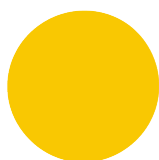


From: [The Clewer Initiative](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: The next steps for The Clewer Initiative
Date: 09 October 2024 08:59:53



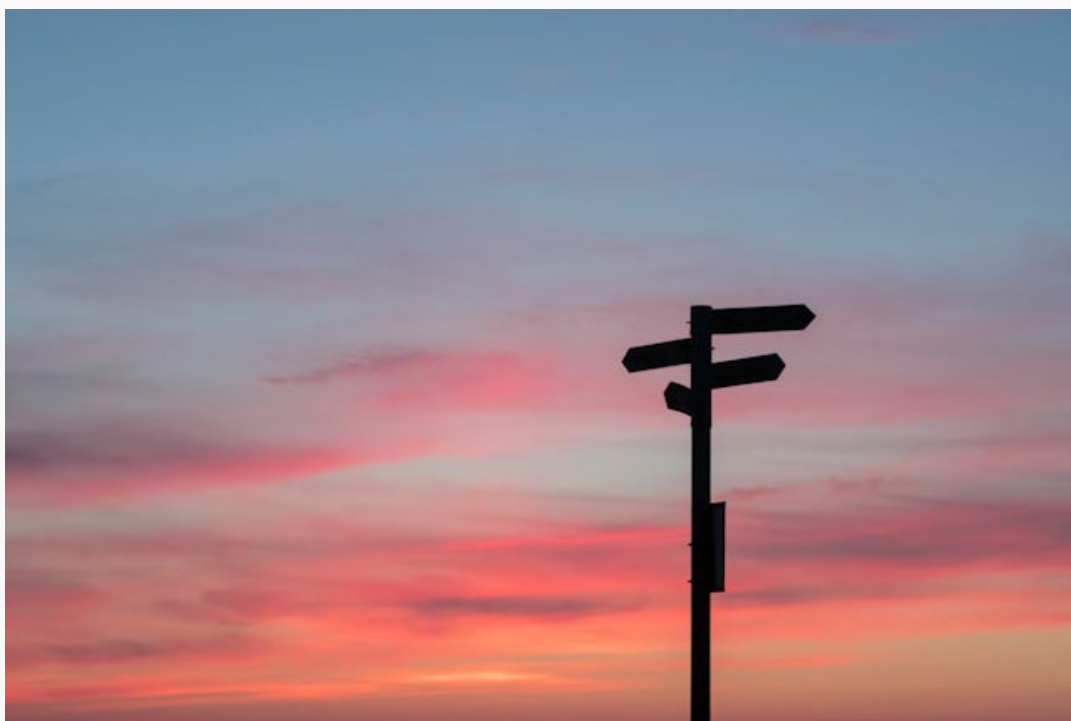
THE CLEWER ● INITIATIVE

Mobilising the Church to help end modern slavery.

Our future

This month, we share the latest on our future plus church resources for Anti-Slavery Day and a wonderful example of awareness raising in Taunton.

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



Next steps for The Clewer Initiative

A message from our founder...

Bishop Alastair Redfern, founder of The Clewer Initiative, explains: "The Clewer Initiative is moving into a new phase. The generous funding from the Community of Saint John the Baptist has come to an end, and we are now in the process of becoming an independent charity.

"We have moved out of the hospitable, supportive space and partnership, kindly provided by the Mission And Public Affairs department at Church House and have been offered a base in central London, which will connect us with important partners. We are establishing a new structure of Episcopal Patrons, a Council of Regional Representatives and a Trustee body to oversee the next stage of our work.

"Despite the increasing number of modern slavery cases and vulnerable people in our society, modern slavery seems to be less and less a priority on public agendas. At The Clewer Initiative, we are wholeheartedly committed to our calling to raise awareness of modern slavery and mobilise the Church and communities to take action against it.

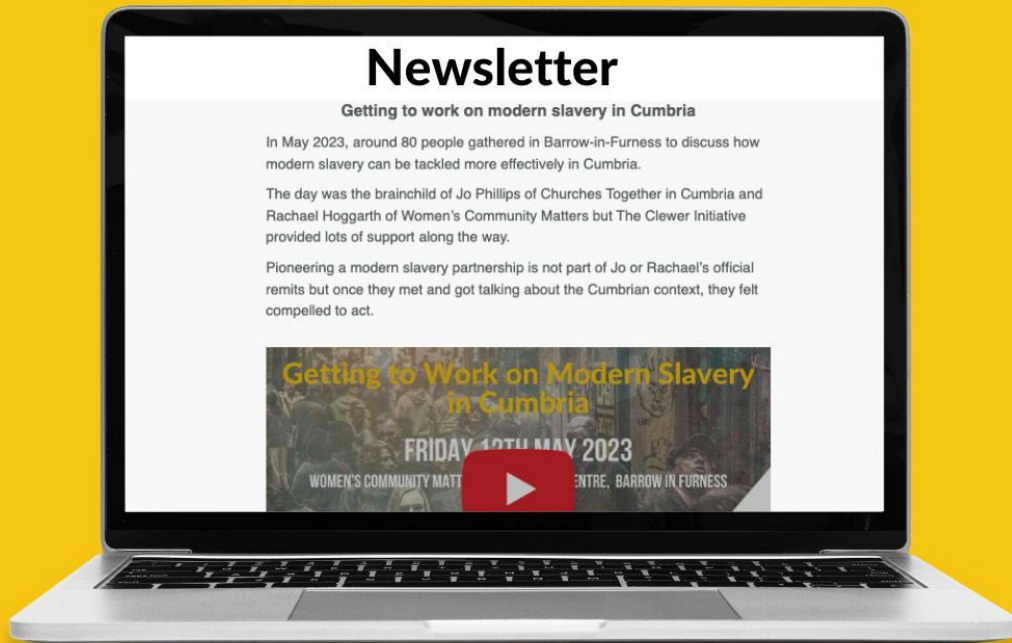
"We want to build upon the work we have been able to undertake over the last eight years, both internationally and in many of our dioceses. Opportunities continue to arise, and we are in the process of organising appropriate responses – through our programmes and projects in a wide range of contexts.

