

Meet our new
chief exec
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spark

news from Church Action on Poverty

autumn 2025

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People power worked – but
there's more to do: page 5

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fuelling change: page 6–7

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**“People love how we
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**Harness
your church's
power with a
special service
this autumn**

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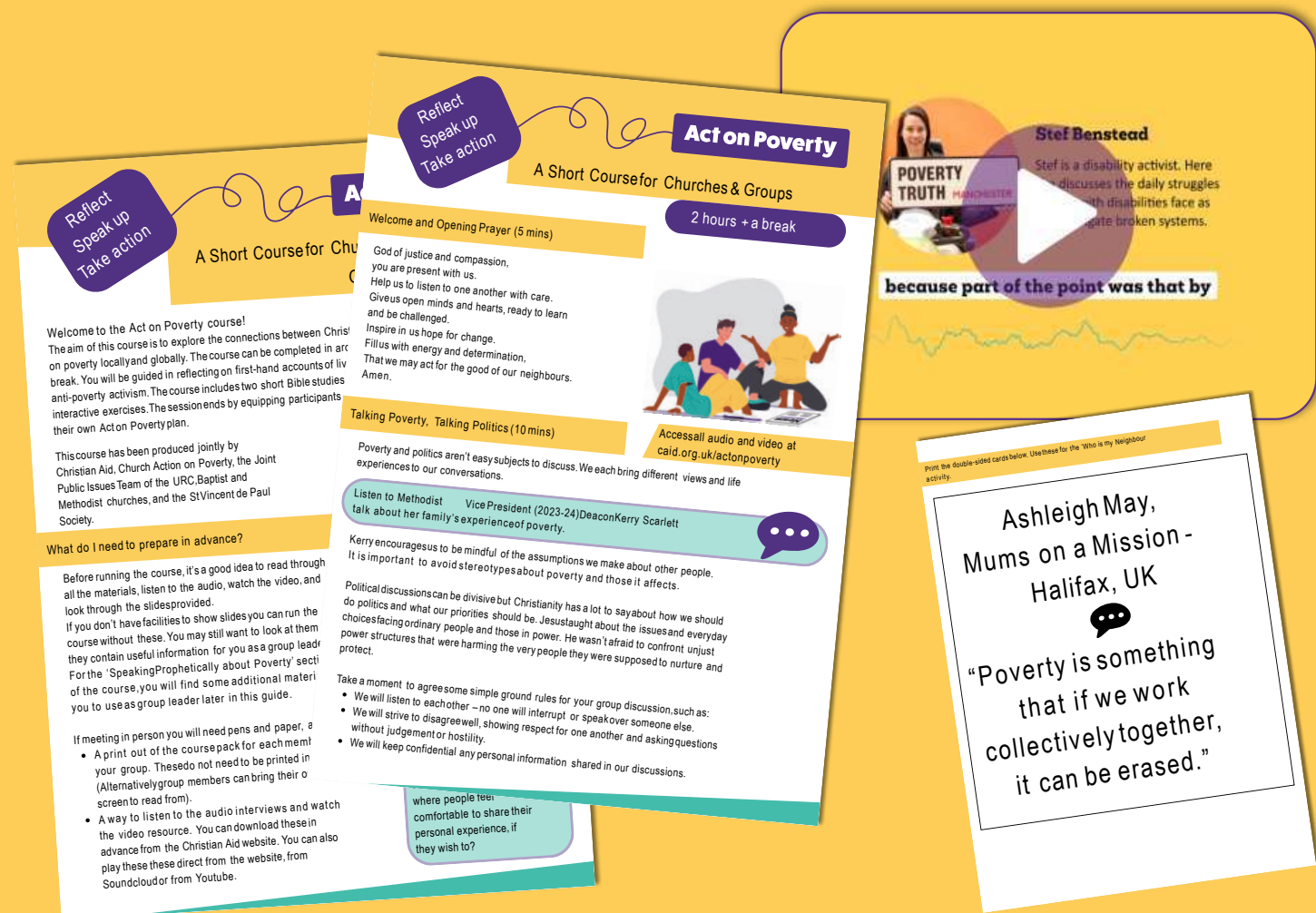
**Church Action
on Poverty
Sunday**

Act on poverty

“Our group was really inspired by the Act on Poverty course. Now we’re looking for ways to share the messages with our wider church”

This two-hour course will help you and your church gain a deeper understanding of poverty and help equip people to do something about it. Developed jointly with Christian Aid and our other partners, it addresses poverty both globally and in the UK.

Download the course to use in your church at www.church-poverty.org.uk/actonpoverty



Catalysts for **change**



Liam Purcell has been reflecting on the values and priorities that drive our work as he steps into his role as our new Chief Exec.

