

Dreamers **Do** who



Ashleigh is working for change through our 'Speaking Truth to Power' programme

Worship and fundraising pack

I did not realise

I had power within me

to make a difference in society,

but that changed

11 February 2024

**Give, Act and Pray as part of
the movement to end UK poverty**

When people come together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power, we can make huge changes. In ourselves. In our communities. In the world.

Building a powerful movement to unlock poverty has never been more important. The scandalous rise in the cost of living has swept millions into poverty. Politicians aren't committing to the urgent action that is needed to endure dignity, agency and power for all.

On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, we invite you to explore your dreams of a better world. Then help to make those dreams real by joining other churches and groups across the country in the 'Let's End Poverty' campaign. Together, we can make sure that the next Government makes UK poverty a priority.

“An unshakeable commitment to human dignity, and challenging the poverty that is a violation of that dignity, has been at the heart of Church Action on Poverty’s vision, values and practice for its 40 years... When it comes to confronting poverty, people who struggle against it day by day, who really know what it feels like, have insights and understanding that no one else does. It gives them the right to speak and act. Their ideas for action are a gift that no one else has. ‘Nothing about us, without us, is for us.’”

Kathy Galloway, former Head of Christian Aid Scotland

Use these resources to reflect and pray for change, and raise funds that will help to grow a movement that can reclaim dignity, agency and power.

What to do

In your church service on Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 11 February 2024:

- Use our **worship** materials to help the congregation share their visions of a better world.
- Use a **talk or sermon** to explore the concepts.
- Make space in your service for the **real experts** – people who have experienced poverty – to speak about their experiences and the solutions to poverty. If your church is involved in community projects, are there people who'd be prepared to speak about that? If not, you could share stories from Church Action on Poverty's own programmes and networks – see page 9.
- Ask your congregation to **donate** to Church Action on Poverty, to enable more people to build dignity, agency and power together.

Social distancing and online worship

Many churches discovered during lockdown that online conferencing software allows people to join in worship who might not otherwise have made it to church. We know that some churches have continued to stream their services even as people return to the physical building.

We've adapted the materials and ideas for Church Action on Poverty Sunday so that they can also be used for hybrid or online worship:

- Several videos are available for you to stream or download from www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/extras, and use as part of your service.
- The prayers and hymns are available as slides at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/extras, so you can share them in online worship.
- We've made it easy to donate online or by text, so people don't have to use cash.

Other types of event

If you would prefer to mark Church Action on Poverty Sunday outside of a church service, that's great too. Why not use the prayers (and perhaps our 'Scripture from the Margins' Bible studies, available from www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible) in a **house group**? Or hold a '**Zoom and Hymns**' online singing evening and invite people to make an online donation at the end? Or make **pancakes** together in your church, Sunday school or house group?

What to do next: use our Lent programme

Giving and praying on Church Action on Poverty Sunday is a valuable way of being part of the movement to reclaim dignity, agency and power. But if we are to end UK poverty, we also need to take action and speak out. We need to work together if we want our dreams of a better world to become reality.

Your congregation can take that action immediately after Church Action on Poverty Sunday, by taking part in our 'Act on Poverty' Lent programme (see opposite page).

We've partnered with the Let's End Poverty grassroots campaign, the international development agency Christian Aid, and others to produce this exciting resource.

Five weekly sessions will help you to explore the call to take action, and plan out how you can engage with politicians in the run-up to the General Election.

Hear from inspiring activists and church leaders, both here in the UK and in the global South, about the change we can make when we give, act and pray together.

You can use the materials yourself in your church or house group – or join our online programme alongside other Church Action on Poverty supporters from across the UK.

Download the materials or sign up for the online programme at www.church-poverty.org.uk/actonpoverty

Act on poverty

We live in challenging times. One in five people in the UK live in relative poverty. The gap between rich and poor globally continues to widen. The accelerating impact of the climate crisis and the hostile environment for refugees is generating acute challenges in terms of deprivation, hunger, displacement and structural injustice.