"The gospel witness is measured in our times by our catchphrase "We see you." As our Lord says "in as much as you did it to one of these, you did it to me." We have a responsibility to notice and respond to those who are hidden, unnoticed, exploited, vulnerable and hurting in our communities.

"Please support us with your prayers, and any practical contributions you can offer."

If you have any questions or would like further information, please email the team on chris.elliott@clewer.org.uk





**RECEIVE REGULAR NEWS AND UPDATES FROM
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX**



As we establish the new charity, we need to migrate all of our existing newsletter subscribers to a new mailing list. **Please take one minute to subscribe to receive all future newsletters.**

If you do not do this, we will not be able to contact you in the future about the work of The Clewer Initiative and the fight against modern slavery.

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Countdown to Anti-Slavery Day 2024



Anti-Slavery Day (18th October) is an annual opportunity for churches, businesses, charities, and individuals to consider afresh what they can do to eliminate modern slavery in their communities.

Every year, we have been amazed by the events and activities that have been organised to help raise awareness of modern slavery.

Some churches or cathedrals have hosted art exhibitions, others have organised special Anti-Slavery Day services, or been lit up red to draw the attention of passers by.

If you're looking for inspiration, visit our blog to find out about past initiatives.

[READ MORE](#)



Anti-Slavery Day Resources for Churches

*Liturgy, prayers and ideas for running an Anti-Slavery
Day Service in your church*

With input and guidance from the Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones, the Bishop of Tonbridge; The Rev'd Edwina Fennemore, Canon Jane Brooke and Bishop Alastair Redfern we have been able to create a PDF to help you as you plan an Anti-Slavery Day service.

It contains:

- Potential Bible readings
- Potential hymns/songs
- An introduction to a church service
- A confession
- Prayers
- A sermon starter
- Ideas to structure corporate prayer
- A series of house group sessions

Download it today!

[DOWNLOAD](#)



Taunton Minster hosts art exhibition to mark Anti-Slavery Day 2024

On Friday 18th October, the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Mohammed Saddiq, will officially open a modern slavery exhibition at Taunton Minster. The exhibition has been organised by Hidden Voices Bridgwater, a group dedicated to exposing the realities of modern slavery.

The aim of the exhibition is to use the power of art to convey the ongoing crisis of human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation. Artists have been invited to contribute their works, and each piece is designed to vividly illustrate the stark and often hidden nature of slavery today. The hope is that, through this powerful and visual storytelling, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of the urgent need for action.

The exhibition will run from 18-23 October. At Evensong on Sunday 20th October, there will be a special talk from Bishop Michael.

In addition to the exhibition, Hidden Voices Bridgwater plans to display a large illuminated sign on the A38, one of Somerset's main roads. This public display aims to capture the attention of passers-by, bringing the issue of modern slavery into the spotlight and encouraging people to take action.

Sian Owen, co-ordinator of Hidden Voices Bridgwater, will be present at the Minster on 18 October to answer any questions and provide further insights into the campaign. She says, "It is truly horrifying to acknowledge that in 2024 slavery continues to exist, even within Somerset. This exhibition seeks to shed light on this grave injustice and inspire collective action to eradicate it."

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Slavery on the UK High Street

BBC England recently revealed the shocking story of 16 victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. The individuals were trafficked by a gang into the UK and forced to work in a branch of McDonald's and a factory supplying bread products to Asda, Co-op, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

The victims - who were all vulnerable, most having experienced homelessness or addiction - earned the legal minimum wage, but nearly all of their pay was stolen by the gang. They lived on a few pounds a day in cramped accommodation while the gang members enjoyed a lifestyle of luxury cars, gold jewellery and property in the Czech Republic.

Many red flags were overlooked:

- Victims' wages were paid into bank accounts in other people's names
- Victims were unable to speak English, and job applications were completed by a gang member
- Victims worked extreme hours at the McDonald's - up to 70 to 100 a week
- Multiple employees had the same registered address. Nine victims lived in the same terraced home

BBC England's 30 minute documentary provides an excellent introduction into how modern slavery can flourish in plain sight. Dame Sara Thornton (a former Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner) and Baroness Theresa May are interviewed as part of the programme. It is a must watch!

[WATCH ON iPlayer](#)



If we fail to challenge falsehood,

Churches often wonder what hymns to choose for Anti-Slavery services or at special events to raise awareness of modern slavery. This hymn was written by Sheena Evans and Simon Hancock to communicate the wonderful message of God's heart for the poor and marginalised and our calling to respond in love.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Our training is on hold at the moment.

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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