I love being part of this movement! Managing Church Action on Poverty's communications since 2007 has shown me how we can deliver change when the real experts – people with experience of the issues – are able to take the lead.

Like many of our dedicated supporters in churches, I'm inspired by liberation theology and the story of a God who is on the side of people in poverty. As Chief Exec, I hope to uphold that vision as we face the many challenges rising around us.

I've been exploring with our team and our many partners what our priorities should be in the coming months and years – and this issue of *SPARK* illustrates them very clearly.

One key priority is to build even stronger links with churches, enabling them to be catalysts for change in their communities. Take a look at page 14 to see how your church could use Church Action on Poverty

Sunday to celebrate what you're doing to tackle poverty locally.

We'll also prioritise linking up our growing network of Local Pantries with the wider movement – mobilising the thousands of Pantry members to speak out for change. The inspiring story on page 6 of the first Pantry set up by schoolkids shows some of the potential.

A third priority is to enable people throughout our networks to speak out and campaign for change, with a clear theme and story of hope. On page 15, we sadly share a tribute to our former colleague Kathy Galloway, whose life exemplified the prophetic vision of social justice that still drives us.

I look forward to serving Church Action on Poverty and the wider movement. I want our communications to foreground the voices of people with lived experience of poverty as much as possible – so hopefully in future, you'll hear less from me and more from the real experts!

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give

Hold a service on Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 19 October
See page 14

act

Read the latest news on our campaign against reckless cuts to disability benefits
See page 5

pray

Remember Kathy Galloway
See page 15

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news

Welcome to our new chief exec

You'll have seen on page 3 that we have a new chief executive: Liam Purcell. Liam has been with the organisation since 2007, and steps up to replace Niall Cooper who left in the spring.

Liam says: "I'm excited to carry forward our amazing vision, and work closely alongside the many churches and other partners who share our values of dignity, agency and power. I'm proud to be part of an organisation that is always rooted in the lived experience of people who live with poverty."

"I'll focus on how we can be a catalyst for change and a resource for churches to tackle poverty. We'll continue speaking truth to power and challenging injustice and I want us to pioneer new approaches that can transform people's lives, as we have done before with participatory budgeting, Schools of Participation, and Your Local Pantry."

Helen Goodman, chair of trustees, said: "Liam has total commitment to the organisation and its values. His experience and management skills will serve us well, following a period of phenomenal growth and in a time when action to tackle poverty is really important."

Media-trained campaigners make their voices heard
Several campaigners who we support have been speaking up for change in the media in recent months, following on from training we provided.

Stef, Mary and Sydnie spoke to several radio, TV and online journalists to highlight how harmful the Government's threatened cuts to social security would have been (see opposite page).

Miles wrote a guest article for *The Yorkshire Post* as the Renters' Rights Bill was going through Parliament, calling for more to be done to ensure there was genuinely affordable housing for people on low incomes.

Last winter, we provided media training for six people, with exactly this sort of work in mind, so that people with experience of poverty are heard more clearly in public debate.



Trustee changes

Over the summer, we said farewell to two of our trustees: Gemma Athanasius-Coleman from Cornwall, and Rich Jones from Greater Manchester.

Both are stepping down from the council of management after several years of committed and valuable support, and we wish them well.



events

Church Action on Poverty Sunday 19 October 2025

Will your church join with others across the UK, to help end poverty? Our key annual fundraising moment has now moved to October, so that it coincides with Challenge Poverty Week.

Please give, act and pray with us. If you already took part in March, before the switch, we'd love to help you build on your commitment and celebrate the work your church is doing locally to tackle poverty.

The theme this year is Dreams & Realities. Together we can share dreams of a better world – and challenge the reality of poverty. Sign up using the enclosed leaflet or at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

Your Local Pantry conference, 11 November 2025

This year's Your Local Pantry Annual conference will take place at Westbourne Park Baptist Church, London.

This is a day for Pantry coordinators, volunteers, and staff from across the UK to come together in person to connect, reflect, and build on everything that the network has achieved together.

Expect inspiring stories, practical workshops, and chances to swap ideas, share challenges, and explore new ways to increase impact. We will celebrate the power of community and deepen our shared commitment to tackling poverty. **If you help run a Pantry or are planning to start one, you can sign up or find out more by emailing info@yourlocalpantry.co.uk**

Join us for the AGM, 19 November 2025

Our annual general meeting will be held online on the evening of 19 November. Join us for a discussion of some of the work we are involved in, as well as the formal AGM proceedings. The event will be on Zoom. Look out for the link nearer the time.

A show of people power

The huge support for disabled activists, in the face of reckless cuts, was hugely encouraging – but there is still much work to do to shape what happens next.