Political disengagement remains a problem in the UK. At the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast, church leaders were keen to see faith resources that would tackle what they identify as disillusionment, a loss of hope, and a sense of powerlessness in the current context.

In 2024 we all have a chance to act. The UK will hold a General Election and we want to put poverty, local and global, at the top of the political agenda.

The *Act On Poverty* Lent programme is designed to help churches UK-wide host meaningful conversations about how to act on poverty, how to become changemakers, how to speak truth to power, and how to shape the political agenda.

The resource can be used as a week-by-week course through Lent 2024 but it is designed to be used in a wide variety of contexts at different times of year. In each of the five instalments, you will find suggestions for how to adapt the resources depending on the needs of your church and your community.

In each instalment we reflect together on what church is and connect this to how your church can act on poverty.



How to give



Church Action on Poverty Sunday generates vital support to uphold dignity, agency and power. Please use your event to encourage people to make a donation to Church Action on Poverty.

Physical collections (cash or cheques)

- If you're taking a physical collection at your service or event, please give out our **donation envelopes** so that members of the congregation can make a Gift Aid declaration with their donation if they wish. You should have received some envelopes in your resource pack – just call 0161 872 9294 if you need more.
- After your event, you can donate the proceeds of your event by card or PayPal at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give. Or make out a cheque for the full amount from your collection, payable to Church Action on Poverty, and send it to:



Freepost RTTY–JGEE–JJEZ, Church Action on Poverty, 28 Sandpiper Court, Water's Edge Business Park, Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ.

Please **include a note saying that this is a Church Action on Poverty Sunday collection**, and where it was taken. Be sure to **include any signed Gift Aid declarations** along with your cheque.

Online donations

- Make sure the congregation receive our **prayer cards**. The cards include the Church Action on Poverty Sunday prayer, and a code and web address they can use to make an instant online donation. You should have received some prayer cards with this resource pack – just call 0161 872 9294 if you need more.
- Our **worship slides** include codes and links for people to make an online donation – just display them on a screen in church, or as part of your virtual worship. They're available to download at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/extras

Making a commitment as a church

- Some churches prefer to make a **monthly donation** rather than taking a collection – or make donations to **nominated charities** at the end of each year. If this suits your church better, please ask your leaders to consider giving to Church Action on Poverty in this way. You can find more guidance at www.church-poverty.org.uk/donorchurch

Coffee

- If your church serves tea or coffee after the service, why not buy some Church Action on Poverty fairtrade coffee? Every bag raises funds to help people speak truth to power. You can order yours at www.church-poverty.org.uk/give

Worship

Use this collection of prayers, hymns, Bible readings and creative activities to explore your dreams and visions of a better world – and how to make them reality.

These materials are presented in the format of a traditional liturgical service. If you follow a less structured approach in your church, feel free to select whichever materials will work best in your worship. Please try to include some authentic voices of lived experience, and a call to take action.

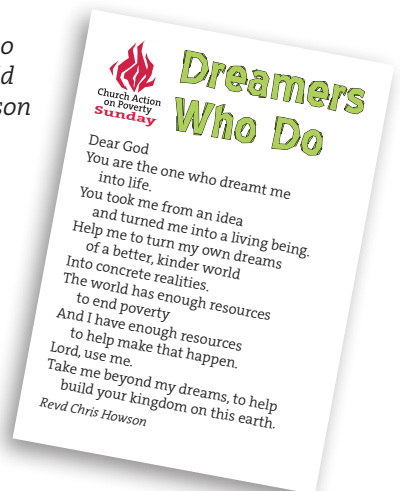
Remember that all of these materials are available as slides to use in online worship too – download them at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

A Church Action on Poverty Sunday prayer: Dreamers Who Do

Dear God
 You are the one who dreamt me into life.
 You took me from an idea and turned me into a living being.
 Help me to turn my own dreams of a better, kinder world
 Into concrete realities.
 The world has enough resources to end poverty
 And I have enough resources to help make that happen.
 Lord, use me.
 Take me beyond my dreams, to help build your kingdom on this earth.

