



Welcome to the November 2018 edition of the Together Liverpool newsletter.

Editorial

'If anyone had said to me I'd have ended up on the streets I would have laughed in their face' – in a [video](#) introducing the work of the [Church Homeless Trust](#), ex-serviceman Matthew explains that homelessness can happen to anybody.

Homelessness and housing insecurity across the UK are on the rise; this autumn we have heard that at least [449 people died on the streets](#) of the UK last winter. As I listen to stories such as Matthew's, or those of families cramped in damp accommodation, or of an asylum seeker whose application has been rejected and has nowhere to go, I am struck by how BROKEN our systems are, but often find myself at a loss to know how to respond.

In this newsletter we focus on the plight of displaced peoples - those in our country and region without a stable living situation. We highlight how issues of homelessness, modern slavery, housing insecurity and the experiences of refugee and asylum seekers are being addressed in Merseyside. We direct you to resources for community groups, churches and schools to learn more about practical ways we can reflect and respond to these issues.

As usual we suggest [ten practical ways to respond to this newsletter](#) - we'd love to hear how you get on using the hashtag [#DoTenThings](#) or email us on newsletter@togetherliverpool.org.uk

Dr. Naomi Maynard – Together Liverpool newsletter editor

Key Theme: Displaced People

Refused Asylum Seekers: the

work of Asylum Link Merseyside and how we can respond



Ewan Roberts, Centre Manager at Asylum Link Merseyside writes about the growing plight of refused asylum seekers, who often become homeless. He introduces the work of Asylum Link Merseyside and highlights their new Winter Night Shelter- supported by churches in Merseyside. Ewan offers four practical ways we can respond to this growing issue.

[Read the article](#)

The Whitechapel Christmas Appeal



The Whitechapel Centre is one of the key homeless and housing charities working across the Liverpool region. They work with people who are sleeping rough, living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation.

The Whitechapel Centre is open 365 days a year, including throughout the Christmas period. They provide Christmas and Boxing day lunches and a gift for those sleeping rough or staying in their accommodation.

How can you get involved?

- Donate food, decorations or gifts to make these lunches really special. The last day for food donations is Friday 21st December.
- Volunteer as a 'Christmas Elf' for a few hours over the festive period – spending time sorting and distributing donations

For more information, tap or click the button below to go to the website.

[More Information](#)

[Learn more about our work in the community](#)

[Visit our website](#)

Welcoming the Stranger?



Nadine Daniel, the National Refugee Welcome Coordinator for the Church of England, writes a challenging blog about welcoming the stranger. Nadine reflects on why it is difficult to welcome those who are different from us, whilst directing us to a wealth of resources available to those engaging with refugee and asylum seekers.

[Read the article](#)

[Council for Europe ESOL toolkit](#)

launched



The Council for Europe have developed a toolkit aimed to support the language work of non-specialists (e.g. those running informal ESOL groups) who are engaging with refugees and asylum seekers. This toolkit was launched in Liverpool on Tuesday 13th November at Asylum Link Merseyside's Welcoming the Stranger event - attended by over 80 participants from charities, faith groups and statutory organisations across the North West.

The toolkit is available in 7 different languages. It provides practical advice and guidance for volunteers working with refugees and asylum seekers, and contains a range of adaptable activities based on the notion that language proficiency develops most effectively through real life interactions.

The toolkit is free to download [via the Council of Europe website](http://www.coe.int/lang-refugees).

If you would be interested in training on how to make best use of the resource, please contact [Asylum Link Merseyside](#) who hope to run workshops on the toolkit in 2019.

Please disseminate this resource widely amongst your networks.

[Download the toolkit](#)

Other News

Reaching out into your community? Struggling to write funding bids? Ask Barry.



With 30 years' experience of both church leadership and of working in the community, Dr Barry Cooper is offering his services to support churches in reaching out into the community.

Over the last 30 years Barry has fund raised and set up numerous projects including youth groups, family support projects, childcare, debt advice and a foodbank. He is a member of the Institute of Fundraising.

Barry is willing to speak about Christian mission and why churches are uniquely placed to make a real difference, he is willing to facilitate a conversation as to what opportunities could be met by a church and if a church already has a project in mind or has already developed one he is willing to assist with fundraising by identifying and then writing funding bids.

