



# Poverty Awareness Action Plan

As a diocese, much is already being done in response to the injustices of poverty and inequality. God is at work through parishes, churches, schools, and individuals, helping them fight inequality. But there are always opportunities to do more, particularly as a church. You may wish to start by following the three steps below:

## 1. Be Aware of the Issue

The first step is to make sure everyone in your church is aware of the reality of poverty. Our diocese covers a large area, within which there is a huge range of affluence, ways of living, and environments. Poverty and inequality will be experienced differently in such contexts, and we must not make assumptions about particular parishes.

In order to determine the best path your church can take, it's sensible to know the context of your area better and explore the issues facing your community. You can do this by:

- Finding out about poverty in your parish using [Church Urban Fund's Look Up Tool](#)
- Understanding more about children's lives in your area through [Children's Society's Reports](#)
- Read more about poverty, welfare, and financial inclusion on the [Church of England website](#)

And if you already know what the issues are in your area, you can learn more about what these issues mean for those experiencing them. You can read about [poverty and equality](#), as well as the [cost of living crisis](#) on our website. You may also be interested in reading about other social justice issues:

- [Racial Justice](#)
- [Disability and Church](#)
- [Living in Love and Faith \(LLF\)](#)
- [Support for Ukraine](#)

## 2. Engage Locally and Further Afield

Once your church is more informed about the issues of poverty and inequality in your area, or globally, it's time to start making a difference! There are many areas in which your church can engage with issues of inequality, such as:

- Find an existing campaign and get in touch with the organisers, to see how your church can join in. National campaigns include [End Child Food Poverty](#), [The Trussell Trust](#), and [Reset the Debt](#), but there are also numerous local initiatives you can join, such as your local food bank
- Look at your parish Statistics for Mission via the [Parish Returns Portal](#), and determine which areas of your parish need the most resources. You can then create a campaign within your church to address these areas
- Pray for equality both locally and nationally. Perhaps your church, or smaller groups, can commit to praying for particular aspects of injustice each day

### 3. Take Action

The final step, after learning more about poverty and inequality, and engaging with campaigns and prayer, is to take action. You may consider:

- **Donating** – Donating is one of the easiest ways to help fight poverty in your community, though it's important to remember that as much as donating matters, it may not help solve the root cause of poverty. You can donate to food banks, charities, and events - every little bit helps!
- **Fundraising** – Raising money and donating it to charities allows them to invest in communities. Any efforts to fundraise on behalf of, or alongside, a charity is always appreciated!
- **Volunteering** – If you're looking to make a more personal investment, you can volunteer. This could mean volunteering your time and skills to a charity or campaign. It's often good to think about local opportunities in your community, like shelters and kitchens, delivering care packages to new mothers or hosting play groups and lunches for community members. Volunteering is a great way to build relationships with the people around you and invest in your community.

Above all, don't underestimate the power of partnering with others, or of starting small. You may not feel you can make a substantial impact, but the more people who get involved locally and nationally, the stronger our fight for equality becomes.