, about what it means to be Church on the Margins.

# 14

people met at the wonderful Creswick Greave Methodist Church – home of the Parson Cross Initiative – this summer for a reflection day, and to get to

know one another.

We looked at different images of Jesus that appeal to us, and did a 'living Bible study' – thinking ourselves into roles in the story of Jesus healing a man with leprosy – which led us to think about who is at the margins of our society today. We had time to reflect on how people marginalised by society feel in our own church communities and discussed how we could work together in future.

It was a rich day, with opportunities to hear about how the Spirit is at work in different places in our society. Something that really stayed with me was the idea of 'church on the fringe': 'church on the margins' doesn't mean 'lesser' church – far from it. Like 'fringe' festivals, it can mean excitement, creativity and prophecy that challenges the status quo!



Our 'Church on the Margins' programme explores what it would truly mean for the church to become, in the words of Pope Francis, "a poor Church, for the poor".

Find out more at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/poorchurch](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/poorchurch)

Church Action on Poverty continues to support the Sheffield community of praxis, and we are preparing to launch another in Manchester. If you would like to find out more, please contact Sarah Purcell: [sarahd@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:sarahd@church-poverty.org.uk)

Church on the margins



# hungry for justice

We support  
**END HUNGER UK**

On World Food Day (16 October) we will be launching the next phase of the End Hunger UK campaign (see page 6). Here is a selection of prayers on the theme of 'hungry for justice' you could use personally or in Sunday worship around that date.

## Calls to worship

Come to the table  
...those who are hungry for food  
and those who are hungry for justice.

Come to the table  
...those who are afraid of the future  
and those who long to bring peace.

Come to the table  
...those who do not know their need  
and those who do not know their gifts.

Come gather,  
Here we talk and share  
Here we pray and laugh  
Here we plan and build  
Here together, all are welcome.  
God's Spirit is here.

Marie Pattison, Katherine House  
([www.katherinehousefcj.org](http://www.katherinehousefcj.org))

Loving God, we come to you, not because we  
have to, but because we get to.  
Not because it's Sunday, but because we want  
our lives to be full of worship.  
We bring ourselves, everything that we carry,  
and all that we are to you, this day.

**Amen**

Ruth Wilde, Rach Collins and Paul Parker, Student Christian Movement

## Confessions

If you asked us to walk in another's shoes and  
we did not  
Holy Spirit,

**Forgive us and give us your peace**

If you asked us to listen to another's story and  
we did not  
Holy Spirit,

**Forgive us and give us your peace**

If you asked us to witness an injustice and we  
did not  
Holy Spirit,

**Forgive us and give us your peace**

Forgive us and inspire us,  
to do the work you call us to,  
Empowered with confidence and hope.

Marie Pattison, Katherine House  
([www.katherinehousefcj.org](http://www.katherinehousefcj.org))

God, who created the heavens and the Earth,  
who placed the stars in the sky and who knows  
every creature. We come to worship you.

God, who loves each and every one of us. Who  
cares for us deeply and knows how many hairs  
are on our heads. We come to worship you.

God, who is just and true, who weeps for our  
broken world but never turns away from the  
hurting. We come to worship you.

We come now to confession. We say sorry for  
the things we have done and the things have  
not done. The times we saw injustice and didn't  
stand against it. The times we saw a need and  
walked by on the other side. The times our  
words hurt, rather than healed. We pray God of  
justice and mercy for our broken selves in your  
broken world. Believing that in Jesus our sins  
are forgiven, and we start each morning afresh  
in you. **Amen**

Ruth Wilde, Rach Collins and Paul Parker, Student Christian Movement





## Intercessions

We place our planet into your hands, the tides and seasons, the incredible way it sustains life, and the powerful way it affects our existence. We thank you that there is food for all. Help us to ensure that it is shared and not wasted.

We place our leaders into your hands, politicians and monarchs, church leaders and corporations. We pray for a just world, where your love and mercy reign, and all are protected, supported and nurtured.

We place our country into your hands, the people, the institutions and the way of life. We pray for those who are hungry this day, and those who have the power to change that. We pray for all those in poverty and all those fighting to end poverty.

We place our community into your hands, those we know and those we don't. Those who are in a time of great need right now. We pray we may be your hands and feet in this place.

We place ourselves into your hands, trusting that you know our needs, what we hunger and thirst for. We give ourselves to play our part in your plan.

We place this prayer into your hands, in Jesus' name. **Amen**

*Ruth Wilde, Rach Collins and Paul Parker, Student Christian Movement*

Come Holy Spirit

We live in a world where there is plenty for all,  
yet many are hungry  
Help us to share the riches you have given us  
Your kingdom come

**Your will be done.**

Come Holy Spirit

You give us a vision of better world  
Give wisdom to those with the power to  
change it

Your kingdom come

**Your will be done.**

Come Holy Spirit

You call us all to be prophets of your truth  
Inspire us to speak out for justice  
Your kingdom come

**Your will be done**

Come Holy Spirit

You heal the sick and bind up the  
broken-hearted

Lift up those who need your care

Your kingdom come

**Your will be done**

Come Holy Spirit

You bring peace to those who are afraid  
Send us out with your message of Hope  
Your kingdom come

**Your will be done**

*Marie Pattison, Katherine House  
(www.katherinehousefcj.org)*

## Dedication

God of Justice, we stand with you and with each other against poverty. Against the oppression and injustice that leads to people not having enough. We commit to doing our part, to make your world a more just place. Here we stand. Amen

*Ruth Wilde, Rach Collins and Paul Parker, Student Christian Movement*





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**The truth will  
set you free**

*John 8:32*