To find out more about how Barry might be able to support your mission, and to discover the costs that would be involved please [email him](#).

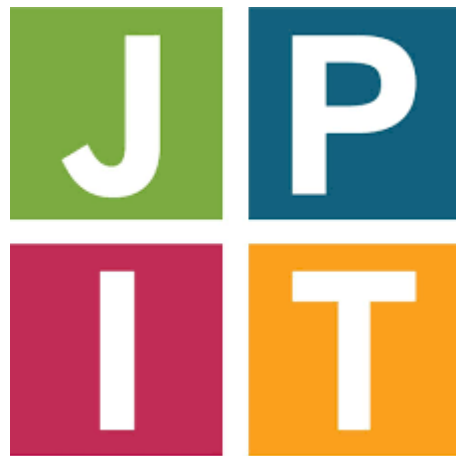
[Email Dr. Barry Cooper](#)

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from Together Liverpool**

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Useful Resources and Services

A place to call home? Bible Study resource



The Joint Public Issues team has produced a set of six bible studies for small group discussions focusing on a range of issues around housing.

‘A place to call home?’ offers a biblical and theological framework to help both churches and individuals respond to the emerging issues around housing in the UK.

[Download the studies here](#)

Bricks and Mortar: think-pieces



The Joint Public Issues team has produced think-pieces to enable Christians to reflect on the current housing crisis and how they could respond.

1. Crisis? What Crisis? Frequently Asked Questions
2. Housing: a moral obligation
3. A theology of home – a place of human flourishing
4. Putting our money where our mouths are
5. Responding to the housing crisis: key policy recommendations
6. Questions for reflection

This resource is free to download.

[Download the resource here](#)

Housing Justice's Overview of Homelessness Training



Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action to prevent homelessness and bad housing.

They run an informative workshop for volunteers in churches and church-linked homelessness action projects, such as night shelters and drop in centres. The workshop has also been found useful by people new to working in the field, as well as clergy and concerned members of the public wishing to know more about homelessness.

[More information](#)

Modern Slavery Lessons: collective worship resources schools and faith leaders

Modern Slavery Lessons

Modern Slavery Lessons has been created by The Clewer Initiative and Just Enough Group to share their resources for schools.

They have created lesson plans and collective worship materials for key stages one to five, focused on helping children and young people learn what modern slavery is, and how they can help raise awareness about it.

[More information](#)

The Clewer Initiative's modern slavery and homeless digital resources



THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

The Clewer Initiative have created 4 videos with the aim of increasing awareness of modern slavery amongst those who work or volunteer in projects with homeless people.

The videos, and their accompanying notes, are designed so they can be either used in groups or for individuals:

- Why homeless people are vulnerable to modern slavery
- What signs you can look out for if you think someone might have been exploited
- How to tell if someone is recruiting from your project
- What to do if you are worried about exploitation or recruitment

[More information](#)

Do Ten Things



#DoTenThings

Ten ways to respond to today's newsletter:

1. Share the [Modern Slavery Lessons](#) resources with your local Church of England school
2. Read a [Bricks and Mortar](#) think piece about the housing crisis in the UK
3. Watch [The Clewer Initiative's](#) videos to learn more about modern slavery
4. Read The Church Homeless Trust's guide [How to Help Homeless People](#)
5. Contact [Asylum Link Merseyside](#) to find out more about volunteering opportunities
6. Make a donation to either [The Church Urban Fund](#) or [Asylum Link Merseyside](#) to support their night shelters this winter

7. Contact [the Whitechapel Centre](#) if you see someone sleeping on the streets of Liverpool
8. Volunteer as a Christmas Elf to support the Whitechapel Centre's [Christmas Appeal](#) or donate food, decorations or gifts for their service users
9. Pray for displaced peoples in the UK with the support of the [Church Urban Fund's winter prayer diary](#).
10. Disseminate the [Council of Europe's toolkit](#) for engaging with asylum seekers and refugees around your networks

Let us know how you are getting on via social media using:

[#DoTenThings](#)

**If you need to know more about advice services in your area please contact Julia Webster at Just Finance Network:
julia.webster@togetherliverpool.org.uk**

Can't wait until the next newsletter? Follow us on [Twitter @TogethLiv](#), like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) for more information



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