churches that change communities.

where justice and mercy meet.

Jubilee+ a decade on…
Jesus did not come to help us escape the world; he came to help us transform this world. Read this manifesto of justice, and let the revolution begin inside of you. May your life be good news to the poor.

Shane Claiborne, Red Letter Christians

Concern about poverty is central to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet we can so easily fall into the trap of adding social action into our lives, rather than letting the heart of Jesus affect every area of our lives. A Call to Act will empower you to live out Jesus’ principles of justice, mercy, and care of creation within your own community and the wider world.

A Call to Act will empower you to live out Jesus’ principles of justice, mercy, and care of creation within your own community and the wider world.

A clear, timely, and prophetic call to the church to prioritise the poor in our society. This inspiring and practical book is a must-read for all Christians.

Gavin Calver, Evangelical Alliance

Rock-face realities, Christian compassion, and biblical boldness combine to make this a compelling book. It will help develop our understanding and win our response to the demanding challenges being faced in our modern culture.

Terry Virgo, Newfrontiers

Support Jubilee+ by purchasing from St Andrew’s bookshop, where the book is part of the Big Church Read.

In the early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic reaching the UK, we heard repeatedly from politicians and social commentators that we are living in ‘unprecedented times’. Words rarely used in everyday life – such as ‘lockdown’, ‘social distancing’ and ‘furlough’ – have become common.

2020 has been a strange year for us all. But we always expected it to be a significant year for Jubilee+ because it marks 10 years since our charity started to form, as well as the tenth of our national Churches that Change Communities conferences.

A decade ago I was asked by the national leaders of the Newfrontiers network to provide help and resources to their churches to engage more effectively in social action. Many Newfrontiers churches in the UK were already active in this area, but their focus was predominantly in supporting projects tackling poverty in other parts of the world. There were a handful of examples of Newfrontiers churches in the UK supporting people trapped in poverty in their own communities, but this needed to grow. The global recession of 2008 had led to greater needs in our cities, towns and villages. We were entering into a time of austerity measures. It was time to take a more proactive approach to poverty in our midst.

So in 2010 I formed a team, started meeting groups of church leaders across the country and began to organise national conferences. Within three years, Jubilee+ had become an independent charity and its focus extended to engage with churches across all denominations and networks.

Our annual conferences have been a key feature of our work over the past decade. We have been to Milton Keynes, Bedford, Manchester,
Bournemouth, East Grinstead, Darlington, Cambridge, London, Bristol – and then back to Manchester in 2020 for our tenth conference. All have been energetic, well attended and with an inspiring range of speakers from various traditions. They have been packed full of seminars and networking opportunities.

Our event title throughout has been Churches that Change Communities because at the heart of our work is a vision to equip and empower churches in the UK to be a significant blessing where they are based, especially to the poorest and most vulnerable.

As well as through national events, much of our work with churches has been through personal visits from Jubilee+ team members, consultancy, training events, networking and our extensive website resources. We have also invited churches to work with us more directly through our ‘Partner Church’ scheme.

During this time, another Jubilee+ team member, Natalie Williams, and I have co-written three books: The Myth of the Undeserving Poor (2014) addresses social and media attitudes to poverty; A Church for the Poor (2017) is a manifesto for transforming the Church to reach the marginalised; and A Call to Act (2020) focuses on what it means for each of us as Christians to build a poverty-busting lifestyle.

Jubilee+ has actively collaborated with many of the national Christian charities that are helping churches to deliver social action projects. We have also formed our own informal networks in some areas of particular focus, such as addiction support, asylum/refugee work and church planting in deprived areas.

It was no accident that Jubilee+ was formed in the aftermath of the recession caused by the financial crash of 2008. This time proved to be a trigger for the recent growth of much current church-based social action. We have been glad to play our part in equipping the Church on this journey.

Some years ago, our team received a strong prophetic word likening our situation in the UK with that faced by Egypt in the time of Joseph, as recorded in Genesis. Egypt experienced seven years of plentiful harvest followed by a sustained period of famine and hardship. Joseph was called on to make preparation in the years of plenty for the forthcoming time of hardship. The prophetic word we received indicated that the UK, at that time, was in a period of relative ‘plenty’ and that we should be preparing for tough future social and economic conditions.
We believe that the UK is now entering that period of ‘hardship’, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. So in our tenth year, our work has taken on a new urgency. We are preparing for a second decade of our work in the sobering knowledge that this is going to be a tough decade for our communities, and especially for those trapped in poverty.