Thank you to the hundreds upon hundreds of you who joined disabled activists in speaking up against the Government's threatened wild cuts to social security payments.

So many of you wrote to your MP, signed a petition, shared messages from activists like Sydnie, Mary and Stef, and encouraged others in your church or community to oppose the plans.

It's still a bit unclear what will happen next. The Government has promised that much of the detail, such as the eligibility rules for Personal Independent Payments, will now be subject to review. The Government has promised this will be carried out with disabled people and disability organisations, but what this means or looks like remains to be seen. We won't let up. Please don't either.

The huge chorus of outrage, led by disabled activists and supported by many others, reminded us once again that people power can be a huge and powerful force. We know lots of you have strengthened your relationship with your own MP through this issue, which has been great to hear. The past few months should also remind ruling politicians what happens when you don't involve the people most affected by any given issue. You can only get the right policy if you talk to the right people.

Britain's social security system is a cherished national asset. With the right investment, it can be a real force for good as we navigate our way through life. For some, it is a lifeline to get out of a crisis situation. For others it is a reassuring safety railing, which means they won't be swept into crisis in the first place. For others still, it is a ticket to new



opportunities, enabling people to fulfil their potential and live life to the full.

And yet, instead of bolstering and investing in one of the country's greatest assets, and despite its huge support among the public, successive Governments have steadily dismantled it, imperilling disabled people, and people on the lowest incomes. UN Committees have repeatedly had to sound the alarm bells, including again last week.

The uprising of opposition meant the Government applied the brakes just in time to avert an immediate disaster for millions of people. But we are still a long way from where we want to be.

The Government lost its way and took the wrong course. We need it now to back up, pause, and work with disabled people to figure out where we need to get to and how.

Mary (right) had a positive meeting with her MP Rachael Maskell, as part of the huge campaign to protect disabled people's independence and access to support.

Miles and Ashleigh join DWP project

Two activists we work with are taking part in new collaboration committees, to help shape some social security decisions.

Ashleigh from Calderdale and Miles from York have been taking part in the Department for Work and Pensions project in recent months, focusing on systems to help people back into work.

It is always encouraging to see political institutions doing more to listen to people with experience of poverty.

Miles says: "Being part of the 'right to try work' committee is exciting and holds a sense of responsibility to air genuine concerns for people."

The work runs until this autumn.

New Pantry is a real class act



Change happens when people get together and make it happen... and you're never too young to start.

We've been amazed and delighted this summer by the enterprising compassion of five primary school children, who have become the youngest people in the whole of the UK to launch a Your Local Pantry.

Makayla, Ahmad, Retaj, Ayman and Mustafa, all aged 11, created the Pantry at Marlborough Community Hub beside Marlborough Road Academy in Salford, as part of a leadership project.

Ayman says: "Everyone was talking about how we could help the community, and make it more fair for everyone. We wanted to help with the financial situation and help people come together, because this is not just for food.

"I hope it becomes well known then becomes a really big help. This can help our community. It's been very busy and people love how we have set everything up and made it very affordable, especially for people in hard financial situations.

"We are a welcoming diverse school and we are very unique, especially now that we're the first children in the country to open a Pantry!"

Ahmad says: "It will help the community by lowering costs and making it more affordable to eat."

Retaj says: "My hope is for it to grow and for my parents to come and shop here and for it to be more affordable."

Makayla: "I'm proud. Not every school could do something like this."

Mustafa: "We thought about people in need and we wanted to comfort and help people around us, and we talked about what we could do in the Pantry."

The children worked on the Pantry idea as part of a leadership project when they were in Year 5.

The Pantry was ready a year ago, but was then damaged by an electrical fire the day after the soft launch. A pop-up stall was used while the damage was repaired, and the Pantry is now ready again.

Judith Richens, community development lead at the hub, said she was hugely proud of the children. There are 48 first languages at the school, and Judith said the children excelled in explaining the Pantry to families and translating for them.

They also visited a Pantry in Stockport to see how it works, and talked about their idea to other schools in their academy trust, United Learning.

Judith says: "What particularly attracted me to the Pantry rather than a social supermarket or a food bank, is the membership idea. It is for members and run by members, and people choose and shop, rather than someone assuming what people are to have, and saying 'this is what we're giving you'.

"We also have an allotment next to the building to grow food for school dinners, and to provide fruit and veg for the Pantry, and there's the added bonus of reducing the carbon footprint of the school.



Ahmad, Makayla, Retaj and Ayman with Judith Richens and Shumaila Taswir

"This space is not just a Pantry. It's an opportunity to meet people, and with other projects it becomes a wrap-around support service. Our ultimate aim is for this community space to be used by the community for the community. We are listening to what people want and finding out what matters and helping use people's gifts and talents to make it happen."

