

# POVERTY IDEAS

**'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'**

*Micah 6:8*

These ideas are just some of the many ways in which your church could make an immediate difference to help those in your community and beyond who struggle to make ends meet.

## POVERTY IDEAS

### 1 FOOD BANKS



**PURPOSE:** To collect donations of food and encourage a more visible link between church giving and local poverty.

**IDEA:** Set up a collection station at the back of church (where it can be seen) with a basket or shopping trolley. Ask church members to donate non-perishable foodstuffs that can be donated on to the needy in partnership with Food Bank organisations. This could be an on-going idea or one for a season –such as Christmas time.

### 2 SHOE BOX APPEALS



**PURPOSE:** To collect presents that can be given to families in need for Christmas.

**IDEA:** Partner with a shoe box appeal organisation to get instructions as to how best to organise this but the basic idea is to encourage church members to put together various small presents in shoe boxes for a particular 'deadline' Sunday before Christmas. The presents and their eventual recipients could then be prayed over before they are collected by a charity the following week.

### 3 SCHOOL UNIFORM BANKS



**PURPOSE:** To support families struggling with the cost of buying new uniforms for their children.

**IDEA:** To work in partnership with other churches and local schools to start a uniform bank in a local school, church hall, shop or at a parents and toddlers meeting. Parents who have had children grow out of uniforms can be encouraged to donate them to the uniform bank and the uniforms made available for free (or a small donation) to families that may be struggling to afford uniforms.

### 4 BLESSING PACKS FOR THE HOMELESS



**PURPOSE:** To provide a blessing of practical gifts for people that have to sleep rough.

**IDEA:** To work in partnership with a charity that works with homeless to see if there could be packs that could be provide for them to give to homeless people. Packs could contain blankets, hat, scarf, socks, gloves, food etc.



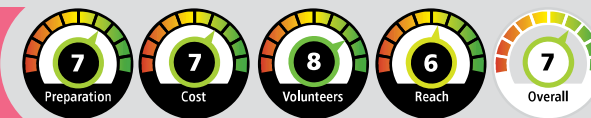
### 5 FREEZER MINISTRY



**PURPOSE:** To provide local people and parishioners with ready meals in times of need.

**IDEA:** This is an on-going ministry whereby meals are prepared by a church team and then frozen in fast food cartons (or bags) and stored. It can involve a number of different 'ready meals' as well as desserts, scones and tray bakes. The food can then used to bless people at times of their life when they might be tired, sick or under pressure. For instance families that have recently had a baby or when there has been a bereavement.

### 6 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



**PURPOSE:** To bless families in the local area at Christmas time.

**IDEA:** To gather from parishioners sample small hampers of food that could be used to bless some local families and the elderly. This could be done in partnership with other churches and charities to help identify families in need and used as part of pastoral visits.

### 7 CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY



**PURPOSE:** To help people manage their money better and help lift people out of debt.

**IDEA:** To work in partnership with Christians Against Poverty to run a Money Course for the local community to help people understand how better to manage their finances to prevent debt but also to give and save as well. For churches with more resources there is also the option to run a Debt Centre to give people support and debt counselling in order to help lift them from debt and the problems that go with it. [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)