

40th anniversary
appeal – page 14



spark

news from Church Action on Poverty
summer 2022

What does the cost-of-
living crisis mean for
people in poverty?
page 6

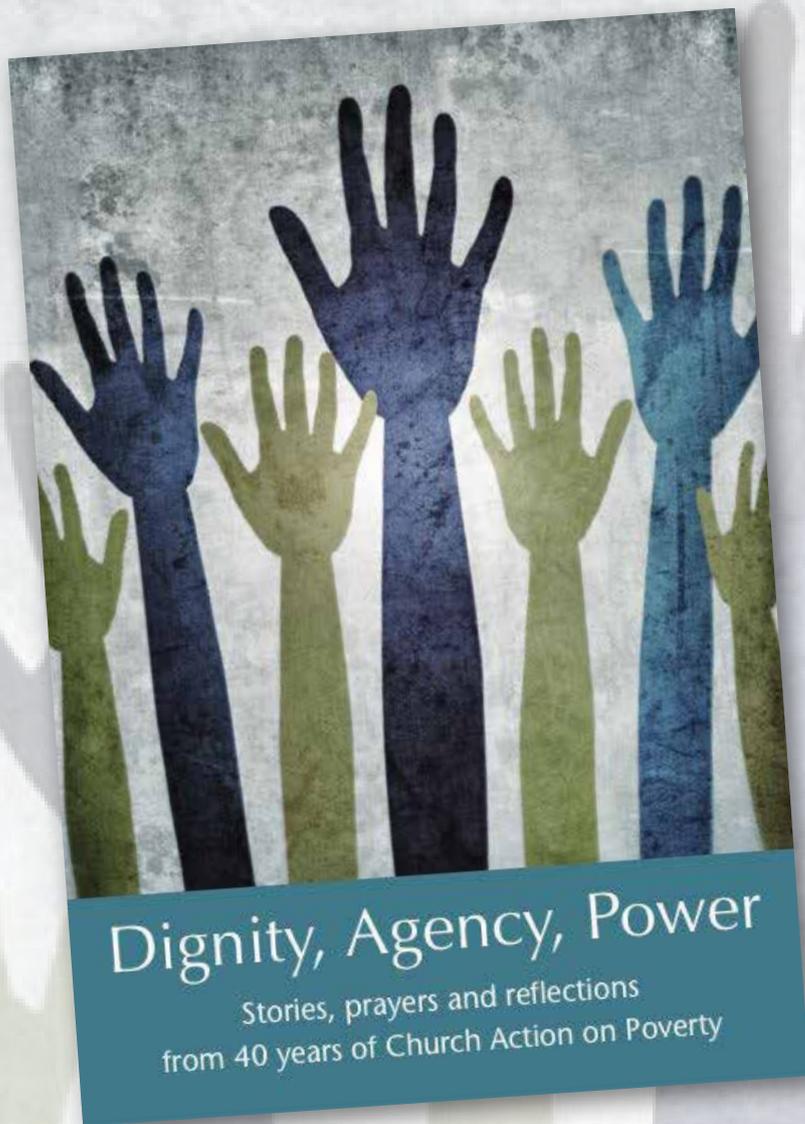
Dignity, agency
and power
page 8



**“Harness the
things that
make you
unique,
because that’s
where your
superpower lies.”**

Actor-writer Ellis Howard on transforming
experiences of poverty into activism – page 5

Photo by Madeleine Penfold



“Here is liturgical resistance in practice. This is a great book of witness.”

Kathy Galloway,
former Head of Christian Aid Scotland

Stories, prayers and reflections from 40 years of Church Action on Poverty

An invaluable new resource for churches and individuals who want to be part of the movement to end UK poverty. We've drawn on our 40 years of work and on the insights and creativity of over 40 contributors, including many who have personal experience of struggling against poverty, to create an inspiring collection of...