The Pantry also has an allotment, created by the previous year's pupils, including rhubarb, raspberries, courgettes, carrots and more, and a hedgerow of edibles, created with local organisation, City of Trees.

Shumaila Taswir, Ayman's mum and lead volunteer, says: "I hope it will bring the community together and help people in difficult times. Most people are struggling but do not like to say. Here, they can come and choose whatever they want, and socialise here as well."

The Community Hub is supported by United Communities, a charity that supports the development of place-based, school-linked hubs. The Pantry will include day and evening sessions, the latter doubling as a drop-in with Barnardo's, for local 16 to 20-year-olds living independently.



Books & BBQs go well at Pantries

Five Pantries in Reading, Macclesfield, Paxton, West Bromwich and Welling have been widening their offer, by teaming up with the bookseller Awesome Books.

For every book the company sells, it donates one to good causes. We've been conducting a pilot project together, and will hopefully then expand it.

Fabienne Donbavand, coordinator at The Core, said: "We have a number of families who help themselves each week as their children race through all their books at home. The closest library to us is in the centre of Macclesfield so it is not always possible for our families to visit, and we have elderly members who appreciate being able to return and pick up a new book each week without having to visit the centre of town.

One Pantry member at Welling says: "This is such a wonderful thing, my children will be so excited when I take these home"

More than 30 members and volunteers at The Core Pantry in Macclesfield gathered for a community barbecue.

They also marked reaching their 20,000th visit, a reflection on the passion of everyone involved at the Pantry.



2024–25: Dreams and realities

We're proud to share just a few highlights from our annual review, illustrating the impact we and our partners made in 2024–25.

"The Pantry is the heart of our local community where people come for more than food"

Amazing art projects for members of Local Pantries!



In numbers...

60,304 people benefited from Local Pantry membership

£5.76m total savings for Pantry members

60+ churches displayed Let's End Poverty banners

100+ students learned about lived-experience participation from our 'Speaking Truth to Power' experts

220 church leaders signed our letter about the two-child limit



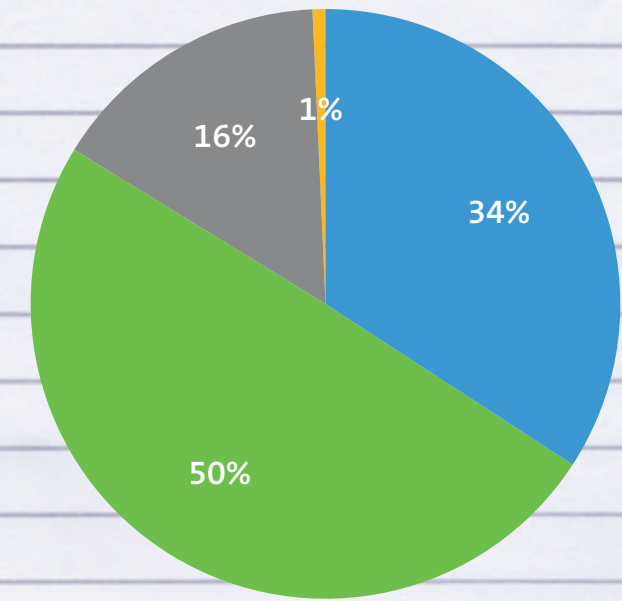
A UK tour for the inspiring 'Dreams and Realities' exhibition!

Churches across the UK speaking out for an end to poverty!



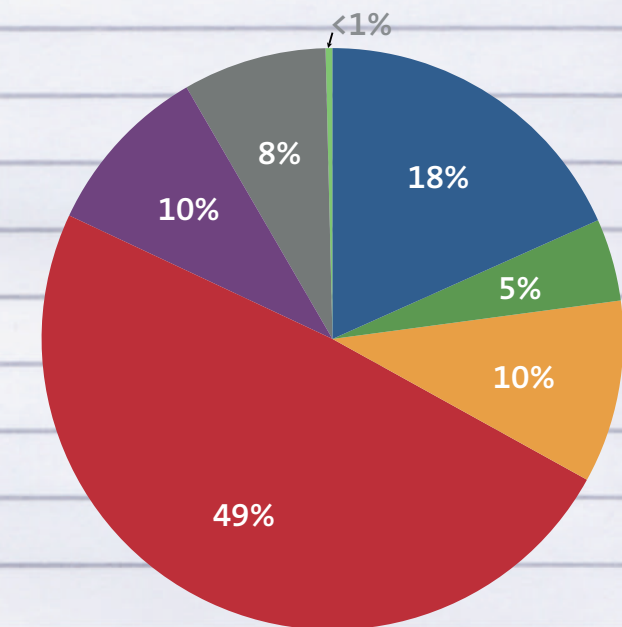
Where our money came from

Grants:	£388,100
Donations and legacies:	£267,431
Subscriptions and other income:	£121,567
Investments:	£5,562



How we spent it

Your Local Pantry:	£375,175
Core campaigns and events:	£140,336
Speaking Truth to Power:	£77,864
Church on the Margins:	£74,022
Let's End Poverty:	£35,123
Cost of raising funds:	£61,227
Governance costs:	£2,928



Read more!
Read our full annual review and financial statements at www.church-poverty.org.uk/annualreviews

Wayne calls for action

Newly homeless, queuing with others, Wayne determined: this is where change begins.