Revd Chris Howson

This prayer is featured on our prayer cards, which also list several ways people can give, act and pray to build dignity, agency and power. If you are meeting in person for worship, please distribute a prayer card to each member of the congregation.



Gather: an opening prayer

God of love and mercy,
we come before you now as those whose dreams die every day.
For we bring to you...

... a land in which one buys shares in an energy company while another cannot afford
to feed the prepayment meter;

... a society in which one jets off on a glamorous holiday while for another the local
bus service has been axed;

... a world in which one relies on private healthcare, while another sends her children
to bed breathing in mould from the walls.

We ask you to revive our dreams and turn our nightmares into light and hope.

May we revive in ourselves and in others the dreams of Jesus' kingdom:

... a land in which love for you leads directly to love of all neighbours without
distinction;

... a society in which many are willing to accept personal limitations for the sake of a
greater good;

... a world in which governments and those of good will work hand in hand for the life
of the earth and all its people.

So in this time of worship may our dreams rise again.

May we become once more the people who can banish the nightmares and turn the
dreams into reality.

We ask this prayer in the name of the one whose manifesto was good news for the
poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Revd Nick Jowett

Listen: voices of experience

Make space here to hear about someone's lived experiences of poverty - and their visions of what needs to be done to loosen poverty's grip on people's lives.

This could be a story from someone in your own church or community - a volunteer, a service user, a member of the congregation. If you do ask someone to share their story like this, remember that they are making themselves vulnerable by speaking up, and make sure you have support in place for them. Church Action on Poverty can provide advice and resources to help you with this – contact our Media and Storytelling Coordinator Gavin Aitchison, gavin@church-poverty.org.uk.

Or you could share this story from Ashleigh May, a community activist who's working with Church Action on Poverty (pictured on the front of this booklet). You could ask somebody to read out Ashleigh's story below, or use a video clip from www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/video.

Ashleigh's story

Ashleigh May is a community activist. Church Action on Poverty's 'Speaking Truth to Power' programme works with people like Ashleigh to reclaim dignity, agency and power. Ashleigh's story shows the difference that 'dreamers who do' can make:

"I would definitely like to see more equality. That is what pushed me on in the beginning, and wanting to see people being able to reclaim their power and implement change. I did not realise I had power within me to make a difference in a big society, but that changed... I was born in and lived in London and went past Westminster many times but never felt valued or welcome to be in those spaces. Then I went to an All Party Parliamentary Group meeting in about 2017, and to participate in that conversation was powerful.

"I work now to empower communities and build resilience and confidence so people can overcome the challenges of poverty, breaking the generational curse of poverty.

"I am a born-again Christian. I grew up in a Christian background but started to stray from the church, and started being involved in some crime and alcohol, being a



Ashleigh (second from right) taking creative action with other Speaking Truth to Power campaigners

rebellious teenager, but in situations I went through I saw God's hand. Every trial or tribulation I came through, such as going to prison, homelessness and being sectioned under the Mental Health Act, made me feel stronger and ignited a flame.

For me, love is at the centre of everything. If we aspired to do everything with love, the world would not operate as it does now.

"It's hard to balance a long-term vision with what needs to happen now. You can get distracted from the main goal but I feel everything we do is directed to the long vision... I have a lot of hope for Speaking Truth To Power. I definitely hope we will have more opportunities for young people to meet politicians, and I would like us to help have the poverty rate decline and have some policy change.

"I'm very hopeful, with the generation we have today. When I was growing up, I did not see as many people speaking up as are speaking up now.

"I feel a lot of people really do want to make a difference now, but a lot of people still don't know how to get started. So having groups like the Speaking Truth To Power panel is really important. I feel we have a really good group here with different perspectives and experiences, and I'm hearing a lot from different individuals. I think we will become known for making a change, and people should be the change you want to see."

