

Jubilee +

Where Justice and Mercy Meet

CHURCHES THAT CHANGE COMMUNITIES



Jubilee+ in association with Newfrontiers

Welcome to Jubilee+

Hello! And thank you for your interest in Jubilee+. This booklet is an update, first issued at our national conference in October 2013. Whether you are new to Jubilee+ or have been linked to us before, I hope you find this booklet informative and motivational.

Most people now agree that the UK's current economic challenges are leading to real and serious pressure on the poorest sectors of our society. A combination of cutbacks, benefit changes and unemployment has had a serious impact on our society and its most vulnerable members.

We are now having to re-imagine social care and helping the poor in the UK. The Church is playing an increasingly strategic role in this process – and Jubilee+ is at the cutting edge of developments now taking place.

Jubilee+ is a church-based network set up during 2010 to help churches engage more effectively with their communities and increase their social action. Over the past few years our team has been engaged in a number of exciting initiatives to help fulfil our mandate. The sort of things we have been doing include:

- running major national conferences;
- supporting individual churches with social action development;
- conducting research into church-based social action;
- building effective partnerships with related Christian organisations;
- doing advocacy with the Government on behalf of church social action;
- creating effective & informative social media;
- training church leaders;
- providing advice to churches, organisations and projects.

Last year we defined our vision more specifically to embrace three related areas of church engagement on behalf of the poor: Social Action, Social Enterprise and Social Justice. You'll read more about these three areas of work later in this booklet.

Enjoy the read!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin" followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Martin Charlesworth
Jubilee+ team leader





Meet the Jubilee+ core team

The highly dedicated Jubilee+ team is drawn from all over the country and, for the most part, give their time and energy voluntarily to help make things happen. We'd like to tell you a little about the team and what they do for Jubilee+.

Pete Lyndon:

Pete is a part-time social worker and part-time church leader in Manchester. He oversees our partnerships with Christian organisations and advises local churches on social action related issues.

Sue Lyndon:

Sue is our hardworking administrator, who, with her husband Pete, is based in Manchester. She runs our conferences and keeps the wheels turning for the whole team.

Martin Charlesworth:

Martin leads a church in Shrewsbury and heads up the Jubilee+ team. He focuses particularly on speaking, writing and advocacy.

Natalie Williams:

Natalie is based in Hastings as a church staff member. She is our communications co-ordinator who looks after our social media and communications strategy.

Geoff Knott:

Geoff is based in Dorking and combines looking after our website with doing research and providing invaluable advice to churches and other partners on business planning and social enterprise development.

Andrew Westerman:

Andrew lives in Durham where he runs his own business and is a church leader. He heads up the Jubilee+ research team and assists us with our strategic development.

What's the origin of the Jubilee+ vision?

It's an intriguing name, isn't it? In fact, the name tells you quite a lot about who we are. As Christians our foundation is the Bible and in the Bible we have thought much about the remarkable concern for social justice found in the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Every fifty years Israel had a united

effort to address injustices and extreme poverty. Land was returned to its original owners, debts were cancelled and slave labourers were released. It was called 'the year of Jubilee'. When we look at the New Testament we see that the Church had a radical commitment to care for the poor and support the

needy. This was expressed in a variety of different ways – as led by the Holy Spirit. We like to call this New Testament concern for the poor the Jubilee+' of the Church. What we want to do today is to discover how the 'Jubilee+ of the Church can be lived out in 21st century Britain.

Jubilee+ incorporated

During 2013 Jubilee+ became a charitable company in its own right. This is to assist in improving our governance and to enable easier public recognition. The directors are Graham Anns (chair), Andy McWilliam, Chris Mould, Geoff Knott & Martin Charlesworth.



Transformed life

Scott Tulloch tells his story to Claire Musters...

I was diagnosed with clinical depression and developed a drink problem that eventually caused me to lose my job and then my home. I was later diagnosed with Emotional Unstable Personality Disorder.

