

ACTION AREA:

Learning and sharing



In this Action Area, we look at the importance of learning, reflecting and praying together. If we open up conversations about how we spend, save and invest, and invite others to get involved, we can help shape a fairer world.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. (Acts 4:32)



Start a conversation

Whose voices do we need to hear when making decisions about our church finances? What do we need to learn more about to help us steward our resources and work for a fairer world? How can we share our story and inspire others?

1. Young people

Do you involve young people in decisions about your church finances? Young people are often passionate about shaping a fairer, greener world and know what needs to be done. Explore the idea of inter-generational justice. In the face of climate change and growing inequality, how can we ensure that we are not leaving younger generations significantly worse off through what we do with money?

Resources and ideas for action

- Our Messy Money [resource](#) (a Messy Church partnership) helps all ages engage creatively with money, faith and ethics using the story of Zacchaeus.
- Invite young people in your church to respond creatively to the Pledge e.g. by designing a poster or performing a spoken word piece or a drama sketch in response to the Action Area themes.

- Organisations like [Christian Aid](#), [CAFOD](#) and [Tearfund](#) all have children's resources on issues of global economic injustice and climate change. Use [LifeSavers](#) resources for talking about money with children in schools.
- If you are a small congregation with no children or young people you may still have connections to schools, Scouts and Guides groups or parent & toddler groups. Find a way to engage them in your work on the Pledge.

Sharing stories: Modern Slavery Campaigner

Debbie Huxton is funded by the Mothers' Union to raise awareness of modern slavery. She explains: "it is something that is often 'hidden in plain sight' in our communities - whether in rural areas or city centres." Debbie works with Mothers' Union groups, churches and businesses across the Midlands to help them spot signs of modern slavery. Read more about Debbie's role and the partnership between the Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union, Transforming Communities Together, and the Clewer Initiative [here](#).

2. Going Deeper

This is a chance to deepen your knowledge about an issue you care about, to inform your work on the Pledge. As an example, we are going to explore Modern Slavery. An estimated 40.3 million people are trapped in modern slavery around the world.

Resources and ideas for action

- Put up a Modern Slavery Helpline poster in your church from [The Clewer Initiative](#).
- Hold a special service on the closest Sunday to Anti-Slavery Day (18 October).
- Help your church members understand how to spot the signs of modern slavery. [The Clewer](#)

Initiative, the **Salvation Army** and the **Together Free** network are great places to start.

Sharing stories: St John's and the Switch Day

Members of St John's Hoxton are passionate about tackling climate change. They also know that people in their community are struggling to pay for their gas and electricity. Supported by Hackney Citizens, they set up a Switch Day to help people switch to cheaper and greener energy suppliers. On the day, seven households switched to a renewable energy supplier. Everyone cut their bills significantly – one family reduced their yearly energy bill by a whopping £600! Such was the success of the Switch Day that they've developed a resource pack to help others run one too. To get hold of the resource contact fairenergy@citizensuk.org

3. Community connections

This part of the Pledge is about encouraging your whole community to learn, reflect and act on issues of faith and money. Find opportunities to learn from others too.

Resources and ideas for action

- Draw a map of the connections you have locally – churches and chaplaincies, other faith groups, community groups, schools, campaigning networks and businesses, and think about how you could work with them through your Pledge.
- Take time to listen to the concerns of your community. This may give you ideas for the Speaking Out Action Area.
- Run a Fair Energy Switch Day and help people in your community switch to a more ethical energy provider.

4. Media and storytelling

Movements for change often start through people sharing stories with each other – what kind of change they'd like to see and the actions they

are taking. You may not feel that you have the money or resources to make a big difference, but if you share the small things you are doing (e.g. switching to an ethical bank), you will inspire others to get involved. The movement grows and we make a bigger impact.

Resources and ideas for action

- Make a display to help community users of your building understand the actions you are taking as part of the Pledge.
- Write an article for your local newspaper with top tips to help others use their money for good.
- Tell us what you are up to! Use the hashtag **#MoneyMakesChange** on social media or email your story to info@eccr.org.uk
- Read this **excellent resource** on storytelling and community organising from the **Centre for Theology and Community**.

5. Prayer and worship

Jesus spoke a lot about money, power and how we behave towards each other. Money is clearly something we need to talk and pray more about. Through prayer you may wrestle with Pledge actions which seem too challenging and find a way forward.

Resources and ideas for action

- Pray regularly for a fairer, more sustainable world. Mark special Sundays like **Tax Justice Sunday**. Put Fairtrade Fortnight and Living Wage Week in the diary.
- Use our **workshop** or **guided prayer resource** to get people talking, learning and praying together.
- The **Jesus Money resource** from the **Just Finance Foundation** is a great way to start a conversation in an informal setting e.g. a cafe church.