In 2022, Church Action on Poverty arranged a roundtable where Ashleigh (second row from top, second from the right) and other activists talked to the Archbishop of York about their experiences of poverty and what needs to be done



Share the word: visions and action

If you can, please include these two key Bible texts in your readings today. If you normally follow a lectionary, you could include these instead of or alongside the usual texts for today:

- The call to take action against injustice in Isaiah 35
- The visions of a transformed world in Revelation 21

Explore the word: a new wherever you are

Read out the poem 'The New Glasgow' by Doug Gay:

The New Glasgow

I saw a vision – it was last Thursday at eleven o'clock in the morning:

I was standing on the Necropolis, looking down over the city;
and the cold blue winter sky broke open above my head
and the Spirit of God breathed on my eyes
and my eyes were opened.

I saw Glasgow, the holy city, coming down out of heaven;
shining like a rare jewel, sparkling like 'clear water in the eye of the sun';
and all the sickness was gone from the city,
there were no more suburbs and schemes;
no difference between Bearsden and Drumchapel.

I saw the Clyde running with the water of life,
as bright as crystal,
as clear as glass,
the children of Glasgow swimming in it.



And the Spirit showed me the tree of life
growing on Glasgow Green.

I looked out and there were no more homeless people,
no more women working the streets,
no more needles up the closes,
HIV and AIDS were things of the past,
there were no more racist attacks,
no more gay bashing,
no more rapists,
no more stabbings,
no more Protestants and Catholics,
no more IRA graffiti, no more Orange marches,
because there was no more hate!

And I saw women walking safe at nights,
saw the men were full of passion and gentleness,
that none of the children were ever abused,
because the people's sex was full of justice and of joy.

I saw an old woman throw back her head
and laugh like a young girl;
and when the sky closed back, her laughter rang in my head
for days and days
and would not go away.

This is what I saw, looking over the Gallowgate,
Looking up from the city of death;
And I knew then that there would be a day of resurrection,
And I believe
that there will be a day of resurrection.

Doug Gay, © Creative Commons

The poem contains evocative imagery that is particular to Glasgow. The following exercise provides a set of questions about the poem, which will help you to explore your hopes and dreams for wherever you are. There are different ways you could approach this:

- **Small group discussions:** Split into small groups and work collectively on your responses to the questions. A delegate from each small group could read out their group's responses so various visions are heard.
- **Make a collage (especially suitable in all-age worship):** Prepare a backdrop that has shapes that evoke places in your town: for example, an outline of the church, boats if you are by the river. Give everyone a prepared simple shape – squares for houses, triangles for roofs, etc. Read out the questions and ask people to write their answer on their shape if their birthday falls in one of the months listed. If your congregation is small, you might like to prompt people to answer more than one question. Then ask everyone to come forward and arrange their shapes on a

backdrop to make a cityscape. Children could add vehicles, bridges, arches, trees, etc. You could then read out a selection of the responses.

- **Quiet reflection:** Just read out the questions, with silence for reflection so people can think about their answers.

What setting might you be in to look at your town?

As I stood on the old pit bank...

As I stood at the railway station...

As I stood on the Tyne Bridge...

(Birthdays in January or February)

The river is an image of life and blessing. What water is important where you are?

The canals were clean and free of plastic and litter...

The Irwell was clear and abounded with life...

The Taff was crystal clear and children played in it...

(Birthdays in March or April)

Where would the tree of life grow in your community? Where do you long to see signs of resurrection?

I saw the tree of life, blooming outside the old shopping centre...

I saw the tree of life, flowering by the motorway underpass...

I saw the tree of life, bearing fruit in the market square, down by the old bus station...

(Birthdays in May or June)

What are the things that are in your community that will be gone in the holy city?

There was no more need for food banks...

There were no more young people addicted to drugs...

There were no more queues at the Jobcentre...

There was no knife crime...

There were no more debt collectors...