After overcoming my drinking problem, I still had issues with my mental health and continued to struggle financially. I felt lost, helpless

Impact Research

Many churches have seen a significant increase in the number of social action projects they deliver as recession bites and the needs of society become more pronounced. We know a lot about what is being done, but want to know more about the impact of these projects. Jubilee+ has set up a small research group, focusing initially on programmes that address severe personal debt. Our aim is to develop a methodology that will enable a robust, simple and consistent approach to discovering the impact of any area of social action. As well as providing church groups with a process to review their effectiveness and make improvements, it is hoped that a wider dialogue can be developed with national organisations and Government to shape future provision. The group will be feeding its findings back over the coming months.



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after help with debt

and very alone. My debts were spiralling out of control so I contacted Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to see if they could help. They referred me to the CAP centre run by Christ Central Church in Manchester.

At the end of our first meeting we had a brief prayer time asking for God's help with my health and financial situation. I was sceptical of how praying to God would help me, having been anti-Christianity for some time.

During the next six months I had a lot of support from CAP. I became good friends with a member of the team; it was great having someone to talk to who was not part of my mental health support network. I slowly became more integrated in social activities and started reading Christian material.

I became debt free, due to a bankruptcy hearing, in March 2013. It felt amazing, as I had worked so hard to stick to really tight budgets.

I also started studying my Bible daily, praying regularly and built up the courage to visit Christ Central. This was a huge step both mentally and spiritually as I suffered major anxiety attacks.

That was several months ago; I became a Christian, now volunteer at a Christian charity, and am being discharged from mental health services. My life has dramatically changed. In fact, it has never been better!

How churches are changing their communities

Stories of how churches are having a positive impact on those around them.

"Being recognised as a force for good in the community."

"Foodbank has fed hundreds in real need."

"Seeing children/young people helped to see their value."

"Debt counselling resulting in people becoming debt free"

"An award for our Computer Club for the elderly on Monday Morning."

"People we have helped have got involved to help more people."

"People finding hope, joy and friendship."

"Church members giving up much of their time to serve the local community"

"Transformed lives and Community gratitude"

"The estate is asking for activities so that neighbours can do things together."

"Introduction of a new weekly lunch club for those who are lonely in our community."

Do you want to be a partner of Jubilee+?

We are grateful for your interest in our work, and know that some of you may want to become personal (or church) supporters. We welcome such support. Here are a few ways you can register your support and keep in touch with us on a regular basis:

- Receive our regular email newsletter;
- Promote our work in your area;
- Become a financial donor through standing order or one-off gift.

If you are interested in any of these ways of supporting us then please email us at: sue.lyndon@jubilee-plus.org. Thank you.

Faith + Justice

As a team, we are passionate about our churches and individual Christians engaging with policy-makers and others at the heart of Government. Our inaugural Faith + Justice conference, co-hosted by Nexus, was held in Oxford in April 2013, with guest speakers Stephen Timms MP and Nicola Blackwood MP, seminars by CARE, Tearfund, Theos, the Evangelical Alliance and others, and involvement from the Christian groups affiliated to the three main political parties. Subjects covered included how Christians can engage effectively with their MPs, life as a Christian in Parliament, the economy, human trafficking, the environment and marriage.



“Those who do God, do good”



In February 2013 Martin Charlesworth & the Jubilee+ team were called to the House of Lords to meet Baroness Warsi, the Minister for Faiths in the Coalition Government. A public meeting was convened and invitations went out to parliamentarians, the national press and church organisations.

Why was this meeting called? Geoff Knott from the Jubilee+ team had recently published some important research results on the wide scope of church-based social action. The research had been noticed by the Department for Communities & Local Government – hence the meeting. Baroness Warsi commended Jubilee+ and churches in general for all the social action being done across the nation. In her speech she used the striking expression: “Those who do God, do good.”

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Vision

To see increasing societal transformation taking place through churches engaging with social action, social justice and social enterprise.

Social action – the Church expressing the gospel through action that improves the lives of those in the surrounding communities who are in material, physical, emotional and educational need.

Social justice – this takes the Church beyond supporting individuals to actually shaping society, whether that's by influencing and working with Government on policy or standing up against injustice on a national or local level. It often involves giving a voice to the voiceless.

Social enterprise – businesses that apply excellent commercial acumen and strategies but have the primary aim of benefitting individuals and society, usually reinvesting profits to achieve this.

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