

Social Justice Programme 2017 – 2020

The Social Justice Programme seeks to inspire and support parishes and the whole Diocese as together we respond to the needs of local communities and the wider world.

The king will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'
-Matthew 25:40

Theme	Why? Objective?	Success criteria
Food	Foodbank use continues to increase, and in anticipation of rising need. To encourage local churches to start food-related projects beyond Foodbanks including food surplus projects, community meals, holiday projects.	New food projects established. Greater awareness of food security and justice issues.
Finance	Concerns about access to financial services for people not just in our poorest communities. For example, Bradford on Avon is losing its last high street bank. Credit Unions across the Diocese have merged into larger institutions but membership rates remain low. Local churches have developed work on debt which is meeting a need.	Better information through report and conference on the best ways of providing community projects on finance. Current projects better networked, new projects developed.
Environment	Climate Change and its threat to humanity and the world, as well as the imperative to care for Creation. To achieve Bronze Level Eco Diocese Award by 2018. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 parishes to have registered an interest in the Eco Church scheme. • 23 parishes to have attained the Bronze level award. • Church House energy audit and recommendations. 	Eco-church, Eco Diocese Bronze award, reduced energy use by diocesan bodies, personal lifestyle.
Sanctuary	Supporting and welcoming refugees in Dorset and Wiltshire. Sponsored refugees: Warminster	Homes provided for refugees. Communities welcoming migrants and refugees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming refugees: Mothers Union, Wimborne group (interfaith). • City of Sanctuary: Bournemouth and Poole, Salisbury. • Safeguarding the Stranger, Friday 10th March • Conflict and Community, Saturday 10th June • Tolpuddle, Inderjit Bhogal, Sunday 16th July • Raise profile of our concern about the Detention Centre on Portland, and encourage church-members to join the visiting scheme. 	
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Other areas of concern that will receive attention 2017 - 2020		
Housing	<p>Parishes report concerns about the provision of affordable homes, needed for thriving community life and particularly difficult in an area where costs are higher than the national average.</p> <p>Faith in Affordable Housing Conference, Saturday 14th October, with Housing Justice and Community Land Trusts.</p>	
Family Life	<p>St Mary's Fund has committed to supporting five projects in the Diocese around issues of family life including, MU Development Worker, workers in Creekmoor and Littlemoor, families in crisis project at Longmead, and MU holiday scheme. Other childrens and family workers are located in other parishes and supported by other funders.</p>	Support network established.
Disability	<p>People with experience of working on disability issues have presented and will form a group to support parishes in offering an inclusive welcome to people with a range of disabilities.</p>	To provide a Diocesan conference in 2018, and resources available to parishes.
Fairtrade	<p>To refresh the Diocesan commitment to Fairtrade, ensuring that parishes are mindful of the importance of international trade justice as well as supporting local food producers.</p>	Percentage of parishes committed to Fairtrade

Inequality and Fairness	South East Dorset group established following Spirit Level event in Poole. Supporting Living Wage campaigns.	Greater understanding of the link between inequality and poverty. Diocese and parishes committed to Living Wage standard.
International Development and World Concerns	To raise awareness of a broader range of development issues including Climate Change and global trade. Potential for International Development event in 2018 involving Elizabeth Perry, Anglican Alliance, Christian Aid, and Tearfund.	
Social Justice Champions	To strengthen the network including quiet days, networking events, social media presence.	
Engaging Young People	To work with Diocesan Board of Education's Children and Young People's team on ways of resourcing church youth groups to explore issues of social justice and to influence the Diocesan Social Justice Programme.	