- Prayers, hymns and liturgies
- Stories of people's real experiences and struggles against poverty
- Stories of hope, transformation and challenging injustice
- Poems
- Drama
- Bible studies
- Theological reflections

Coming very soon! Find out more at www.church-poverty.org.uk/anthology



Wild Goose Publications
The Iona Community



**40 years of
Church Action
on Poverty**

Moving forwards



Our Director **Niall Cooper** invites you to join us on the next stage of our journey.

This year marks a double anniversary. In July it will be 40 years since Church Action on Poverty was founded, and in February I marked 25 years as Director. Anniversaries inevitably prompt reflection: together, you and we have challenged the unjust treatment of people seeking sanctuary, helped change the law on irresponsible lending, and influenced policy in multiple areas, such as Universal Credit, holiday hunger, the Minimum Wage and financial inclusion. We have worked in depth with people in poverty, loosening poverty's grip and amplifying voices that had often been drowned out. However, rather than dwelling on the past, our task is to look ahead.

Poverty has not been ended, and things are going to get significantly harder as a result of the biggest drop in living standards for a generation. On pages 6–7 we focus on the real impact the cost of living crisis is already having on people struggling with poverty.

But in such times, where do we find hope? What progress can we realistically make over the next five or ten years? On pages 8–9 we lift the lid on our new long-term strategy of building a more powerful movement to end poverty over the next 5–10 years, focused on the themes of building dignity, agency and power together. We know from the achievements of the past that significant change is possible. But we also know that only a broader and more powerful social movement led by people with first-hand insight and experience is likely to have any chance of ending poverty in the UK.

You too can be part of growing a more powerful movement for change – whether that is through taking action where you are, joining us on the Pilgrimage on the Margins (page 16), or helping us raise £40,000 in our 40th anniversary year to invest in achieving our goal of long-term, transformational change (there are some ideas for how you can help do this on pages 14 and 15). Join us!

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Be part of these events

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give

Mark our **40th anniversary** in your church - or in your will
See page 14

act

using **film** to inspire change
See page 12

pray

Join the **Pilgrimage on the Margins**
See page 16

news

A quizzical start to the year

Dozens of people met up online and put their knowledge to the test for the first Church Action on Poverty quiz night.

The event was held on Zoom at the end of January, as part of our 40th anniversary celebrations.

Thank you to everyone who took part or made a donation, and also to supporter Stewart Graham who kindly performed the role of quizmaster.

Did you miss the event? Why not hold a quiz night in your own church or community, to bring people together and help raise funds?

If you email info@church-poverty.org.uk we can send you a set of question slides that you can use online or offline, and we'll also send you all the information you need to make the event run smoothly.



No Government action on cost of living crisis

In March, almost 200 Church Action on Poverty supporters wrote to their MPs, calling for action by Chancellor Rishi Sunak to protect people on low incomes from the worst cost of living crisis in our generation.

Sadly, the Chancellor's spring statement showed that he has not grasped the magnitude of the crisis. None of the measures announced will help those on the lowest incomes, who either aren't able to work, or don't earn enough to benefit from the announced cut in National Insurance.

Many thanks if you were one of the people who contacted your MP. We will keep up the pressure over the coming weeks and months, as the cost of living crisis builds, and we will also press in the longer term for meaningful action to tackle poverty and to relieve the impact of the cost of living crisis on low-income households. This highlights, more sharply than ever, the need to build a more powerful movement for change, so that the voices and struggles of people in poverty can no longer be ignored.

events

40th anniversary worship service

On 5 July at Iona Abbey, we will hold a special service of thanksgiving, celebration and recommitment to mark Church Action on Poverty's 40th anniversary. The service will be streamed live via Zoom so you can take part from anywhere in the UK (or the world).

Find out more and sign up at www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/pilgrimage



Pilgrimage at the Margins

During 2022, we are organising Pilgrimage at the Margins events across the UK, each hosted by a local partner church or organisation. We'll... amplify the truths revealed by people on the margins of society; share their vision of the future; and stand in solidarity with them in speaking truth to power. Upcoming Pilgrimage events include...

