



## Bishop of Lichfield



Selwyn Study Day  
Lichfield Cathedral  
5 October 2016

God and the Money Lenders

**JUST  
FINANCE  
FOUNDATION**

**#impactpoverty**

**Our Selwyn Study Day was facilitated by Andy Walton**

A Christian writer and broadcaster, Andy has been a member of the Centre for Theology and Community team since 2011, and has worked on its Church Credit Champions Network from its inception.

Andy's publications include *Is there a 'Religious Right' Emerging in Britain?* (Theos) and (with Angus Ritchie and Caitlin Burbridge) *Just Church: Local congregations transforming their neighbourhoods* (CTC).

**These books** contain a flavour of the day and can be ordered from the **Cathedral Bookshop**

- Just Love: Personal and Social Transformation in Christ – Angus Ritchie and Paul Hackwood £8.99
- Christianity and Contemporary Politics – Luke Bretherton £ 24.99
- Together For The Common Good – Ed Nicholas Sagovsky £ 25.00

**Generic Websites:**

- [The Money Advice Trust](#)
- [Debt charity](#)
- [Assoc of British Credit Unions](#)
- [Centre for Theology & Community](#)

## The following links and resources provide ideas and tools for engaging on issues of money and debt:

**God and Money Films:** Four films that explore the theology of money and how this can shape our engagement on issues of money and debt.

- [Money, Debt and Salvation](#)
- [Money and the Church](#)
- [Money and the Christian Life](#)
- [Money, Scripture and Tradition](#)

[Study guides for the films are being developed and can be found here](#)

### **Seeing Change Course:**

Based on the story of Nehemiah, this is a 5 session course for small groups that want to consider the theme of rebuilding in their community. It is designed to be accessible to churches of every tradition who want to explore how to engage with their communities more effectively.

### **MoneyTalk Tool:**

A simple tool to get churches talking about their experiences of money

### **Debt Advice:**

Debt Signposting Workshop: A two-hour video based workshop on debt awareness and signposting to help church staff and volunteers to understand the causes and impact of debt and to signpost to free debt advice

### **LifeSavers:**

LifeSavers is a national programme of savings clubs and values-based financial education for primary schools



### [CUF Poverty Look UP](#)

When you think about the parish you live in, does it feel quite deprived, fairly wealthy, or somewhere in the middle? We live in one of the most unequal countries in the western world, where babies born within a few miles of one another can have widely differing life expectancies – of 10 years or more. How do we feel about these vast differences in life chances and what can churches do to help bridge the gap? Check where your church stands with regard to poverty by going to the above website



**Church Urban Fund:** Take the Advent Sleepout Challenge...and help tackle homelessness and marginalisation. CUF is once again inviting churches and communities to take part in the [Advent Sleepout Challenge](#) this Advent to help people struggling with homelessness and marginalisation. A number of churches across the Diocese took part last year including fifteen members of St Martin's Bradley (as seen in [Spotlight](#))

## Credit Unions

The diocese works with seven credit unions who, between them, cover the entire diocese. For details of your local credit union see below. All our local credit unions are keen to recruit local champions and will provide the appropriate training and support. We also have initiatives promoting schools banks, wedding savings, and funeral loans.



- Lichfield & Cannock - Fusion Credit Union 01543 415032
- Sandwell - 6 Towns Credit Union 0121 553 3110
- Shropshire & Telford - Just Credit Union 01743 252325
- Stafford & Stoke-on-Trent – Credit Union Staffordshire 07768 233123
- Telford & Wrekin & Shropshire - Fairshare Credit Union 01952 282528
- Walsall - Walsave Credit Union 01922 653310
- Wolverhampton - Wolverhampton City Credit Union 01902 572340



### **Budgeting Course** ([james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk](mailto:james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk))

Everyone can benefit from learning simple, practical money & budgeting skills. Transforming Communities Together, our partnership with Church Urban Fund, run free half day Training the Trainer sessions in partnership with Black Country Urban Industrial Mission which equip people to deliver Basic Budgeting Courses, or to be a Budgeting Buddy. The fun and interactive half day session covers: 1) How to build a budget from scratch; 2) Money saving tips and ideas; 3) Awareness of basic financial jargon; 4) Exploration of credit/debt.



