

**From:** The Clewer Initiative <clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org>  
**Sent:** 01 December 2021 10:31  
**To:** ctcinfohub@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Shifting the modern slavery focus in winter



*Mobilising the Church to help end modern slavery.*

## Wrapping up warm for winter?

As we think about keeping warm for winter, this month's newsletter reminds us that winter can be the harshest time of year for the most vulnerable people in society. We examine the links between modern slavery and homelessness, talk about forced begging and bring you new resources for prayer and reflection during Advent.

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### Homelessness and modern slavery - a vicious cycle.



The link between homelessness and modern slavery is undeniable. Homeless people are at huge risk of being targeted by criminal gangs and also of being re-exploited. Victims often become homeless when they escape traffickers or if they leave government support – creating a vicious cycle of exploitation / escape / exploitation.

[READ MORE](#)

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### **Dr Júlia Tomás, the Anti-Slavery Coordinator at The Passage, explains the link between homelessness and modern slavery**

At The Clewer Initiative, we have been working closely with Dr Júlia Tomás, the Anti-Slavery Coordinator at The Passage, to develop our work in the area of homelessness and modern slavery. Júlia has been an active member of The Clewer Initiative's Advisory Group and the Bishop of London's Modern Slavery Steering Group, helping us think about the best way to support churches and frontline projects.

In particular, she has been helping us think about the development of a Single Point of Contact model so that once a survivor is identified in a parish, there is a clear framework to coordinate support. By working with Julia, we have been able to build on her expertise and experience of supporting victims in London and strengthen our safeguarding training and best practice guidelines.

Listen to Júlia explain the link between homelessness and modern slavery and the vital role that churches have.

[WATCH HERE](#)



### **Forced begging**

As we head to town and city centres to prepare for Christmas and buy presents for loved ones, it's a good time to remind ourselves that while the festive season should be a time of joy and excitement, there are many people for whom it is a time of desperation and hopelessness.

Forced begging is one of the lesser talked about aspects of modern slavery that we could be walking right past on our high streets.

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### Listen to Charlie's story



but I've learned to stick with good people

Charlie shares how he got targeted by traffickers while sleeping rough on the streets in London

**ACTION FOR ADVENT**

**PRAY. REFLECT. CONSIDER. ACT**

A new resource for churches



**WESEEYOU.**  
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

### Our Advent message:

#### Action for Advent

The first Sunday of Advent was Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November and since then, The Clewer Initiative has been posting regular messages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to encourage advent reflection and action.

[READ MORE](#)

# PRAY

Holy God,  
as we prepare to look for the signs that can help us  
celebrate the gift of your Son,  
and salvation for the world, help us also be alert to the  
signs of suffering and exploitation  
which obscure His light and hurt His image  
in so many of your children.

Teach us to see through the darkness  
and fill us with love so we can bring  
your gift of grace to those in urgent need.

We make this prayer in His most holy name.

Amen

**Porchlight** 

## **Porchlight's outreach manager shares how training has radically improved their ability to identify victims**

We spoke to Paul Withrington, an outreach manager and modern slavery champion for Porchlight. Paul was recently recognised at the Anti-Slavery Day Awards, organised by the Human Trafficking Foundation, for his work in reducing vulnerabilities.

[READ MORE](#)

The Clewer Initiative enables Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to develop strategies for detecting modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. [Learn More](#)

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