- 6 May – Lewes, Sussex
- 30 May – Newquay Community Orchard, Cornwall
- 18 June – Cedarwood Trust, North Shields

Find out more and book to take part at www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/pilgrimage

Find your **superpower**

Actor-writer **Ellis Howard** spoke to us last year about his work to ensure people's struggles are not only heard, but also drawn on to help improve the future.

Transforming lived experience into activism

My name is Ellis Howard. I am a Scouse actor-writer. With Church Action on Poverty, I ran a series of workshops all about how we can use our lived experiences and transform them to activism; how we can own our stories of struggle, of food shortages, to empower us and to help shape future policy and future lives.

Celebrating unheard stories

For so long these stories, these experiences, these lives have been completely undocumented. They haven't been celebrated in a glorious nuanced way.

Harness your superpower

Get in touch with all of those things that make you unique, and absolutely harness them, because that's where your superpower lies.

For so long these stories,

these experiences, these lives

have been completely undocumented.

They haven't been celebrated

in a glorious nuanced way.

Hear more from Ellis

As well as running workshops with Church Action on Poverty, Ellis wrote poems that were included in our 2020 anthology *Same Boat? Poems on poverty and lockdown*. He worked with film-maker Brody Salmon to turn one of the poems into a short film.

- Read the poem and watch the film at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sameboat
- Follow Ellis Howard on Twitter: @Ellishowiee



What does the **cost of living** crisis mean for **people in poverty**?



Church Action on Poverty's Media Coordinator **Gavin Aitchison** has been listening to people affected by the crisis – and asking what needs to be done.

Martin can see the rise in the cost of living, every time he looks at his energy meter. So what does the cost of living crisis mean for people in poverty?

When I spoke to Martin in February, his bills had already increased once, and he faced being charged about £1.50 a day more than a year ago. £1.50 a day. That's £10.50 a week, £45 a month, £547 a year.

"I notice it all the time... It's very difficult at the moment. Very, very difficult."

Martin lives in Halifax in West Yorkshire, sometimes on his own and sometimes with his son in the house. He used to be a forklift truck driver, but had to stop working when he suffered nerve damage, and he has long-lasting pain and anxiety.

He has deep first-hand knowledge of living in poverty in the UK, and has been involved in many grassroots campaigns and projects, working to challenge and change unjust systems that trap people in poverty. He knows what helps or hinders people in his situation. Cutting benefits, needless to say, is immensely unhelpful and severely damaging.

"Take the Universal Credit uplift. That extra £20 a week we were getting was really helping – but then that got taken away last autumn and it put me right back down again. It's very hard now. That £20 a week was about £80 a month and meant a lot. It meant I was not stressing so much and it meant I might have a little available if I needed to buy a new pair of shoes or something. Taking that away means I cannot do things, so then my mental health is worse, and I'm stuck indoors.

"I can't turn my heating off because of my health. I need it on or it affects my mobility. If I'm warm, I can do a bit, but not if I'm cold. My anxiety and depression now is getting worse and worse again. I'm stressing all the time, and forever trying to change bill payment dates and things like that."

The Government cut Universal Credit last October, pulling away one of the lifelines it had put in place to help people stay afloat during the pandemic.

Now, rising bills and inflation are making the storm even worse. The solution should be clear. Government ought to be ensuring benefits rise



Martin Green faces an increase of over £500 per year on his energy bills

That £20 a week meant

I might have a little available

if I needed to buy a new pair

of shoes or something.

Taking that away means

I cannot do things,

so my mental health is worse.

We do what we can,

but I worry about

getting to the point when

we have to turn people away

because we're at capacity

in line with the costs of living. Instead, people on benefits face a second cut in the space of a few months. The latest official figures show inflation has now reached 7% by April, but benefits have been increased by only 3.1%. Chancellor Rishi Sunak confirmed this real-terms cut in March's spring statement, which contained no measures at all to help households like Martin's. That means anyone who was just balancing their budget last year, will now face a significant shortfall. Anyone already short faces being swept into poverty.