Wayne Walton estimates he has walked more than 10,000 miles alongside homeless individuals. Now, he's calling for national action—urging the entire UK to wake up, mobilise, and demand solutions.

"That's what homeless people do," he says. "You never know how much you've walked, but with everything I've done, I'd be surprised if it were less."

Determined to see homelessness not just reduced but eradicated, Wayne is launching a nationwide movement. He's encouraging people across the United Kingdom to stand together, demand accountability, and help fund a mobile emergency unit to assist people in crisis.

Homelessness is a national emergency, with rising numbers in virtually every city and town in the UK. Government figures show that rough sleeping has surged since the pandemic, yet support systems remain broken and underfunded.

Wayne believes it's time for bold action, led by people with lived experience—not just policymakers and charities. He urges cities and communities beyond Yorkshire to join the fight.

"We cannot wait for another crisis. Homelessness is worse than ever. The Government keeps making false promises, but nothing is changing. We need a nationwide awakening."

Wayne Walton's personal battle with homelessness began in 2019, when violence and racism drove

"I have hope. That's what Jesus gives us. God has a plan."

him from his home in northeast London. With nowhere safe to go—and his social security payments stopped—he was forced into rough sleeping.

He soon discovered that up to 100 people a night were sleeping in a shopping centre, relying on faith groups for food. That moment shifted his perspective forever.

"Standing in that queue, I felt like I shouldn't be there. But then I realised—this is exactly where change begins."

Determined to help, Wayne connected people with aid organisations, gathered a team of Christian activists, and petitioned the government in December 2019—only to be told homelessness couldn't be solved even in a decade. Then, in March 2020, the pandemic proved them wrong.

Within three weeks, the UK government rolled out the "Everyone In" policy—placing thousands of rough sleepers into accommodation. The same Government that had claimed this was impossible for ten years had solved the issue in days.

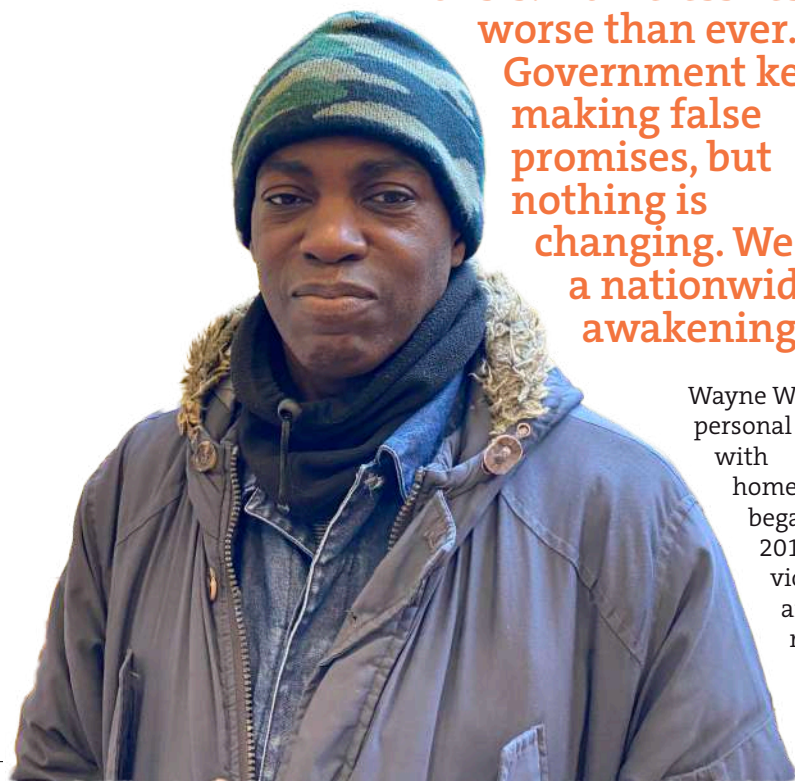
Wayne became a key part of this emergency response, volunteering at 5am daily to help homeless individuals find shelter. Alongside activists, he even helped set up a temporary village for those missed by councils—transforming an abandoned dairy into shelter with donated blankets, tents, and supplies.

