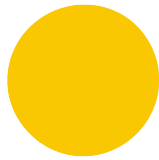


From: [The Clewer Initiative](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: Inspiring action on the ground
Date: 03 April 2023 10:15:03



THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Mobilising the Church to help end modern slavery.

Inspiring action on the ground

This month, we share some examples of how we have been working in parishes and dioceses to raise awareness, promote victim identification and provide victim care and support. The work in the Diocese of Southwark is a great example of the effectiveness of a local partnership approach.

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

Raising awareness and mobilising the church

Throughout Lent, we have used our social channels to promote [Journeys](#) and encourage people to consider how they can join the fight against modern slavery. We have also approached various media outlets to talk about Journeys and modern slavery in general.

Here are some of the radio interviews we secured:





BBC Radio Lancashire interviews Sion Hall about his involvement with Journeys and modern slavery activism in the county



BBC Radio Gloucestershire interviews Bill Crooks about his involvement with Journeys and modern slavery activism





Raising awareness in our churches and homes this Easter

In the lead up to Easter, could you use these drawings of Jesus' final steps to the cross? We have arranged the images alongside a stirring piece of music. We hope it will be a powerful resource for churches.

Team member Bill Crooks has also created a second set of images, depicting some of the stages in a typical modern slavery victim's journey. He has deliberately mirrored the traditional stations of the cross and Jesus' final journey.

Our hope is that by putting the two sets of images, side by side, they may prompt important discussions and provide a fresh perspective on modern slavery. This is all part of our commitment to use the very best, multi-media, communications tools to raise awareness and mobilise churches and communities to action.





Jesus' final journey - the traditional stations of the cross



A victim of modern slavery journeys through exploitation - a contemporary interpretation of the stations of the cross

[SEE THE TRADITIONAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS](#)

[SEE THE CONTEMPORARY STATIONS](#)

Supporting the Diocesan work through regional meetings

This month, we hosted two regional meetings for Project Leads in the Northern and Southern Province. At these online gatherings, project leads were able to share what they are currently pioneering, brainstorm ideas for the future and ask questions. We heard about exciting awareness raising activities, plans to run Hidden Voices courses, online webinars for Parish Safeguarding Officers, training and awareness raising amongst Ukrainian refugees and work within Cathedrals. Caroline Virgo, the director of The Clewer Initiative, was able to share information about upcoming training, resources and events. We are looking forward to our National Network Meeting in May where we will be able to share even more widely our strategy and plans.

Also this month...

The team has been preparing for

- a Schools Day at Worcester Cathedral for more than 200 young people from secondary schools across the diocese
- advising Churches Together in Cumbria (CtiC) on a consultative event with statutory and NGOs with the hope of establishing a Modern Slavery Partnership
- a three day event in Canterbury to mark National Refugee Week
- the next stages of our international projects in Tanzania and Ghana

More information to follow in future editions of the newsletter!



Promoting victim identification - all you need to know about Good Reporting

Debbie McCormack is the Safeguarding Manager at Lambeth Palace. She joined the team in November 2021, having spent 32 years working as a Detective Inspector for the Metropolitan Police.

We talked to Debbie about the importance of Good Reporting.

Why is Good Reporting so important?

Good reporting ensures that the right information is given to the right people in a timely manner. It enables safeguarding professionals to identify whether there is a concern and whether to take swift action to protect an individual. A report could make the difference between life and death. It could save an individual from further harm.

How can we become good at reporting?

Good reporting is all about the education and empowerment of individuals to ensure they recognise signs of trafficking or any safeguarding concern and that they are confident in knowing how to deal with a concern and who to report it to. People need to know what they are looking at and be able to recognise the issues. Once they have a good understanding and awareness of modern slavery and how to identify signs of abuse, then we need to move on to empowering people to take action. We need to encourage people to refer their concerns at the earliest opportunity to prevent risk or further harm to those at

risk.

What does Good Reporting look like?

Good reporting is about providing the fullest information possible so that safeguarding officers can build up an accurate picture of what is going on. The detail provided might seem insignificant but for the professionals who look at safeguarding issues every day, it could be the missing part of the jigsaw.