It's a similar situation all over the country. In Portsmouth, North End Baptist Church runs a Your Local Pantry store. The community initiative brings people together around food, forging new relationships and helping people save on their grocery shopping. That final point is a key attraction right now. Jo Green, one of the Pantry managers, says:

"We are getting busier and busier, unsurprisingly. We've just had our busiest ever week, with 110 people, and we are getting a lot of new people signing up. We have close to 600 members now.

"Most people are coming weekly, and they are saying they're petrified to put the heating on, and are trying to do things like more batch cooking to not use as much gas. Some people come here because they are mindful of food waste, and some because they have less money than before to spend on food. Some people are saying their diet has had to change. If people are working part time, they might have enough for bills but not for food. A couple of people here are retired and say their pension doesn't cover the food they need.

"What's the answer? There needs to be an overhaul of benefits. I know families with people on Universal Credit and changing circumstances takes too long to process, and people don't have enough."

Ness Brown, manager at the InterAct Pantry in Leeds, tells a similar story:

"People are so worried about fuel bills. Many have already had one increase, and April's will be the second. The other issue round here is that one of the budget shops in the community is closing, and the shopping area is becoming a bit gentrified. It's harder for people to access affordable food. We do what we can, but what I worry about is getting to the point when we might have to turn people away because we're at capacity."



Ness Brown is manager of InterAct Pantry in Meanwood, Leeds

What needs to change?

There are many things Government could do to loosen the grip of poverty in the UK, but fundamentally, it must ensure that all households have enough to live on.

In the medium to long term, that means a sensible redesign of our whole social welfare system, based on evidence from people who understand the system first-hand. In the short term, it means ensuring benefits rise in parallel with rising living costs. The 3.1% increase confirmed in March is a cut in real terms, just months after last October's Universal Credit cut. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has calculated that 400,000 people will be swept into poverty, and 9 million low-income households will be £500 a year worse off.

Peter Matejic, JRF's deputy director of evidence and impact, says: "At a time when the case for support could not be clearer, the Government is choosing to further erode the value of benefits that are already wholly inadequate."

Social security is already woefully inadequate in the UK, stripped to the bone by years of cuts and freezes. This new cut will devastate households like Martin's. It will be catastrophic and should be unthinkable. As Martin says:

"Benefits just need to be higher than they are now. People are in terrible situations."

Dignity, agency and power



As our Director **Niall Cooper** celebrates a double anniversary, he's looking to the future – and inviting you to be part of our new strategy to build a movement to end poverty.

**DIGNITY
AGENCY
POWER**

Church Action on Poverty's new strategy is centred upon dignity, agency and power. But what do we mean by those terms?

For Christians, **dignity** is based on the foundational principle that all humans are created in the image and likeness of God. Pope Francis advocates a society in which "human dignity and the human rights of all are respected." Frequently, people in poverty talk of dignity having been stripped away by systems that see numbers rather than humans.

To be human means having not only dignity, but agency. **Agency** is about people's ability to make choices, to act individually or collectively to further their own interests.

Church Action on Poverty's experience is that people in poverty have the greatest insight into the everyday realities and into what needs to change.

As for **power**? I often find that people in churches and the voluntary sector have a problem with the idea of power – but there are more references to power in the Bible than to prayer!

What is power, other than, in Martin Luther King's words, "the ability to achieve a purpose... the strength required to bring about social, political, and economic change"?

All of us can help end poverty in this country. You, me, our neighbours and friends – everyone who wants to can play a part.

And we *can* end poverty. Even in these daunting economic times, we have the resources and expertise to refashion our society so everyone can live with dignity, agency and power.

But how do we get there? That question is at the heart of Church Action on Poverty's thinking, as we – and I – mark a double anniversary.

It's 40 years this summer since Church Action on Poverty was founded, and 25 years since I became director. Anniversaries inevitably prompt reflection: Together, you and we have challenged the unjust treatment of people seeking sanctuary, helped change the law on irresponsible lending, and influenced policy in multiple areas, such as Universal Credit, holiday hunger, the Minimum Wage and financial inclusion. We have worked in depth with people in poverty, loosening poverty's grip and amplifying voices that had often been drowned out.