However, we have a passionate conviction that the Church can rise up and play a decisive role in working with those facing poverty and injustice, the marginalised and vulnerable, in the coming years.

connect with us for the future.

We are preparing for a second decade of our work in the sobering knowledge that this is going to be a tough decade for our communities, and especially for those trapped in poverty.

Martin’s background.

I grew up in a secure middle class family and found a living faith in Christ aged 15 while attending a private school. I was privileged. However, several experiences have shaped me deeply. First of all, I spent some of my childhood in Pakistan, where I saw the huge gap between rich and poor. I never forgot that. Then aged 18, not long after finding faith, I spent a year working in South Africa during the apartheid era. I saw at close quarters the huge injustices and divisions running throughout that society.

This passion has never left me over the whole of my working life – and it is this passion that has fuelled my leadership of Jubilee+ over the past decade.

In Spring 2021, Martin will be handing the leadership of Jubilee+ to Natalie Williams.
the last 10 years.

2010
- Martin starts to form a team

2011
- First Churches that Change Communities conference

2012
- First Jubilee+ prayer, prophecy and team away days

2013
- Jubilee+ becomes a charity
- Faith + Justice conference in Oxford

2014
- The first Jubilee+ book, The Myth of the Undeserving Poor, is released

2015
- Expanded our communications and public policy work
- First gathering of the Newfrontiers spheres

2016
- First online conference and third book, A Call to Act, released

2017
- A Church for the Poor published by David C Cook

2018
- We started bringing together networks around key issues

2019
- A Deepening Crisis? booklet published

2020
- First online conference and third book, A Call to Act, released

Jubilee+ today.

10 Churches that Change Communities conferences
6 Core team members
4 Networks
3 Books
36 Committed partners (including 14 partner churches)
2,261 Subscribers
2,379 Twitter followers (we are also on Facebook and Instagram)
7 Research projects
4 Resource booklets (+ more in partnership with others)
36 Zoom events on 22 subjects
Like many of your churches, projects, charities, businesses and communities, at Jubilee+ we have had to change much of what we do this year. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, most of our work was conducted face-to-face. Either we came to you – to meet with your leadership teams to deliver training or to advise on social action strategy or to speak during your Sunday meetings – or you came to one of our events, such as conferences, networking meetings or training days.

We miss these in-person interactions. But along with everyone else, we have had to move much of what we do to online platforms this year. While it may not be as pleasant as being able to meet together in the same room, it has actually given us the opportunity to connect with a wider range of people and to spend more time talking about some issues of poverty and injustice that we have only lightly touched upon in the past.

As we move into our second decade, we believe that Christians and local churches in the UK will have an increasingly vital role to play in our communities. Our nation has recently entered another recession. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our economy, on young people’s education and employment prospects, on jobs in general, on mental health, is so far unquantifiable, but we know it is significant and we will be living with the legacy of Covid-19 for many years to come.

This is a time to step up, not shrink back. Our vision at Jubilee+ remains the same – we aim to equip, empower and inspire followers of Jesus and local church communities to be as effective as possible in helping neighbours and neighbourhoods in a time of crisis. More than that, we want to see Christians playing a vital role in helping people out of poverty, anchored far away from it, with their lives transformed.

If you would like to find out more about how we can support you or you can support us, please email: admin@jubilee-plus.org

In contrast to Martin, I grew up in relative poverty in the deprived (but lovely) seaside town of Hastings. My childhood involved free school meals and attending the roughest under-performing secondary school in my community.

When I became a Christian at the age of 15, one of the things that changed most significantly was my aspirations. I became the first person in my family to go to university, and went on to enjoy a career in journalism and media relations.

However, as an adult I’ve also experienced overwhelming debt, unemployment, redundancy and some of the other issues that affect many of the people we are supporting through our churches and projects.