[READ MORE](#)

Mobilising the church: spotlight on Southwark Diocese

Southwark is one of the largest and most diverse dioceses in the Church of England, covering the energy of the inner city of South London through to the beauty of the Surrey Hills.

Chris Elliott, the Modern Slavery Advisor for Southwark Diocese, explains how the modern slavery activism in the Diocese emerged: “The Diocese had historically pioneered some brilliant social justice work in South London but I felt that the Southern end of our Diocese, Surrey, was a totally different context with different partners such as Surrey Police, Surrey County Council and the Surrey and Sussex NHS. I could see that it was important we developed a collective approach in Surrey to issues of social justice. At that point, I was mainly thinking about knife crime. I didn’t know much about modern slavery until I met someone at Surrey Police who literally changed the course of my life! She opened my eyes to the issues of modern slavery, that it does happen in Surrey and that there are things we can do that make a difference.”

Chris established the [Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus](#) (RASJF) in 2019 and set the goal of talking to every church in the Archdeaconry about social justice issues. The group wanted to highlight issues surrounding youth violence, county lines, domestic abuse, teenage mental health and modern slavery but it quickly became clear that this was far too ambitious. They decided to prioritise county lines and modern slavery action. Chris joined the Surrey Anti-Slavery Partnership (of which he is now the co-chair) and became the Modern Slavery Advisor to the Diocese.

[READ MORE](#)



Establishing a place of safety

Southwark Diocese leads the way in victim support and care

A little while ago, Chris Elliott, the Modern Slavery Advisor for Southwark Diocese, became aware that there was no safe house for victims of modern slavery in Surrey. He was shocked by this revelation and wondered if the Diocese could provide something as, like other Dioceses, it has a lot of properties and sometimes these are vacant in between incumbencies.

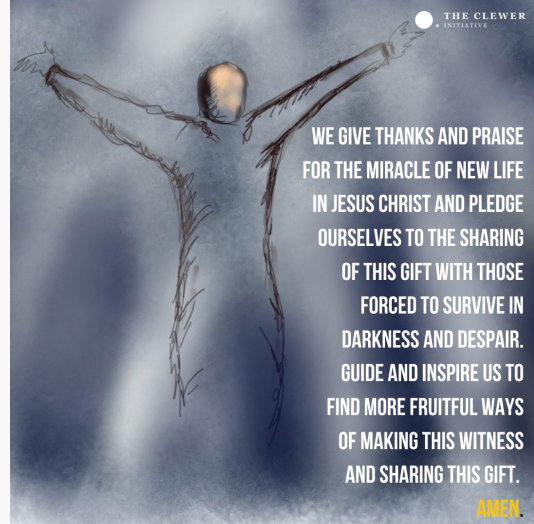
He spoke to the Diocesan Secretary who agreed that this could be a wonderful opportunity for the Diocese to provide a place of refuge and safety for victims of modern slavery. They reviewed their portfolio and identified a property that was not in regular use.



READ MORE

AS WE RECALL THE HUMILIATION AND TORTURE OF YOUR SON, MAY WE RECOGNISE THE CONTINUING BRUTALITY WHICH DAMAGES SO MANY, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME BETTER ABLE TO BE BEARERS OF YOUR COMFORT, AND HOPE — THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SUFFERING SAVIOUR.