But rather than dwell on the past, our task is to look firmly ahead. Poverty has not been ended, and things are likely to get significantly harder as a result of the biggest drop in living standards for a generation. In these times, where do we find hope? What progress can we realistically make over the next five or ten years?

Church Action on Poverty's vision remains that the UK can and must be transformed into a country where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. But only a broad social movement can end poverty, and that movement must be led by people with first-hand insight and experience if it is to have any credibility or chance of success.

Poverty robs people of dignity, agency and power. Too often, people in poverty are stigmatised and seen as needing to be 'rescued'. As Christians, we must reject attempts to scapegoat or deny people their God-given dignity, and instead help build a movement in which people and communities reclaim dignity, agency and power together.

We are not naïve. This will be tough, but we can navigate the storm and steer a better course, if we pull together. On the opposite page I've laid out six ways this can happen.

To have any chance of ending poverty, we must hold fast to our vision, and act together within a broader, more powerful, national movement. I invite you to join us on the journey!



Explore dignity, agency and power in more depth with the new anthology to mark our 40th anniversary, coming soon from Wild Goose Publications. See the inside front cover for more information.

Your Local Pantry

Your Local Pantry is a rapidly growing network of food clubs, supported by Church Action on Poverty, bringing dignity, choice and hope to more than 70 neighbourhoods. The Pantries are member-run stores hosted by churches or neighbourhood organisations, fostering dignity, choice and hope. Today, more than 60,000 adults and children enjoy improved food access, new friendships, stronger community and better health through Pantry membership – as well as savings of more than £780 a year.

Our goal is to get to 200 Pantries within three years, working with churches and other community partners.



Speaking Truth To Power

To effect lasting change we must engage the people and institutions who wield power over the lives of our fellow citizens.

As Christians, we must resist the temptation to speak 'on behalf' of people, and instead create opportunities for people to speak their own truth to power directly.

Our goal for the next few years is to train and support a new generation of people with experience of poverty to become activists and campaigners. This year, we are launching a Speaking Truth to Power programme, initially with partners in Liverpool and London but ultimately with the goal of building a powerful national network that can be heard in the media, council chambers, big business and Parliament.

Self-Reliant Groups

Self-Reliant Groups typically consist of six to eight women on low incomes, who meet and save together regularly. Members use their collective creativity and skills to generate income, through sales of crafts, cookery etc, and grow dignity and agency, not least through the joy of deciding how to spend the collective earnings.

We are working with partners in Manchester, Lancashire, Glasgow, Wales and Leeds, and our goal is to grow Self-Reliant Groups across the UK, with even more partners.



Challenge Poverty Week

Challenge Poverty Week each October celebrates and showcases the movement. It has been running in Scotland for eight years, and now involves hundreds of groups, schools, churches, councils and others. The Week celebrates what is being done to challenge poverty, promotes voices of people in poverty, presents solutions and challenges politicians and others to commit to action.

This October, Church Action on Poverty will coordinate the third Challenge Poverty Week in England and Wales. We invite you to get involved.



Poverty Truth Commissions

The principle behind Poverty Truth Commissions is that decisions about poverty must involve people who directly face poverty. There have been more than 20 commissions around the UK since 2009, each comprising 10 to 15 people with direct experience of poverty and 10 to 15 people whose professional position means they can make change happen. Participants form relationships, listen deeply, reflect and act together over 12 to 18 months.

I had the privilege of helping to facilitate commissions in Salford and Manchester, and can honestly say I have come across few more transformative processes in my 25 years at Church Action on Poverty. In partnership with the Poverty Truth Network, our goal is now to support the growth of new Poverty Truth Commissions across the UK.



A Church of the poor?

Lastly, Church Action on Poverty will continue exploring how to respond to Pope Francis' challenge to be a 'poor church of and for the poor.'

Last year, we were delighted that the Methodist Church committed to spend £8 million over the next five years on its 'church at the margins' programme. This will be invested in local missional initiatives led by people and communities who themselves in some way are 'at the margins.'

Our goal is for other denominations to invest similarly, building dignity, agency and power with people, churches and marginalised communities. Change must always start at local level, and churches can play a critical role – provided we accept our need for partners and recognise the central role of people struggling against poverty.