(Birthdays in July or August)

What are your hopes and dreams for the new city? What will be completely new?

There was meaningful work for everyone...

People trusted their neighbours...

There were community hubs that people used through love, not need...

People shared what they had and enriched one another's lives...

The streets and parks were clean and beautiful...

The gardens were rich in food for everyone...

The songs of the people rang in the street...

(Birthdays in September or October)

How could you finish this sentence? We are building this city now when...

We are building this city now through our Local Pantry...

We are building this city now when we share our bread and song...

We are building this city now when we campaign for justice...

(Birthdays in November or December)

Revd Marie Pattison

Reflect: unheard voices

Ask your congregation to spend a few minutes reflecting in silence, thinking about these questions...

- Whose voices aren't being heard... by our politicians? In our community? Even by us?
 - What can we do to make sure those voices are heard as we elect a new government?
 - How can we listen better ourselves?
 - What's our vision for our community? How could it be transformed?
 - How can we work together to make those dreams a reality?
-

Respond to the word: acting on poverty

Encourage your congregation to make a commitment today that they'll act to turn dreams into reality. They could...

- Attend the Act on Poverty Lent programme (see page 4) – either online by signing up at www.church-poverty.org.uk/actonpoverty, or in person if you plan to run it in your church. The link is included on your Church Action on Poverty Sunday prayer cards.
 - Plan to talk to candidates in the upcoming General Election about what they will do to prioritise tackling poverty if they're elected.
-

Give: a collection

Either take a collection, or raise funds by asking for donations for refreshments after your service. Make sure the congregation understand that their funds will support Church Action on Poverty's work to tackle UK poverty. They'll be helping more people like Ashleigh to speak truth to power, reclaiming their dignity, agency and power.

Encourage people to use the donation envelopes provided, so that they can boost the value of their gift by making a Gift Aid declaration. Or they can donate online by using the link provided on the Church Action on Sunday prayer cards.

See 'How to give' on page 6 to find out how to send your donations to Church Action on Poverty – and other ways your church could give.



Pray: intercessions

We pray for the work of Church Action on Poverty, as they respond to the Gospels and challenge us all to speak out for a society where all can reclaim their dignity, agency and power. May their vision inspire us, and encourage us all to dream and act for a better world, in our homes, our churches and our wider communities.

We pray for ourselves, that we will be open and willing to listen to the experiences of those gripped by poverty, taking time to understand its effects on individuals, families and our wider society. Let us pray too that with those affected by poverty, we may have the courage to dream new dreams of a fairer, different future, and be prepared to take action and speak out to make it happen.

As we prepare for a General Election, let us pray for all those involved in politics, and government, that they may recognise and understand the debilitating effect of poverty on individuals and our society, by listening to those affected by it. We pray too, that as individuals and congregations we have the confidence to engage politically, sharing our dreams of a fairer society with our candidates, and encouraging them to share our vision.

“Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared [to Peter] and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.” (Acts 12:7)

Let us pray for all who, like Peter, feel imprisoned by poverty and long for liberation. We pray for the young and the old, individuals and families, that they might have companions in their struggles, practical support when they need it, and courage in knowing that you will never abandon them.

Miriam McHardy

Send out: a closing prayer

God of love and mercy,
send us out as those whose hopes have been raised,
whose vision is broadened, and whose dreams are now revived.
May we turn dreams into deeds for a new world,
... where the manifesto of Jesus becomes reality:
... where there is joy and good news for the poor;
... where both poor and rich are released from their prisons;
... where the destitute and the devalued find new freedoms;
... and where many recover their sight for the deep changes that are needed.
So shall waters break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert, and the
ransomed of the Lord return with everlasting joy upon their heads, and sorrow and
sighing flee away, and we shall see, in our day, the glory of the Lord, the majesty of
our God.
May it be so under the power and providence of God's Spirit within us.
May it be so in the vision of Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth.
May it be so in the new world you, our Father, are calling us into.
May it be so. Amen

Revd Nick Jowett

Sing: hymns to use in your service

Dreamers who do

Metre: 10.10.11.11

Tune: Paderborn Hanover or Laudate Dominum (Parry). Let's dream of a world where all
can live well,
where need and distress won't cast a bleak spell.
For justice abundant which many will share,
God's Spirit will make us the dreamers who dare.