As well as currently heading up communications and policy for Jubilee+, I also oversee social action and community engagement at King’s Church, Hastings & Bexhill.
Despite the obvious restrictions due to Covid-19, our Jubilee+ networks are continuing to develop. Within our Refugee and Asylum Seeker Network, we are looking at online video training packages for churches, and have recently been part of a national campaign to bring attention to those who are trapped by No Recourse for Public Funding (NRPF).

There is much to do, and many of the organisations and churches we work with are reporting increased work at this time. We have now renamed our R2C2 website to become the Jubilee+ Refugee Network and moved the site to be part of our main website – you can find information at jubilee-plus.org/refugee-network

Likewise, in our Addictions Network we have been able to continue meeting on Zoom. We are looking to start work on a resource website to help churches and organisations find information easily and concisely. Again, we are looking to resource churches through online training, given that we can’t offer physical conferencing at this time. We are delighted that there are now some excellent online recovery courses that can be used when working with people with addictions, and excited that Zoom has given opportunities to be more creative in reaching out.

We are still looking at how to develop networking for those living, working and planting churches in deprived areas. We hope to be able to move this forward in the next year, and are excited about our growing relationships in this area.

We are delighted to work closely with the Faith in Later Life charity coalition as we develop networks for those caring for or working with older people in our communities. The last nine months have shewn the issues around this area of social concern, and we are really pleased that Faith in Later Life have made such strong steps in raising awareness and offering advice.

As we move forward, we will be looking at how we can produce materials and information based in research that will help, train and encourage churches in their social concern work. To that end, we are exploring ways of developing books, booklets, training videos and online conferencing to help support our networks over the next year.

There is much to do, and many of the organisations and churches we work with are reporting increased work at this time.

We have been brought up in a faithful Pentecostal home in South Yorkshire, my journey has included living in a number of places, and being part of some great local churches. My background is in music, and I spent many years working in the book and music publishing industry. I became very involved in refugee and asylum seeker work while in Teesside, and grew to love the diversity and challenge of being in community with people from very varied and interesting cultures. As well as working full time at Kings Church Cockermouth, where I manage a number of social action projects, I head up the Jubilee+ networking teams focusing on refugee and asylum seekers, addictions, care of older people, and church planting/support in areas of high deprivation.

We are delighted to work closely with the Faith in Later Life charity coalition as we develop networks for those caring for or working with older people in our communities. The last nine months have shewn the issues around this area of social concern, and we are really pleased that Faith in Later Life have made such strong steps in raising awareness and offering advice.

As we move forward, we will be looking at how we can produce materials and information based in research that will help, train and encourage churches in their social concern work. To that end, we are exploring ways of developing books, booklets, training videos and online conferencing to help support our networks over the next year.

There is much to do, and many of the organisations and churches we work with are reporting increased work at this time.

We have been brought up in a faithful Pentecostal home in South Yorkshire, my journey has included living in a number of places, and being part of some great local churches. My background is in music, and I spent many years working in the book and music publishing industry. I became very involved in refugee and asylum seeker work while in Teesside, and grew to love the diversity and challenge of being in community with people from very varied and interesting cultures. As well as working full time at Kings Church Cockermouth, where I manage a number of social action projects, I head up the Jubilee+ networking teams focusing on refugee and asylum seekers, addictions, care of older people, and church planting/support in areas of high deprivation.
Safeguarding adults – guidance for Christian Faith Organisations
Written by Professor Keith Brown, endorsed and edited by Jubilee+ and Faith in Later Life.

This unique booklet will assist churches and Christian organisations to navigate the complex world of safeguarding. It provides explanations about the current legal frameworks, advice about good practice, and signposting to key organisations.

Guidance for Christian faith organisations in the support and care of older people
Written by Professor Keith Brown, endorsed and edited by Jubilee+ and Faith in Later Life.

This booklet is designed to equip churches and Christian organisations whose focus is on caring for older people. Many practical and legal aspects of this ministry are poorly understood by those working with older people. This booklet is an invaluable guide.

Guidance for preventing stress and burnout in churches and Christian faith-based organisations
Written by Professor Keith Brown with contributions from Martin Charlesworth. Sponsored by Jubilee+ and endorsed by a wide range of Christian organisations.

