



This year CUF is inviting churches to make a donation to our work, either through a collection at a Harvest Sunday service, or by holding a shared lunch or other fundraising activity.

We've provided a number of different resources to help you introduce the work of CUF to your congregation, pray for the work we support and engage even the youngest members of your congregation.

This Harvest we are inspired by the words of **Acts 2:46-7**: 'They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.'

The expression, 'to break bread together' can have a number of meanings:

- Eating together in biblical times was a significant act, symbolising acceptance and friendship. It wasn't just about food; it was about building relationships, sharing experiences, and offering hospitality.
- In many cultures and religious traditions, breaking bread together signifies coming together in peace and mutual respect, often to strengthen community bonds or reconcile differences.
- For Christians, the sacrament of Holy Communion, where bread is broken and shared, unites us with Christ, with each other as the body of Christ and sends us out in the world to serve others.

At the heart of all these meanings is the radical message that everyone is welcome - no one is excluded. Everyone is invited to the table, to be strengthened, known, and loved.

CUF supports churches, faith groups and communities to build relationships, offer hospitality, overcome differences and love their neighbours.

From providing spaces where people can meet and find friendship, to equipping churches to support refugees or training mentors to support people with experience of homelessness, our work brings people together to build stronger and more loving communities where people receive the support they need and everyone has a part to play.

CUF'S work

At CUF our vision is a future where everyone in England can access a community of support when they need it most.

Our mission is to tackle complex challenges like poverty and exclusion across England by mobilising people, churches, and whole communities to make a positive difference.

We aim to transform the lives of those in poverty and strengthen communities by reducing loneliness, increasing self-confidence and building stronger communities.

Show our short video or use the simple script to encourage your church to support the work of CUF through giving and prayer.

This 5 minute video describes CUF's mission and features some of the churches and groups we work with.

Hear how we help churches and community groups provide a wider welcome by offering free spaces for people to meet, increasing participation, building community and supporting refugees.

Themes for prayers of intercession:

- Pray for unity and peace in communities, especially where there is division and difference.
- Thank God for those who are working to build bridges, promote understanding and bring people together.
- Pray for those who are lonely and isolated, and those who are shut out and pushed aside.
- Thank God for community groups and places in your area where people gather for friendship and connection. Pray for opportunities to give and receive generous hospitality that builds community.
- Pray for those who don't have enough money to buy food that they would be given the support they need.
- Thank God for local projects that provide food, support and advice to those in need.
- Pray for a greater awareness of issues of inequality and injustice and for a more just and equal world

A prayer from CUF

Open-armed God, you host us at your table and bid us welcome others in turn.

Open our hands, our eyes and our hearts to the strangers in our midst.

God of grace and gift, open our hearts to those in need.

And make us generous with whatever we can give to others.

Ever-present God, strengthen your church.

Give us the grace to meet human need through loving service, and to help build communities of hope and resilience.

Amen

A prayer for justice

God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice.
Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

From Common Worship, Services and Prayers for the Church of England and Common Worship: Times and Seasons

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