Let's dream of a town where we breathe fresh air,
where flowers and fruit grow in every square.
For neighbourhoods bubbling with vim and with verve,
God's Spirit will make us the dreamers who serve.

Let's dream of a place where children can grow,
with good healthy food, their faces aglow.
For character cherished, each gift and each quirk,
God's Spirit will make us the dreamers who work.

Let's dream of a realm both strong and diverse,
where hope is not killed by what's in your purse.
For dignity, freedom, not just for the few,
God's Spirit will make us the dreamers who do.

Let's dream of a world where Jesus holds sway,
Where hunger and greed have both had their day.
For wealth to be shared and glass ceilings all cracked,
God's Spirit will make us the dreamers who act.

Revd Nick Jowett, July 2023

One day I dream

Metre: 11.10.11.10

Tune: Lord of the years; O perfect love

One day, I dream, our children will not hunger:
when I have put aside my grasping greed,
when neighbours are true friends we love and cherish,
when hand in hand we meet each human need.

I long to greet that day when human crying
is heard no more upon this ravaged earth,
when children grow in hope and not in horror,
not fearful of food's scarcity or dearth.

I scan the distance, glimpsing heaven's embers,
an afterglow of all that might have been,
reminding of what still might be before us
if we can act with love within this scene.

Andrew Pratt, 15 July 2023

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Though lords of this world

Metre: 10.10.11.11

Tune: Paderborn

Though lords of this world use power to do wrong,
a new order's dawned where weakness is strong.
Where losing is winning, this end is rehearsed;
the first will be last and the last will be first.

Discover a king, whose love is so deep
he saw his own crown as not his to keep.
The monarch is servant, the order's reversed;
yes, Jesus surrendered his claim to be first.

The Servant-King Jesus, worship his name,
and honour the poor the rich want to blame.
We aim to turn tables where greed does its worst;
but who will surrender their claim to be first?

Now, greatest or least, God wants us to share
his joy in a feast of justice and care.
Till Jesus returns, ends all hunger and thirst;
we'll pray for his power to put the last first.

Hazel Palmer

Speak: prayers, poems and creative writing

Heavenly vision

A city of gold wrapped in a vision of light,
where there is no night, nor a temple in sight,
but with a river pure and crystal bright
flowing between twelve trees of life
planted to heal the nations' strife.

Such is one vision of heaven.

But what of those whose place on earth
would seem to be of little worth?
Or those who pray their war may cease
and they, one day, may live in peace?
Or those who sigh with broken heart
to see their nation torn apart?

What heavenly vision is theirs?

A promise of peace wrapped in a cloak of care.
A place of hope where each may find a share
of a sacred space, just any place, so God can meet them there.

This is their vision of heaven.

Marjorie Dobson

Changing the vision

I'm writing a poem, to change the vision.
Our current one, in need of revision.
It's not a story. It's my own plight.
I hope to live in this glory.
As homelessness means so many variables.
As I sit here today, I sit and hope and pray.
To secure myself and my family with it.
It's a dream come true, a plea for freedom.
Acknowledge this fact
and promise to read them.
If all mankind were sheltered so,
we'd not need a place to go.
The oven would be filled with food.
The garden set for spring.
A bedroom with so many toys.
A child the most important thing.
Pray for us to reach our goals.
This verse helps to fulfil our souls.
Should God's own power bring to this hour,
I'll celebrate him and count our blessings.
So long I have waited for a purpose to come.
It is here at last, when I become mum.
Our homelessness a distant dream.
A past clouded over now, a life to redeem.
A vision I have long awaited.
Our loneliness can be abated.
To live in peace in God's own glory.
I pray to him to complete our story.

