



The Church of Scotland

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Presbytery of Fife

Fife Presbytery Poverty Task Force

***The thief comes only to kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. St John 10 v10/ The Message***

November, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for coming along to Wellsley on 5th November to the Poverty Hearing.

There are many congregations which have been working hard and deeply with people in poverty in their parishes for a long time before now. There are also congregations who know poverty exists somewhere in their parish - but who is it, where is it and what do we do when we have answers to these? How are we respectful, how do we make a real difference with the often reduced resources we have?

The Presbytery Task Force hopes that sitting around tables with new people from other church families, Third Sector and Local Authority organisations may have put you in touch with experts in the field. 27 such organisations were invited which shows how well provided for Fife is.

It might be that your congregation has a new contact with someone who can come and speak to your Kirk Session, and to your congregation one Sunday morning? At my church in Springfield we invited Louisa Strong from Fife Equalities Centre to speak at our Cafe Church and the information she shared was a revelation - including how Pension Benefits amounting to millions are not taken up by pensioners across Fife. Please check your eligibility because this could unlock your access to other benefits you have no idea you're entitled to. This applies to pensioners across your parish. This is just one way you can help people; signposting help and information on church noticeboards and social media. The Task Force will be posting more information for you on this.

Working against the evil of Poverty beyond your parish is also pretty easy and again, more information will be coming out. You will have heard Pauline Buchan's (Big House Project manager) impassioned speech about the tsunami of need - we CAN help. Have a 'Hanger Sunday' where everyone brings clothes hangers they don't need - we all have them dripping uselessly in our wardrobes! Ask someone to drive the whole lot to the Lochgelly warehouse where the Big House Project collects all the returns from Amazon UK. Thousands of garments over a typical year need hanging so that when referral requests come in they're easily accessed on rails.

We will be in touch with more information as time goes on, with ideas for helping both within and beyond your parish. Above all YOU will be best placed to know how best you can respond.

Lorraine has collated the list of congregations which were represented and organisations which attended. We attach them here, and will shortly be sending out a Note of the day, collated from all the comments made at tables.

Remember, when Jesus said *The poor you will always have with you*, this was a replay from Deuteronomy which said the same, and said that God calls for a generous response.

Blessings and Peace,  
Jane Barron (Convener)  
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Task Force Members:

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**Jacky Close (Director: Faith in Community Dundee)**  
**Elisabeth Cranfield (Minister: Methilhill & Denbeath Priority Parish Minister)**  
**Shirley Grieve (Priority Areas' Secretary for the CofS & Go For It Fund Manager)**  
**Gillian Paterson (Minister: Wellesley Parish Church Priority Parish Minister)**  
**Alex Sandison (Community Development Worker: Faith in Community Dundee)**  
**Sheena Watson (Digital Engagement Officer : Fife Council)**

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