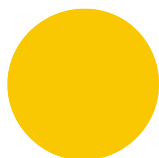


**From:** [The Clewer Initiative](https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/)  
**To:** [ctcinfohub@gmail.com](mailto:ctcinfohub@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Getting practical  
**Date:** 01 March 2024 10:59:55

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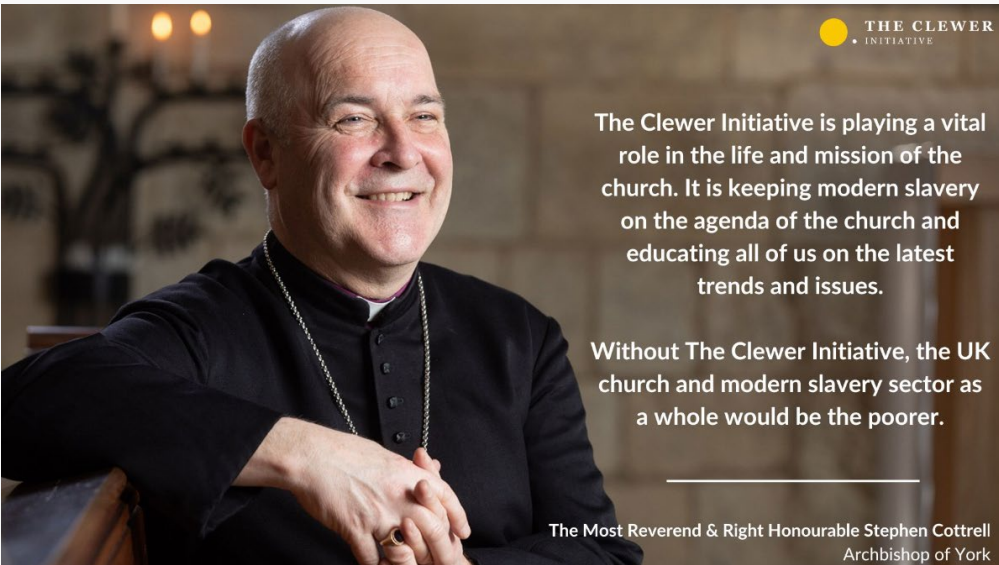
# THE CLEWER ● INITIATIVE

*Mobilising the Church to help end modern slavery.*

## Getting practical

This month's newsletter includes two articles about the "nitty gritty" of pioneering anti-slavery partnerships and two articles about volunteering - look out for a very important request for help from Hestia. We also share news about our financial situation and new season of fundraising.

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



The Clewer Initiative is playing a vital role in the life and mission of the church. It is keeping modern slavery on the agenda of the church and educating all of us on the latest trends and issues.

Without The Clewer Initiative, the UK church and modern slavery sector as a whole would be the poorer.

**The Most Reverend & Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell**  
Archbishop of York

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## The long-term sustainability of The Clewer Initiative

The Clewer Initiative was established in 2016 as the national work of the Church of England to combat modern slavery. We exist to raise awareness and mobilise the Church and communities to take action against modern slavery, promote victim identification and provide victim care and support.

For the last seven years, the Community of St John Baptist (CSJB) or Clewer Sisters, an Anglican religious order of Augustinian nuns, have funded The Clewer Initiative. This financial support is coming to an end so we are seeking alternative sources of funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

We receive amazing support from the Church of England at every level but, like most charities, we have to secure our own funding. Being independent means we can create an important and unique space in which church and non-church actors can meet as equal partners and collaborators.

We are now in the process of seeking funds so we can continue the vital work of The Clewer Initiative and place it on a sustainable and long term footing.

### *What can you do?*

- Pray that God would provide funding so the vital work of The Clewer Initiative can continue
- Pass on our [Crowdfunding link](#) to others in your network
- Watch the films below and share them with your network
- Visit the [Fundraising page](#) on our website and find out more about our vision for the future

If you have any questions about supporting The Clewer Initiative financially, email [caroline.virgo@churchofengland.org](mailto:caroline.virgo@churchofengland.org) or Chris Elliott, volunteer head of fundraising for The Clewer Initiative [rasocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:rasocialjustice@gmail.com)

READ MORE

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# MODERN SLAVERY NEVER STOPS.



YOUR SUPPORT COULD MEAN  
NEITHER DO WE.