On the road

In our 40th anniversary year, we're looking to the future. But as we plan to build a stronger movement, we're also thinking about what we can learn from our past experiences. For example, the time 10 years ago, when we teamed up with Christian Aid and took a bus all round Britain.



In 2012, Church Action on Poverty and Christian Aid took a double-decker Tax Justice Bus around the UK on a 53-day tour, visiting 109 towns and cities. It was spreading a simple message – that tax dodging hurts people in poverty, both here and overseas – and demanding government action.

Campaigners on the bus – including people with experience of poverty here in the UK, and Christian Aid's partners from the global South – spoke to politicians, campaign groups, church leaders and the media, inspiring people to speak up and mobilising support.

The tour generated nearly 500 pieces of media coverage, and dozens of MPs boarded the bus when it reached their constituency, to learn more about the issues. At the end of the tour, a petition with 10,000 signatures was presented to Prime Minister David Cameron.

This campaign and others paid off in summer 2021, when the G7 leaders agreed that multinational companies must pay at least 15% tax on profits in countries where they operate – a big step towards tax justice.



What did we learn?

The Tax Justice Bus tour demonstrated many lessons which will stay in our minds, as we look to the future and develop our new strategy for growing a movement that can reclaim dignity, agency and power.

- **We must have a long-term vision.**
Sometimes our campaigns could take 10 years or more to bear fruit. Sometimes we are 'prophets of a future not our own'. Growing a strong and diverse movement will help us to go the distance.
- **We must build partnerships** with those who share our vision and values. Working with Christian Aid helped us to show how the same unjust structures trap people in poverty worldwide, and to reach new audiences with our message and stories. We'll continue to work with a wide range of partners, and focus on building a stronger movement rather than purely promoting our own agenda.
- **Fun and creativity** are important. Rolling into town in a big red bus helped us to make an impact, and we had many important conversations with key decision-makers aboard the Tax Justice Bus.



Photo: The Press newspaper, York

Using **film** to inspire transformative **change**

In this guest article, our partners **Poverty2Solutions** explain how a film can challenge policy-makers to listen to the real experts – people with experience of the issues.

The film is called ‘Through The Eyes and Values of Lived Experiences: Listen Up to Level Up’ and is written by people who have experienced poverty first-hand and who are passionate about changing the system they believe is leaving people behind. Using their own voices, members of Poverty2Solutions highlight their dedication to end the issues that keep people trapped in poverty, working on the production with Inspired Youth.

The film, which was developed through creative workshops, aims to turn their passion for building an equal society into action by challenging stereotypes about modern-day poverty in the UK. The film also highlights the importance and value of involving lived experiences in the conversations around shaping effective policy, creating systemic change that can help build a fairer society.

“We’ve had an amazing journey and we wanted to showcase what can be achieved when working in a collaborative way”

(Corrina, Thrive)

Almost 14 million people were locked in poverty in the UK pre-pandemic, and the group firmly believe that urgent systemic change is needed

to address the continuing factors that create and perpetuate hardship and destitution.

Poverty2Solutions have been using their insight and expertise to propose solutions to the issues faced, and recognise that it is only by meaningfully involving this lived experience that solutions can be found. They are taking their ideas to politicians, policy-makers and the media, and hope the film will help to raise awareness of the work they are doing to inspire change.

The film is just one of a number of projects the group are involved in, which also includes championing their ‘Do Your Duty for Equality’ campaign and ‘calling upon the government to put the voice of lived experience at the heart of policy-making’. The value of a participatory approach to policy-making will be evidenced through a bespoke piece of work around debt deductions from social security benefits.

“We want to show decision-makers that we want to be around the table when they are making decisions and policies that affect the poor and disadvantaged, people with lived experience know best how the policies affect them.”

(Amanda, ATD Fourth World)



Dylan from Thrive

We are all equal and all have

a part to play in effecting change.

We have a duty to put the voice

of lived experience at the heart

of policy-making

Making the film can give us a united front

and bring our voices together.