### **CAP Money**

Sadly times are hard for many people in our communities and money worries are increasing. In order to work with people who need support, Christians Against Poverty have created The CAP Money Course for churches to give delegates the opportunity to learn skills that have a lasting impact on their finances.. The CAP Money Course is a free course that will teach you budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that works. In just a few weeks, it helps people to get to grips with their finances, to budget and save and help to prevent debt. If your church is interested in getting involved, please contact ([lenkruzczek@capmoneycourse.org](mailto:lenkruzczek@capmoneycourse.org))

### **Money Advice and Debt Counselling Group**

Several churches are already involved in providing money advice and debt counselling for those in financial difficulties. Some of these are linked to the two national organisations, Christians Against Poverty and Community Money Advice; check with their websites for local centres. There are also independent providers such as Ablewell Advice for Walsall; Bridging the Gap for Willenhall and Walsall Money Advice Project. Advice is also available from your local Citizen's Advice Bureau



### **Good Society Conversations** Sarah Watson ([sarahspot@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahspot@hotmail.com))

Working in conjunction with Church Action on Poverty, we started Good Society Conversations in Stoke-on-Trent. With the support of Sarah Watson, a part-time facilitator, local people meet together to discuss what values would underpin a good society, and what needs to change for that to happen. We are now exploring the initiatives of Places of Welcome, End Hunger UK and Church of the Poor.



[Ethical Money Churches](#) ([abigail.nicholls@eccr.org.uk](mailto:abigail.nicholls@eccr.org.uk))

A new project in the Black Country & the West Midlands which aims to deepen congregations' and individuals' understanding of faith and finance, connecting them with initiatives can bring greater financial resilience and empowerment to local communities. It aims to help us consider how the assets and skills over which we have control can be directed towards good investments and more effective community engagement. This is an initiative of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility, and has been running in the West Country since 2014.



[Black Country Urban Industrial Mission](#) ([bill.mash@bcuim.co.uk](mailto:bill.mash@bcuim.co.uk))

BCUIM chaplains, from various Christian churches, offer support to businesses and their employees through regular visits to workplaces in the Black Country. It's part of our role as we seek to connect the church with the economy of the area. In communities of rich diversity, we are there for people of all faiths and none. Drawing alongside people in their work expresses our faith that God is to be found in the creativity and the interactions of the workplace. Faith helps many people lead fulfilled and meaningful lives. That's what guides us as we seek to contribute to the working life of the area.



[Black Country Near Neighbours](#) ([ruth.burgess@tctogether.org.uk](mailto:ruth.burgess@tctogether.org.uk))

The idea is to bring people together who are near neighbours in communities that are diverse, so they can get to know each other better, build relationships as people and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.

Near Neighbours has two key objectives:

Social interaction – to develop positive relationships in multi-faith areas i.e. to help people from different faiths get to know and understand each other better.

Social action – to encourage people of different faiths, or no faith, to come together for initiatives that improve their local neighbourhood



[Mustard Seed Appeal](#)

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Mustard Seed Appeal has been set up to raise money for the Just Finance Foundation. Over 8 Million people in the UK are struggling in financial distress. Without access to other finance options, many resort to high cost loans to cover basic necessities such as food and fuel. Through the Mustard Seed Appeal, the Just Finance Foundation will be able to support churches across the country as they work with those in financial distress. Churches are being asked to share their harvest with the Mustard Seed Appeal. For more information, email [hello@cuf.org.uk](mailto:hello@cuf.org.uk) or call 0207 898 1091.



[Just Finance Foundation](#)

The Just Finance Foundation aims to create a fairer financial system focused on serving the whole community, where everyone has access to responsible credit and savings and other essential financial services. The work will take place through two strands: the Just Finance Network and Lifesavers The Just Finance Network will help to grow a more visible, accessible, and effective community finance sector. It will also develop greater levels of financial capability and change the culture of money in communities. This work will take place through a network of Development Workers who will work in local communities with churches and other organisations. For more contact [polly.taylor@cuf.org.uk](mailto:polly.taylor@cuf.org.uk) (Tel: 0207 898 1469.)