Burnout is a key problem in Christian leadership and this insightful and helpful booklet draws extensively from academic research into burnout, alongside the wisdom gained within the context of Christian leadership environments.

The Jubilee+ core team includes Martin Charlesworth, Andy Biggs, Peter and Sue Lyndon, Paul Mogford, and Natalie Williams.

Sue Lyndon.
Born and brought up in Nottingham in a loving, but non-Christian family, I became a Christian in my early twenties. Pete and I have been involved with local church and community involvement all our married lives, while raising three children and now enjoying five grandchildren. Peter Lyndon.

Andy Biggs.
As the youngest child of an Anglican vicar I enjoyed a happy and secure childhood in Leeds, and later Shrewsbury. From the age of 15 I knew I wanted a career in Social Work. I became a Christian in my late 20s. Since then, God’s call to me to love those in great need has been worked out both professionally and through serving and leading in local churches in Brighton, Manchester and Bristol. When Martin invited us to join the Jubilee+ team, it was the fulfilment of all that God has been calling us to. The last 10 years have been exciting, challenging and fulfilling.

Peter and Sue Lyndon.
Into social housing and my mum had to find work. Happily I had educational opportunities and, moving north to university, life changed amazingly as I found Christ and began to realise that I had potential beyond my background. Settling into a local church, marriage, family life and a corporate accountant career followed. As God expanded my heart for the vulnerable and excluded, in 2013 I took up a portfolio career and opportunities arose to grow a consultancy business alongside working in Christian social action.

The Jubilee+ leadership is supported by a wider team: Sherna Gardner, Jacqui Potter, Dave Smith, and Richard Wilson.

The Jubilee+ directors are Graham Anns (chair), Andy Biggs, John Evans, Andy McWilliam, Kate Welch, and Martin Charlesworth.

The Jubilee+ core team includes Martin Charlesworth, Andy Biggs, Peter and Sue Lyndon, Paul Mogford, and Natalie Williams.

Sue Lyndon.
Born and brought up in Nottingham in a loving, but non-Christian family, I became a Christian in my early twenties. Pete and I have been involved with local church and community involvement all our married lives, while raising three children and now enjoying five grandchildren. Peter Lyndon.

Andy Biggs.
As the youngest child of an Anglican vicar I enjoyed a happy and secure childhood in Leeds, and later Shrewsbury. From the age of 15 I knew I wanted a career in Social Work. I became a Christian in my late 20s. Since then, God’s call to me to love those in great need has been worked out both professionally and through serving and leading in local churches in Brighton, Manchester and Bristol. When Martin invited us to join the Jubilee+ team, it was the fulfilment of all that God has been calling us to. The last 10 years have been exciting, challenging and fulfilling.

Peter Lyndon.
As the youngest child of an Anglican vicar I enjoyed a happy and secure childhood in Leeds, and later Shrewsbury. From the age of 15 I knew I wanted a career in Social Work. I became a Christian in my late 20s. Since then, God’s call to me to love those in great need has been worked out both professionally and through serving and leading in local churches in Brighton, Manchester and Bristol. When Martin invited us to join the Jubilee+ team, it was the fulfilment of all that God has been calling us to. The last 10 years have been exciting, challenging and fulfilling.

Andy Biggs.
As the youngest child of an Anglican vicar I enjoyed a happy and secure childhood in Leeds, and later Shrewsbury. From the age of 15 I knew I wanted a career in Social Work. I became a Christian in my late 20s. Since then, God’s call to me to love those in great need has been worked out both professionally and through serving and leading in local churches in Brighton, Manchester and Bristol. When Martin invited us to join the Jubilee+ team, it was the fulfilment of all that God has been calling us to. The last 10 years have been exciting, challenging and fulfilling.
Churches that Change Communities 2021

Date and venue coming soon. Register at jubilee-plus.org/signup to hear as soon as details are confirmed.

JUBILEE+
SOCIAL ACTION COURSE
A free, 4-session course featuring videos, discussion questions + Bible reading plan

JUBILEE+
ZOOM EVENTS
Exploring poverty and justice issues facing the UK today

jubilee-plus.org/events