When local officials tried to shut the effort down, media exposure forced them to accommodate those in need. Wayne stayed for a year, distributing aid via a donated minibus.

In 2021, a family tragedy sent Wayne overseas. When he returned to the UK, his sister in Sheffield encouraged him to stay for a while—a move that unexpectedly reshaped his mission.

While walking Sheffield's streets, he felt a spiritual calling, a divine push to finish some advocacy work he started in Sheffield years before.

Wayne has since developed counselling and evangelism programs, helping individuals to navigate services. He continues to move between sofa-surfing and rough sleeping, but driven by faith.



Wayne's next step is big: a van-based emergency unit capable of reaching homeless individuals across the UK.

"Too many people can't get from A to B, can't transport their belongings, and can't access support. A mobile unit would change that."

He recalls helping a blind ex-Muslim man struggling with trauma and anxiety—terrified to leave his home. A mobile response team could bring care directly to people like him.

Wayne says this is about every city and town, and he urges the public to step up and push for real change.

"Einstein said insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different results. The government's approach isn't working—people have the answers."

How you can help Wayne

Wayne's group meets on Fridays at Barker's Pool, Sheffield, S1 1EF (6pm – 9pm). He's calling for people from across the UK to join. They aim to fund a mobile emergency unit; organise rallies nationwide; and demand government accountability.

There is a WhatsApp group of 75 members, and supporters can email praiseuk3@gmail.com or ukcities4christ@gmail.com

To donate to the fundraising efforts, visit gofundme.com/f/leading-the-charge-to-end-uk-homelessness



Wayne was one of the people whose portraits were painted for the 'Dreams and Realities' exhibition, supported by Church Action on Poverty in 2024

Artists plate up a great new idea

Art is a great way to bring social justice issues to life – as many people showed in the Let's End Poverty work.

At the Empty Plate Project in Wolverhampton, passers-by at a busy indoor market were invited to make and decorate a plate, sharing their experience of poverty.

Organisers expected people to be willing and able to speak about the negative impact of poverty – what actually happened was that people shared empowering and encouraging messages, so what will be fragile plates hanging in the art installation will hold messages of resilience.

It's such an important thing to hear, and organisers said it was so characteristic of the area.

Even when there were stories of pain, bereavement, late diagnosis of neurodiversity, and struggles, this was only in the context of hope, community, and beautiful stubbornness to keep going.

Some walked past because they "didn't have the time" but dozens of people took the invitation to stop for a while.

Those who were persuaded to stop just for a moment were often those who chose longer and harder decoration methods and who stayed for ages!

The clay vessels were then fired so they could form part of a launch installation at the forthcoming Bilston Oasis Project - where work towards a poverty truth commission will find a home.



Repairing lifelines

Investment in crisis support is a welcome step after widespread campaigning

We all know in life that emergencies and crises will sometimes happen – we just don't know where, when, or to whom.

That's why society is filled with "just in case" systems. It's why we have emergency teams at hospitals, safety information on public transport, safety aids alongside rivers and defibrillators in public places, for instance. We all know that any given time, somebody will need them, and that one day it may well be us.

So it is with less tangible systems too. For many years, similar crisis support has been a key component of the UK's shared social security system. The social fund meant people could get quick help in times of emergency or crisis – such as after a fire or flood, or after being made homeless or fleeing a harmful relationship.

This vital lifeline has been badly neglected by the state in the past 15 years. The Government passed responsibility to councils in 2013, but then failed to provide adequate funding.

In 2018, our *Compassion In Crisis* report showed that crisis funding had been cut by more than 70% in four years,

that more than 25 councils had closed their funds entirely, and that a postcode lottery had been allowed to develop nationally, with people's access to support varying widely.

This has remained an area of great concern for many who care about UK social justice, and although new funds were set up at the height of the pandemic, there was always uncertainty around their future.

So it was pleasing to see

the Government revealing long-term plans to restore this crucial lifeline.

In the spending review in June, the Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced the allocation of £1 billion a year to reform crisis support, replacing the temporary household support fund with a new and permanent "crisis and resilience fund". This will give councils funding, including the ability to help very low-income families facing crisis during the school holidays, and will also incorporate discretionary housing payments for people struggling to afford housing costs.

