

From: [The Clewer Initiative](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
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Mobilising the Church to help end modern slavery.

Fighting modern slavery in 2024

In this month's newsletter, we launch our new safeguarding resource for churches worldwide. We also share more information about True Freedom (our Lent course for 2024), the National Network Meeting and the impact church social action projects have.

Please forward this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and encourage them to sign up to receive it regularly.



Protecting children from modern slavery

The Clewer Initiative launches a new safeguarding resource for worshipping communities around the world

A team from The Clewer Initiative visited the Diocese of Western Tanganyika (DWT) in Tanzania in Summer 2023. The purpose of the trip was to develop a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) safeguarding resource for use internationally.

Over a 2-week period, 1,068 people from the wider church community and local government attended child welfare seminars facilitated by the Diocese and The Clewer Initiative. Their contributions as well as interviews with representatives from the Diocese were analysed and reflected upon.

The resulting material is designed to be used by senior leaders to help them establish good child welfare practices and enable them to recognise and respond to concerns and reduce risks relating to MSHT in their communities. The content can be followed and contextualised to individual communities.

[READ MORE](#)

Using True Freedom for Lent 2024



The season of Lent begins on 14th February but True Freedom is available now so you have time to review the content and consider how to use it effectively in your church or community.

The six-week course draws on themes from the book of Galatians, and encourages individuals and churches to respond to modern slavery in their communities.

The resource is part of an ongoing collaboration, which began in March 2020, between the World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Clewer Initiative. The collaboration has a particular focus on ending child slavery.

Each week, we explore a different issue including:

1. how criminals entice vulnerable people and make false promises and how this contrasts with the wonderful call of the gospel
2. how people are commodified and not viewed as precious children of God
3. the limitations of the law and the role the church has in speaking up against injustice and lobbying for change.
4. the value of families and the tragedy of broken and fragmented neighbourhoods.
5. our shared responsibility to care for the vulnerable and walk closely with

the broken-hearted.

6. the life of a disciple and the need to persevere for the long haul as we walk in the Spirit and enjoy our freedom as children of God.

[Find out more](#)

What do you see?



Do you see a person, made in the image of God, looking for freedom or do you see a dove setting out on a new life?

We are delighted with the logo that our designers, Peachy Creative, devised for True Freedom - it is striking and communicates some key elements about the Lent course.

Firstly, True Freedom has been a wonderful collaboration between The Clewer Initiative and World Council of Churches and this is reflected in the sunset colours which are both eye-catching and the brand colours of the two organisations.

Secondly, the image of a dove and face intertwined represents both the hope of freedom and the individuals caught up in slavery.

Thought-provoking illustrations

Once again, we have commissioned Bill Crooks to draw a series of pictures to help bring to life key themes in the Lent course.

Each week in True Freedom, participants are invited to discuss two drawings and reflect on how they make them feel or how they add to their understanding of modern slavery and exploitation.

We are excited about this extra element as art can touch our hearts in different ways to words and drive home key messages about the horror of exploitation and the plight of victims as well as provide an inspiring vision of the church's role.



GET A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE 12 ILLUSTRATIONS

Three steps to help with the dissemination of the resource

1. Visit the [microsite](#) today and download the resource.
2. Is there a group of people you could tell about the resource. Could it form the basis of a weekly Lent Bible study in your church? Ask your church leader to review the material.
3. Use [our social media assets](#) to promote the resource on your socials or share our regular posts.



Church social action projects making a difference

[Statistics for Mission 2022](#) was published in November 2023 and is an annual report looking at attendance and participation across the Church of England.

This year's summary is illuminating as it contains figures showing the impact of the pandemic on the worshipping life of churches.

Of particular interest to the team at The Clewer Initiative was the number of Church of England churches heavily involved in social action and community outreach.

[READ MORE](#)

National Network Meeting: New Vulnerabilities and New Challenges

Last month, The Clewer Initiative held a National Network Meeting for project leads and volunteers from across the country. We gathered in London to learn more about the current modern slavery landscape, brainstorm best practice, share our experiences from the frontlines and make plans for action.

A representative from Hestia helped us understand how the new Illegal

Migration Act may affect victims of modern slavery and also the way the NRM and support available is changing. Bishop Alastair Redfern provided a theological reflection from Psalm 137.



A snapshot of the day

READ MORE

SIGN UP FOR MODERN SLAVERY TRAINING

1. Breaking County Lines Train the Trainer (Faith-based course)

Wednesday 7th February 14:30-16:30

Wednesday 14th February 14:30-16:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/775498154857?aff=oddtcreator>

2. Breaking County Lines Train the Trainer (secular course)

Wednesday 13th March 14:30-16:30

Wednesday 20th March 14:30-16:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/775584442947?aff=oddtcreator>

3. County Lines for Parents, Grandparents and Guardians

Thursday 29th February 10:00-11:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/775599558157?aff=oddtcreator>

Find out more about our training offering, visit <https://theclewerinitiative.org/training-and-events>

Follow us on social for more news from The Clewer Initiative!



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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