We appreciate what the government

is doing but it doesn't go far enough,

they need to do more,

they need to work with us.

Poverty2Solutions hope their film will draw attention to their innovative way of collaborative working, and hope it inspires politicians to work with them and utilise the often neglected insight of lived experience to create better policies.

Poverty2Solutions wants to show that people from all walks of life can be impacted by poverty whilst demonstrating that there is power and value in the voices of those who have this lived experience. They hope that the government takes time to listen to their voice and that the Poverty2Solutions campaign can be a catalyst for policy reform. They are passionate about their cause and want to be part of creating the change.

People who have experience of the issues that lock them in poverty and prevent them from realising their potential are well placed to speak out about such issues. For example, as direct recipients of social security benefits, low-paid work and services designed to support transitions into work, they fully understand the impact of the policies intended to create positive change and therefore should be part of efforts to design fairer policies that will ensure the desired outcomes are achieved – this will help build a great society that works for us all.

For Poverty2Solutions it is vital to share experiences in order to create a better world for everyone, and the film production is just one way of doing that. With rampant inequality and rising levels of poverty in the UK and around the world, it is amazing to see people affected by poverty raising voices together and taking action to inspire change.

We hope the film will expose the real

truth behind living

in poverty

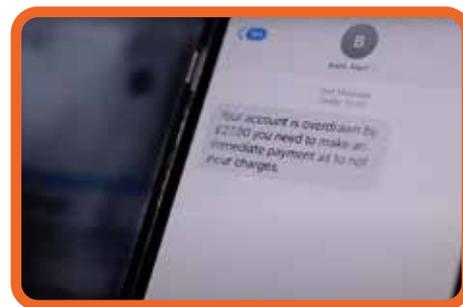
to decision-makers

and the importance of

listening to lived experience



Seamus from ATD Fourth World



About our partners

Poverty2Solutions is a coalition of three groups (ATD Fourth World, Dole Animators and Thrive Teesside) rooted in their community and led by lived experiences of poverty. This coalition works tirelessly to campaign for the inclusion of people with lived experiences of poverty in policy-making, and supports the process of transformative change that this would represent.

Poverty2Solutions was named as one of the top 100 change makers of 2020 in *The Big Issue* and was described as “a righteous torch-bearer, lighting the world, leading the way and changing the world for the better in 2020”.

This campaign is funded by The Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

To find out more about Poverty2Solutions, visit www.poverty2solutions.org or contact traceyherrington@thrive-teesside.org.uk



Lareine from ATD Fourth World

Can you **give** to **grow** the movement?



In our 40th anniversary year, we're appealing for funding to help the movement build for the future. Supporter Relations Manager **Liam Purcell** suggests some creative ways you could make a contribution.

Leave a **legacy** of dignity, agency and power



Helen Hood is a regular donor to Church Action on Poverty

By including

Church Action on Poverty

in my will, I can

continue supporting

its outstanding work

beyond my own

lifetime

For 40 years, Church Action on Poverty has spoken truth to power, and worked alongside people on the margins of society to loosen the grip of poverty on their lives.

Together, we have challenged the unjust treatment of people seeking sanctuary, tackled irresponsible lending practices, and given thousands of poor and marginalised people the confidence and opportunity to influence decisions which affect their communities. We have influenced government policies on Universal Credit, holiday hunger, the Minimum Wage and financial inclusion, and made sure the voices of people in poverty are heard at Westminster. Together, we have loosened the grip of poverty for hundreds of thousands across the UK.

Imagine how much more the movement could achieve over the next 10 or even 50 years in partnership with you, local churches and communities. As more people are swept into poverty, building a stronger movement remains vital. We need to carry on speaking out for justice for future generations.

It's a big job that requires commitment and long-term vision. If you're able to make a gift to Church Action on Poverty in your will, you'll be creating a lasting legacy that sustains a movement, helping to reclaim dignity, agency and power in the days ahead.

Make the pledge, let us know

If you're thinking about including Church Action on Poverty in your will, here's what you need to do...