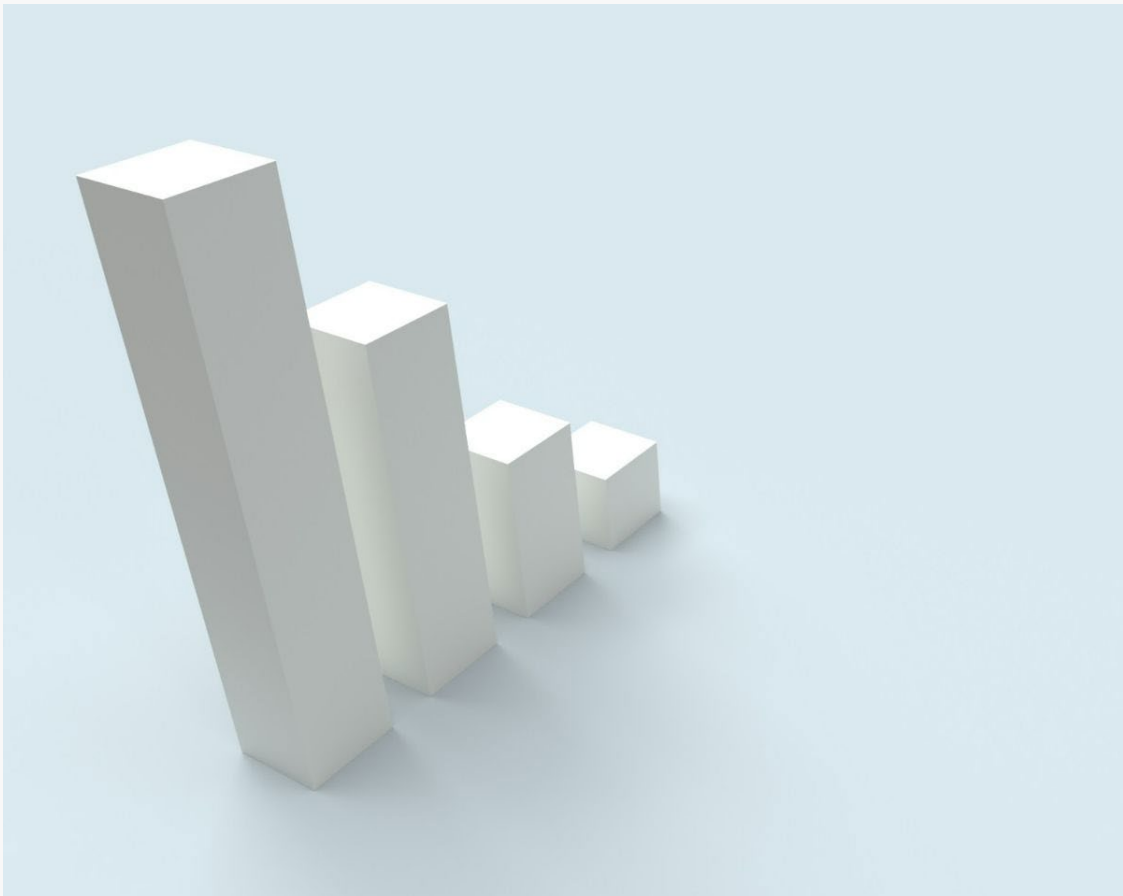
AMEN.



WE GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE FOR THE MIRACLE OF NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST AND PLEDGE OURSELVES TO THE SHARING OF THIS GIFT WITH THOSE FORCED TO SURVIVE IN DARKNESS AND DESPAIR. GUIDE AND INSPIRE US TO FIND MORE FRUITFUL WAYS OF MAKING THIS WITNESS AND SHARING THIS GIFT.

AMEN.

A prayer for Good Friday and Easter Sunday - please share on your socials.



The modern slavery landscape

The Home Office has recently issued its [National Referral Mechanism end of year statistics for 2022](#).

The data gives us a snapshot into the current modern slavery landscape and helps us understand which way the trends are moving in. This is our summary:

- The number of potential victims referred to the Home Office in 2022 increased by 33% compared to the preceding year
- This was the highest annual number since the NRM began in 2009 but is only the tip of the iceberg as most victims never come forward for support
- Of the 16,938 potential victims referred in 2022, 78% were male and 21% were female

[READ MORE](#)

SIGN UP FOR MODERN SLAVERY TRAINING

1. Breaking County Lines Train the Trainer - secular organisations

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/breaking-county-lines-train-the-trainer-secular-organisations-tickets-491667640147>

Wednesday 19th April 14:30-16:30

Wednesday 26th April 14:30-16:30

2. County Lines Training for Foster Parents

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/558608191137>

Friday 19th May 10:00-12:00

Friday 16th June 10:00-12:00

3. Understanding county lines for parents, grandparents and guardians

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/601268358847>

Thursday 1st June 10:00-11:00

Thursday 22nd June 10:00-11:00

To find out more, 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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