Sarah Grant

Empty words

Empty words
from those who live in luxury
and despise the poor.
Empty words
from those who enquire after the sick,
but never visit them.
Empty words
from those who offer hollow sympathy,
but never weep with those in sorrow.
Empty words
from those who are severely critical
of local and national governments,
but refuse to vote,
or to become involved in politics.
Empty words
from those who proclaim themselves
to be Christians,
but only take care of themselves
and their own kind.
Empty words
from those who preach
of suffering and sacrifice,
but have never challenged themselves
to experience either.
Empty words from those...
Empty words...
Empty...

And God,
who knows our hearts,
looks on
and asks us to look again
at the sacrificial love of Jesus
and to fill our empty words
with love and action.

Marjorie Dobson, ©Stainer & Bell Ltd 2019

It wasn't what they expected

It wasn't what they expected;
A bunch of Galilean yokels bursting out into the Jerusalem street
On the day of Pentecost,
Disturbing the crowds of visitors,
Gabbling nonsense.
Some claimed that they were speaking in foreign languages,
Others said they were drunk.
Then their leader, the one with the loud voice,
Stood up and shouted
"This is what the prophet Joel predicted;
Young and old seeing visions, dreaming dreams, prophesying."
He talked about the Messiah,
Who had been crucified in disgrace,
But had come alive again.
Really?
Really??
That was barely enough for a tiny footnote
To the history of Israel at that time.
And yet,
And yet,
In dirt poor villages, sprawling slums, refugee camps, war zones
And deprived housing estates.
The Messiah's followers have worked,
Are working still
To make those dreams and visions
Of food for the hungry,
Healing for the sick,
Shelter for the homeless,
Justice for the oppressed,
Reality.

Brian Ford

Eat together: a recipe

Shrove Tuesday is just two days after Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Why not make some pancakes together using this recipe? It's a great activity for Sunday school or a house group – or you could even do it in your own homes and share the results by Zoom.

Ingredients (makes 12 pancakes)

- 150g plain flour
- 300ml semi-skimmed milk
- 2 medium eggs
- 1 1/2 tbsp olive oil

Instructions

1. Sieve the flour into a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the eggs into the middle and whisk, slowly until all the flour is mixed in.
2. Gradually add the milk, continuously whisking until there is a smooth batter.
3. Brush a small frying pan with a little oil and warm over a medium heat. Add a tbsp of the batter to the pan. Tip the pan gently till the batter covers the whole pan in a thin layer.
4. Cook for 1–2 minutes until golden in colour, then flip over and cook for another 1 minute.
5. Serve immediately with your toppings or keep warm in the oven till needed.

About the recipe

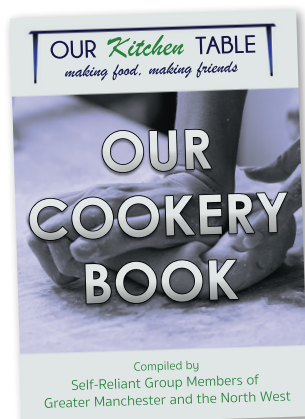
This recipe was shared by Carole, a member of one of the Self-Reliant Groups (SRGs) supported by Church Action on Poverty in Greater Manchester. An SRG is a group of friends who support each other and meet regularly. They are independent of funders and make their own decisions. SRGs share skills and learn together, save together (small, manageable amounts like £1 per week) and have the potential to become businesses.

Carole says: “I chose pancakes as they are easy to make and fun to try tossing them.

Pancakes can have so many different things with them like fruit, honey, syrup and ice cream.”

This recipe first appeared in *Our Cookery Book*, an inspirational cookbook compiled by members of the Self-Reliant Groups we support in the North West. SRG members share favourite recipes, together with stories about what cooking and sharing the food has meant to them in their lives. All proceeds support Self-Reliant Groups to continue their work.

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