- **Read our factsheet** which tells you everything you need to know about setting up a legacy. You can download it at www.church-poverty.org.uk/give/legacies, or call 0161 872 9294 to request a copy.
- If you have made, or are considering leaving, a gift in your will, and are happy to tell us about it, please **let us know** by completing the form at www.church-poverty.org.uk/give/legacies, or by calling 0161 872 9294. This information will help us plan for the future, and will give us an opportunity to say "Thank you".

Give as a church

If your church or group took part in Church Action on Poverty Sunday in February, thank you for being part of the movement!

If you didn't, there's still time for your church to support our anniversary appeal. You can take part any time during this 40th anniversary year. Here's how you can join us on the journey:

- Spread the word: share our new 'Tackling root causes of poverty' video in church, or via your Facebook page if you have one.
- Be part of our mini anniversary bake-off! Make a birthday cake for Church Action on Poverty in July, display it as part of a cake sale in church, and then send us a photo and the money you raise.
- Take a collection. You could use our video and worship materials in your service, so the congregation know how their money will help to grow the movement.

To find out more and get resources, visit

www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/give/church



Give your own birthday

40 years is a big milestone, but the journey continues. Join us, and together we can build an even stronger movement to eliminate UK poverty.

You can join the movement and help to mark this anniversary by sharing your own birthday. Just invite your family and friends to make a donation to Church Action on Poverty instead of giving you a present this year.

There are three ways of giving your birthday:

- Use the tools at www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/give to set up a simple **fundraising page** that allows people to make their donations for your birthday. Our tools will help you to message people about it, then track how much money you've raised.
- Set up a **Facebook fundraiser** (www.facebook.com/fundraisers), and share it with your friends on that social network.
- Collect the **donations offline** and post them to us. Call 0161 872 9294 to request a pack with hints and tips, and an envelope for returning your donations.

Whenever your birthday falls in the year you can make your pledge today. Then use the tools here or on Facebook to tell your friends about it when your birthday is approaching.



10 pilgrimages: 10 forgotten places



Felicity Guite, Church Action on Poverty's Development Facilitator, invites you to join us on a special journey during our 40th anniversary year.



One step at a time
We journey onwards with God.
This is pilgrimage.

(Nick Waterfield, Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield)

Reimagine what Pilgrimage means in 2022

For most people, pilgrimage is associated with remote, rural, ancient or 'thin' places like Iona or Lindisfarne. Whilst these very much have their place, they do not help with the task of discovering holiness, transformation or encountering God in more modern, urban, everyday environments.

If we journey with forgotten, economically marginalised communities, can they become sites of pilgrimage, encounter, hope and transformation in 2022?

During 2022 we are organising a series of Pilgrimage on the Margins events in different locations across the UK, each hosted by a local partner church or community organisation. At each Pilgrimage, we invite you to join us as we...

- Listen to and amplify the truths revealed by people and communities on the margins of British society.
- Share their vision of the kind of future they want to see for themselves and their neighbourhoods.
- Stand in solidarity with them in speaking truth to power about the wider changes that are needed to help bring this about.

As part of each Pilgrimage, Church Action on Poverty partners and supporters, and invited faith and civic leaders, will spend time in deep listening to each other's stories, reflecting together, and sharing our dreams, hopes and aspirations for ourselves, our communities and wider society. We will start to explore the question "What can we do together to help bring these dreams into reality?"

We have already completed inspiring Pilgrimages with our partners the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe, and Pecan in Peckham. The Pilgrimages still to take place are...

6 May	Lewes, Sussex
30 May	Newquay Community Orchard, Cornwall
18 June	The Cedarwood Trust, North Shields
5 July	Iona
26–29 August	Greenbelt festival, Kettering
September	To be confirmed
22 October	Sheffield
17 November	Edinburgh
December	To be confirmed

To find out more and book to take part in a Pilgrimage near you, visit www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/pilgrimage, or call 0161 872 9294.

Can't make it to a Pilgrimage? You could organise your own event, listening to people and spending time on the margins where you live. Download our guide from www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/pilgrimage.