



Church support for Guarantee our Essentials

Welcome

Intro purpose of presentation – *Why and how churches should and can support GOE, including link to current campaign action.*

(Delivery note: do use the Eveleth fonts if you have access to them. This presentation used Trebuchet to be more usable for everyone)

WATCH 'A SHARED VOICE'



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A Shared Voice film

(Delivery notes: use this powerful film to get your meeting going.

The image on the slide is already linked to the url for this film where it is viewable and downloadable: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/Church-GOE-Film>

Download a copy so it plays smoothly, or if you don't have strong WiFi on your PC/Laptop, then link the image to your own downloaded copy, see instruction slide at end of presentation)



It doesn't add up receipt activity

Encourage people to work out how much it would cost them for a week.

Then compare this with the standard rate of Universal Credit of £85 a week for a single person.

More details here [Guarantee our Essentials: reforming Universal Credit to ensure we can all afford the essentials in hard times | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](https://www.jrf.org.uk/guarantee-our-essentials-reforming-universal-credit-to-ensure-we-can-all-afford-the-essentials-in-hard-times)

(Delivery notes:

you can download and print more receipt activity pages here:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/receipt-activity>

You can read a guide on running this activity here:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/receipt-activity-guide>)

WHAT THIS MEANS HERE



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What this means in your area

(Delivery note: do add any local stats and stories about who needs to access your food bank and why.)

'BUILD A CHURCH' TO END THE NEED



'Build a church' to end the need.

Let's think about an 'ideal church' - which would support the vision of ending the need for food banks/

Use flip chart paper or A4 paper or another way to invite people to get creative. Encourage people to think about what might be in the building, what might be talked about in church, what events might happen during the week, who is welcome and how are the congregation involved through work and volunteering.

Invite people to imagine a church which is helping to end the need for food banks

(Delivery note:

Ideas to think about what would be going on in the church:

- *Teaching*
- *Resources use*
- *Space use*
- *Time use*
- *Values*
- *People who can influence change)*

MICAH 6:8 VISION



ACT JUSTLY LOVE MERCY WALK HUMBLY



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Micah 6:8 TT Vision for engaging churches.

(Delivery note: use this slide to explore what we are calling churches to do)

Full text of this verse which inspires our Church Engagement work –

Micah 6:8 New International Version *8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly[a] with your God.*

We see the need to campaign, mercy as kindness and compassion shown by serving your neighbour and walking humbly – being open to learn from and build community with people who are experiencing financial hardship knowing we are all God's children.

Summary:

Act justly – and call for change

Love mercy – while people still face crisis and hardship support your food bank

Walk humbly – welcome and give agency to people with lived experience of hardship in your church

THE BIBLE ON JUSTICE

Deuteronomy 32:4
“All his ways are just”

Psalm 89:14
*“righteousness and justice
are the foundation
of your throne”*

Luke 4:18
*“the Spirit of the Lord is upon
me... to proclaim good news to the
poor, bring freedom to prisoners
and to set the oppressed free”*

John 10:10
“have life and have it to the full”



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The Bible on justice

(Delivery note: explore more of what the bible has to say on justice. Taking part in the GOE campaign is a great way to taking action for justice).

Justice is not only about punishment and retribution. In the Bible it is more often used to talk about the way we live as a society and the way we organise community to make sure people are not left without the essentials they need eg Deuteronomy laws on gleaning and Acts 2.

From GOE Church pack:

Justice is central to the Christian message. Jesus shows us exactly how important and central justice is, as he begins his ministry in Luke 4:18. He publicly reads from the book of Isaiah, where it is written: “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to proclaim good news to the poor, bring freedom to prisoners and to set the oppressed free.” Jesus also tells us in John 10:10 how he has come so that we may “have life and have it to the full.” If we are to all be enabled to live life to the fullest, we must ensure that we have a just society where everyone can at least afford the essentials and not need on the support of a food bank to survive. Throughout the Old Testament, we aren’t just challenged to act justly:

we also learn that justice is part of God's nature. "All his ways are just," says Deuteronomy 32:4, while the Psalmist writes that 'righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne' (Psalm 89:14). This justice of God, in caring what happens to all people, leads to many laws and reminders of the importance of supporting each other and building a caring society. People being unable to afford the essentials in this country is an injustice. Our social security system was designed to protect us all when we face hard times, but instead it is pushing people into destitution.

TAKE THE LATEST CAMPAIGN ACTION

Scan or visit for the action button:
[trusselltrust.org/churches-GOE](https://www.trusselltrust.org/churches-GOE)



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Take the latest campaign action

(Delivery note: an action your audience can take immediately or at a later date, they can scan the QR code, or visit the url, and find a button on that page to the latest campaign action).

“What can you do to help GOE now?”

[Text from website: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/campaigns/guarantee-our-essentials/>]

We've handed in our petition. Until we get an Essentials Guarantee, let's stand with food banks.

Food banks across the UK are doing all they can to support their communities, but low levels of Universal Credit are pushing more and more people to their doors.

We know the solution is for our social security system to be fit for purpose. More than 150,000 of us stood together and signed our petition calling for an Essentials Guarantee.

[Read about the day we handed it in.](#) – see link on page above.

While we work together to make sure Universal Credit protects people from going without the essentials, our food banks are being stretched to breaking point.

Please send them a message of support to help keep them going.

CHURCHES & FOODBANKS

~**8,500** total church - food bank relationships

~**20** Churches connected to each food bank

98% have Christian trustees/volunteers

98% receive food donations from churches

77% are in a church building

27% supported by churches in campaigning or influencing activity



Churches & Trussell Food bank statistics

(Delivery note: this slide has more general stats for how many churches support food banks, if the group would be interested in these)

– we are deeply grateful for all the support of churches but we would love to see the 27% rise as churches embrace the need to call for justice locally and nationally

“There are... 8, 500...”

“Then [stat] food banks bullet point...”

NEXT STEPS

[trusselltrust.org/GOE-Church-Pack](https://www.trusselltrust.org/GOE-Church-Pack)

[trusselltrust.org/churches](https://www.trusselltrust.org/churches)

[trusselltrust.org/churches-GOE](https://www.trusselltrust.org/churches-GOE)



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Next steps

(Delivery note: add your contact details here and any activities you would want churches to get involved in)

People can download the GOE Churches Information Pack at this link:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/GOE-Church-Pack>

Or visit our Churches website pages at

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/churches>

Or <https://trusselltrust.org/churches-GOE>