The news has been roundly welcomed, although further details are awaited. For instance, many campaigners including the Independent Food Aid

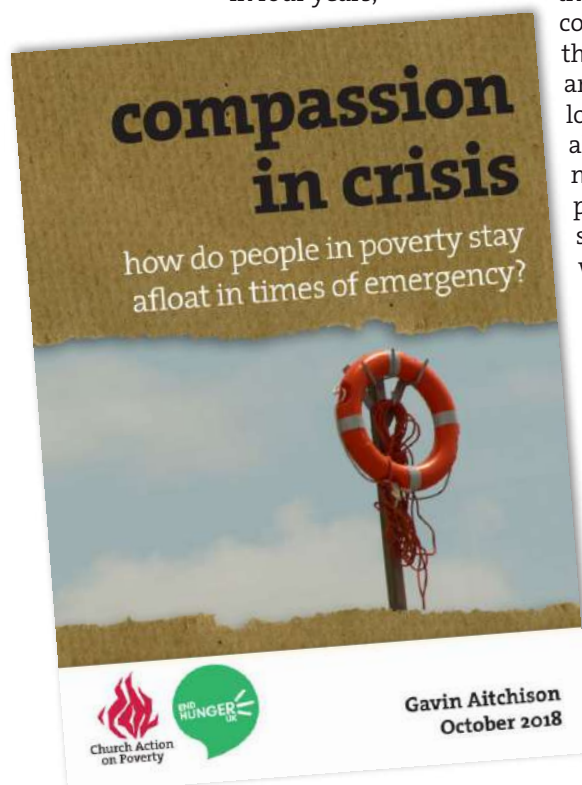
For many years, crisis support has been a key component of the UK's shared social security system

Network are pressing to ensure that crisis support includes direct cash options, alongside advice and other support.

Richard Lane from StepChange said: "The Household Support Fund had long been a key asset for local authorities to support the thousands struggling to make ends meet and facing destitution, but repeated temporary extensions and a lack of permanency has left services in limbo, and we've consistently campaigned for it to be made permanent. This announcement confirming a long-term scheme is a big step forward and a vital foundation to support local areas to build joined-up support for people experiencing difficult life events and financial crisis."

Graham Whitham from Resolve Poverty said: "The new crisis and resilience fund is a welcome replacement for the household support fund and we've been campaigning for a number of years for multi-year crisis funding for councils. While we await the detail and guidance, this is a positive direction of travel and an acknowledgement by the government that local councils need empowering in this area."

Download our 2018 report on crisis support at www.church-poverty.org.uk/compassion-in-crisis



Let's turn the wheels of change

Teamwork opens up new opportunities to connect economic and environmental justice



Hartlepool residents are reclaiming neighbourhood spaces, with an art idea called *Say It With Flowers*.

Locals turned abandoned wheel trims into painted flowers to display at neglected local areas. Each flower includes an invitation for people to get in touch and reconnect with others in the community. Organisers at Thrive Teesside say:

"These DIY blooms aren't just for show. They're a declaration that we won't stand by and watch our neighbourhoods fall apart. Flowers are a symbol of growth, hope, and resilience. By placing these creations in the most neglected corners of Hartlepool, we're sending a message that we care - about our streets, our parks, and our communities."

Sharing our great and varied hopes for the future

What does climate action mean for low-income communities? That's a big question for social justice activists.

There's momentum for ambitious climate policies, but they cannot be allowed to widen inequalities.

We've joined in workshops this year with Friends of the Earth, looking at how economic and environmental inequality connect. And in July, we and 50 other organisations wrote to the Prime Minister, calling for the Government's upcoming climate plan to be bold and fair.

Such a plan could deliver low-cost energy; warm, well-insulated homes; cleaner air; better public transport; and well-paid jobs - enhancing living standards and reducing emissions.

Low-income communities do least damage to the environment, so it's vital they are not then penalised by action plans that leave them behind.

Meanwhile, our media coordinator Gavin Aitchison has been researching how social justice causes might overlap and work together, meeting campaigners, activists, and other Christian charities to explore the issue. Gavin says:

"When people imagine the future they want, it includes progress across a wide range of areas, not just one. While charities have areas of expertise where they can do most good, it's important that we don't get so stuck in our lane that we miss chances to cooperate. There are areas where issues we're

working on overlap, or where we're trying to remove the same barriers, so it makes sense to explore opportunities and new ideas together."

"When people think beyond the immediate problem they are trying to solve, when they envision a world in which they've already won, those visions of a just world end up being remarkably similar, no matter what issue they started from."

Brett Davidson



Sharing our Dreams

Give, act and pray with us on 19 October. Here are some samples of the worship materials from our Church Action on Poverty Sunday resource pack – responding to the Bible stories of Jacob's ladder, and the unjust judge and the persistent widow.

A prayer for Church Action on Poverty Sunday

As we wrestle with our realities, frustrated by policies based on injustice, disillusioned by decisions made by greed, structures grown on inequality

We will not let you go before you bless us
Until we can say that we too have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.

