



NEWS JUST IN - A new campaign is being launched by the Churches called ['Enough: Our Responsibility To Meet Family Need'](#)

You may have seen that the House of Lords has asked the Government to think again about its proposals for radical reductions to tax credits next April. The Churches informed the debate with briefings and careful reflections from the Bishops. *The role of Churches and church members in ensuring that the circumstances of the poorest are at the forefront of lawmaker's minds continues to be vital.*

The vote was about short-term cuts. The Welfare Reform and Work Bill going through Parliament contains much larger cuts, as well as important changes to the *core principles of the benefits system.*

Benefits were intended to provide families that need support with enough to have a basic standard of living. The Bill proposes that for many – mainly

families with children – this link between their basic needs and the support offered is broken.

We know that children raised in families without enough money are more likely to die as infants, do worse at school, experience more disease and illness, and go on to die at a younger age.

Together with our partner Churches, [JPIT](#) will be asking the Government to reconsider its proposals and *we'd like to invite you to join us*.

The campaign and report will be launching very soon, but in the meantime JPIT have created a set of resources for Church use, which are [available to view and download here](#). These include:

- An introduction to the campaign and information about how you can help
- A short video explaining why this matters right now
- A bible reflection on the theme of 'Enough'
- A prayer
- A specially-written hymn

Please check out these resources, share them and use them as widely as you can.

An Invitation: New Government - New challenges For Churches Committed to Social Justice

You may be aware of the IBEX meeting at Fareham United Reformed Church on 5th

November. The [video](#) which is part of the 'Enough' campaign launch, mentioned above, features Paul Morrison, our speaker at this event. Words which spring to mind about the Churches work in this area are serious, considered, challenging, passionate, well-informed. **But come along and make your own mind up.** If you have any interest at all in the Challenges that the Churches have faced over the last few years, and will continue to face, then you really ought to come along to hear Paul Morrison on:

7.30pm, Thursday, 5 November

At Fareham United Reformed Church.

Title: New Government - New challenges

For Churches Committed to Social Justice

The first majority Conservative government in 18 years changes the political landscape - what does that mean for churches?

Paul is the JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team) policy advisor on issues around the economy including poverty and inequality, and author of the *"The Lies We Tell Ourselves"* Report.

So if you are interested in Foodbanks and why they are needed and how some people dismiss them, concerned about Benefits Sanctions and the Benefit Cap, and wonder what else the Churches will be given to think about over the next five years,

do come along.

For more information contact David Wrighton on Email. tl@ibexsouthcoast.org

SAVE THE DATE!

TRAINING DAY: CHURCH CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



Saturday, 30 January 2016

Parkstone United Reformed Church, Bournemouth

Email newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk to reserve your seat.

This training is for people or Churches who are at a different stage on their journey
- Those who want to do something but don't really know where to start. We think there are three main possible stages to any Church development process:

Stage 1 - Think about your wider community, talk to your wider community and work out what you might be able to do to be useful.

Stage 2 - When things begin to happen - as they will - identify how your premises are inadequate, and what you need to do to "do it better".

Stage 3 - Raise the Money!

This will be for people somewhere in the first two stages - the final programme will only be developed after talking to people who will be there, to identify what would be useful...

Who is IBEX?

[IBEX](#) – the Church working in the Economy Central South Coast

IBEX is a Christian organisation relating faith to economic life, in Hampshire and Dorset, mainly Bournemouth and Poole.

We are funded by the URC Wessex Synod, Southampton Methodist District and Baptist Home Mission.

Our main areas of activity:

- Support for local churches serving their communities
- Work with Partner Organisations on Community Projects e.g. local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations
- Support and development of Chaplaincy

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