## 2024 & beyond

The Clewer Initiative has created a short report, outlining our story so far and vision for the future.

It contains case studies from Leeds, Blackburn, Carlisle, Canterbury, Worcester, Southwark and Cumbria as well as endorsements from key players in the sector and other testimonies. It also details some of the reasons why The Clewer Initiative is uniquely placed to lead the fight against modern slavery in the UK. Download it today to learn more about future plans!

DOWNLOAD TODAY



Our story so far and vision for the future!



Over the last year, we have been involved in helping a number of anti-slavery partnerships get off the ground. We see this as a key area where we can provide support and inspiration.

Partnership is critical in combating modern slavery and churches can use their platform to bring together faith-based and secular organisations.

We hope you enjoy reading about Sion and Jo's recent experience in Lancashire and Cumbria and that they inspire you to think about your own community response.

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## Top tips on how to set up an Anti-Slavery Partnership

In 2017, Sion Hall, a senior detective with the Lancashire Police, was asked by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to use his imminent retirement to establish an Anti-Slavery Partnership.

Having worked for 30 years for the police and set up the Human Trafficking Team for the county, Sion felt it was a perfect way to put his skills and experience to good use and work on something he was passionate about.

Sion became the chair of the newly formed Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP) and quickly began drawing in other statutory agencies, NGOs, charities and faith groups to work together. Sion shares his experience of setting up an anti-slavery partnership and provides wisdom for others thinking of following in his footsteps.

[READ MORE](#)



Watch Bishop Alastair Redfern, Rev Dr Dan Pratt (Southend Against Modern



Slavery Partnership), Sion Hall (PLASP) and Rebecca Helme (Hestia) discuss the power and potential of partnerships.

## Cumbria's Partnership Journey

The Clewer Initiative spoke to Jo Phillips, Modern Slavery Project Lead at Churches Together in Cumbria, about the progress they have made, since last May, in forming a new Anti-Slavery Partnership:

"We now have about 200 people on our network email list and we gathered again in October to keep the momentum going and discuss our next steps, including forming a formal partnership.

"The big advantage about setting up a partnership later than others is that we get to benefit from their experience!

"The network meeting was attended by several organisations that hadn't come in May and there were a number of "penny dropping" moments where they grasped the part they could play in tackling modern slavery in Cumbria."

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**Hestia needs you!**

## *Volunteer opportunities with Hestia*

Hestia, one of the main organisations supporting victims of modern slavery in the UK, is seeking to launch a telephone befriender service. If it is to succeed, however, it needs the help of volunteers from The Clewer Initiative network!

Some of the 2,000 survivors of modern slavery it supports each year are isolated and lonely, often fearful of meeting new people. One way in which Hestia is seeking to address this is by introducing a new befriender service, specifically for survivors of modern slavery.

Hestia approached Caroline Virgo, the director of The Clewer Initiative, for help in recruiting 30 volunteers to become telephone befrienders.

Caroline explains: "Often when I speak about modern slavery, people want to know how they can help and what volunteer opportunities exist. The wonderful thing about Hestia's new telephone befriender service is that you don't have to live in London to be able to volunteer. Hestia has a proven track record, running befriender services for vulnerable people so volunteers will be guaranteed robust training and ongoing support.

"Initially Hestia is only making this appeal through The Clewer Initiative network so it is a concrete way in which we can make a difference and help provide victim care and support. I would urge anyone with a desire to provide support to a potential victim of modern slavery to get in touch with Hestia."

[READ MORE](#)

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## **Becoming a modern slavery ambassador**

Over the last two years, The Diocese of Chichester and The Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton have appointed 20 modern slavery ambassadors to work across the area, raising awareness of modern slavery.

Martin Poole, Chair of Together in Sussex and Vicar of St. Luke's Prestonville, explains more: "Our modern slavery ambassadors are ordinary people who have expressed an interest in finding out more about modern slavery and cascading the information throughout their parishes. They act as a local point of contact for their parish. Some give regular talks in their churches, some go into

local schools and talk about modern slavery, and others put up posters - the scope of their work varies hugely as they all have different capacities and personalities!

“I would highly recommend this model to other Dioceses and I am very happy to speak to anyone interested in finding out more.”

READ MORE



#### SIGN UP FOR MODERN SLAVERY TRAINING

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!**





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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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