Our struggle is your struggle. Let your dreams become our reality.
Amen

Urzula Glienecke

An intercession

Let us pray for persistence, for ourselves and all who need it as we strive for a more just and equitable world. We ask for the grace to be like the tenacious widow, challenging all in our world who show disregard and lack of care for the troubles of others.

We pray for the faith of the widow, to keep asking and campaigning, regardless of the response, and to trust in God's promise of a world where neighbour will care for neighbour and all will have enough.

We ask this in your name
Amen

Miriam McHardy



A justice hymn

Tune: Alleluia Dulce Carmen (8,7,8,7,8,7)

How to live in peace and fairness,
God, you taught in ancient law.
Jesus showed us love in action -
challenges for rich and poor,
reinforced by tales of wisdom,
parables we can't ignore.

We recall the troubled widow
in the story Jesus told:
she demanded compensation
from the judge in words so bold.
If we do not lose our courage,
will true righteousness unfold?

In a world of greed and suffering
can real justice still be found?
Rich men think they can't be questioned;
poor survive on their last pound.
Can we make the call to fairness
echo through the world around?

Where good laws are still perverted,
might is right and money reigns,
we must never cease from struggle,
cleansing all our social stains.
God, we ask that love for justice
may run deeply in our veins.

Nick Jowett

Sign up now at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

- Use the powerful 'Dreams and Realities' portrait exhibition to challenge and inspire your congregation.
- Use our free worship resources to reflect and pray for change.
- Celebrate what your church is already doing to tackle poverty.
- Raise funds to support action to reclaim dignity, agency and power.

If you took part in Church Action on Poverty Sunday in March, do join in again – you can use our materials to hold a service at any time that suits you.

In memory: Kathy Galloway

Tributes have been paid to an inspiration and devoted champion of social justice

Everyone at Church Action on poverty was deeply saddened to learn of the death in August of Kathy Galloway (pictured right).

Kathy was at one time our Scottish linkworker, working on a range of powerful and pioneering projects, and also served as Leader of the Iona Community, and Head of Christian Aid Scotland.

Kathy was an inspirational friend and ally. Throughout her life, she demonstrated an unshakeable commitment to "standing out against a society which stigmatises poverty in order that the violence which is daily perpetrated against poor people may be concealed and covered up" (*Taking Care of What We Value*, Church Action on Poverty, 2002).

The Iona Community paid tribute to Kathy as "a truly prophetic voice of faith for justice, peace and the radically urgent transformation of unjust structures" and said she influenced thousands with her compassion, radical voice for justice, wise words and powerful leadership.

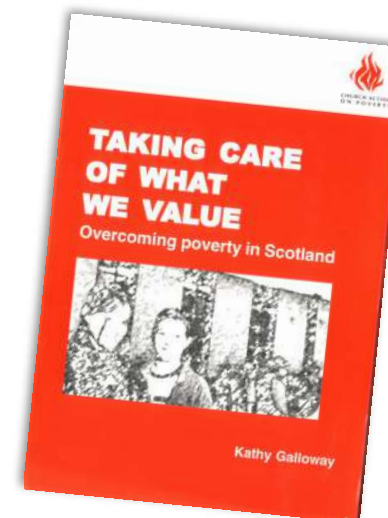
Val Brown from Christian Aid said Kathy was "a passionate and committed campaigner for justice, peace, dignity and equality for all people."

In 2022, in the foreword to our *Dignity, Agency, Power* anthology, Kathy wrote: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive. So said St Irenaeus,

and made explicit the link between human dignity and God's creativity. Dignity is non-negotiable and unconditional. It does not depend on the criteria the world uses. The word 'dignity' itself derives from the Latin dignus, meaning 'worth.' Market forces do not set our value. We do not require value addition in God's economy. We have intrinsic worth...

"When it seems that everything is against you – hostile public discourse, uncaring and uninformed policy decisions, remote and unaccountable institutions (and there are plenty of all of these in the current climate) – believing in the possibility of resisting injustice and making effective and practical change is essential.

"This is power; not power over but power with and power to, the power to live fully human lives. A religious community which does not hunger and thirst for justice to be done bears false witness."



Benediction

A blessing on our departures
Without them, we cannot walk the way.

A blessing on our companions
Bread of friendship, bread for the soul.

A blessing on all travellers
Border-crossers, wanderers in strange lands.

A blessing on all the stages on the way
And those who gave us guidance.

A blessing on all those we leave behind
And on their journeys.

A blessing on our lostness and delays
These too are life.

A blessing on our arrivals
Homecomings, new beginnings, bright horizons.

A blessing on the Trinity of journeys.
Giver of the Way, Jesus of the Way, Spirit of the Way.

From 'Talking to the Bones' Kathy Galloway



Church Action
on Poverty
Sunday

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19 October 2025



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