

What will you do to show your support?

Go to the Campaign to End Child Poverty website – www.endchildpoverty.org.uk

Find out more about the issue, and talk to your friends, family and colleagues about it.

Join the End Child Poverty Facebook group.

Join in national gatherings to demonstrate your wish to see child poverty eliminated.

Write to your MP or arrange a meeting with them to discuss the issue further.

Become an 'End Child Poverty Champion' and volunteer your time to spread the word about the campaign. Contact End Child Poverty for more information.

Highgate Baptist Church, Birmingham The Revd Dr Paul Walker

The after school club for 4-11 year-olds runs on every school day, and is staffed by a multi-faith, multi-racial staff of four qualified people, reflecting the rich diversity of local community.

This project provides a specialist educational mentoring scheme. Skilled staff encourage the children's learning, enhancing their core educational skills, working in the well-stocked library and computer suite, and there is also a team of qualified children's counsellors.

With core funding from Children in Need, this heavily used centre promotes self-awareness, self-esteem, healthy eating, including attention to faith foods, and inter-cultural skills.

Keep Informed

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/childpoverty

For more information contact the End Child Poverty Campaign, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF Tel 020 7278 6541
info@ecpc.org.uk
www.endchildpoverty.org.uk

You may be interested to read the following reports:

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=804

The House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmworpen/42/42.pdf

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The **Methodist Church**

Child Poverty

Jesus says, "Just as you do it to the one of the least of my family, you do it to me."

Based on Matthew 25:40

1 in 3 British children live in poverty.

Poverty can have a profound effect on children, their families and society as a whole. It can lead to social exclusion and create problems in education, employment as well as physical and mental health.

Poverty is not inevitable, and the Government has set a target of eliminating child poverty by 2020.

We need your help to make this happen.

Poverty

To live in poverty is effectively to be excluded from ordinary life, normal customs and everyday activities.

Poverty in childhood is harmful to current well-being and a threat to well-becoming.

Woodhouse Close Local Ecumenical Partnership (Church of England and Methodist), Bishop Auckland, County Durham

The Community Centre is situated in the centre of a 1950's Local Authority Estate where 49% of the children live in poverty.

In the past, local people have in the past been suspicious of the statutory agencies, but the **Revd Brenda Jones**, the Priest-in-Charge, is thankful that the church and the community building are regarded as safe and trusted spaces for the community.

A thriving Mother and Toddler Group meets weekly on the premises, which has a medical focus, in addition to social and play facilities.

Health visitors are always available, and parents can have their child weighed and discuss any health concerns in a non-threatening environment. The church project also works in close cooperation with local Sure Start Centre to provide holistic care.

I'm cold. I'm hungry.

A girl born in Manchester can expect to live six years less than a girl born in Kensington and Chelsea.

2% of couples and 8% of lone parents cannot afford two pairs of shoes for each child.

12% of lone parents cannot afford celebrations with presents at special occasions.

Children living in households where the income is 60% or less of the median can be classed as living in poverty - though it is a difficult thing to define.

Poverty can mean not having enough money to have enough food, or pay the meter for electricity, and means that trips to the cinema or a swimming pool are unaffordable luxuries.

The effects of poverty can also cause many problems, such as poor physical and mental health, low educational attainment, poor housing conditions and homelessness, crime and addiction.

What is the End Child Poverty Campaign?

The Campaign to End Child Poverty is a coalition of more than 120 charities, child welfare organisations, faith groups, trade unions and others.

Members include Church Action on Poverty, Action for Children, Spurgeons and the Church of England Archbishops' Council.

The aims of the campaign are to:

- Inform the public about the causes and effects of child poverty
- Strengthen the commitment between, across and by the public, private and

voluntary sectors to end child poverty by 2020

- Promote the case for ending child poverty by 2020 with the current and future Governments.

Avenue Saint Andrew's United Reformed Church, Southampton

The church is surrounded by disadvantaged housing, with a substantial number of families living in temporary accommodation. Parents and children often have to survive in very cramped conditions, some suffering from the effects of domestic abuse, loneliness, and fragmented relationships.

The local health visitors are able to refer them to a specialist project, which has been running in the church for twenty years.

The centre is chaired by the minister, the **Revd Cliff Bembridge**, and is funded by the local Primary Care Trust, social services and Sure Start, with the balance provided by national charities and the church community.

The scheme currently employs five qualified play workers and a specialist family worker who offers support and advice and gathers the parents together in a self-help group, whilst the children are occupied.

Apart from the well-equipped play centre, practical provision also includes laundry facilities, internet access, and IT skills training offering a possible route into employment.

My shoes don't fit any more.