



**TOGETHER**  
MIDDLESBROUGH

A joint venture between the Diocese of York and Church Urban Fund



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BETTER LIVES

# **Dignity In and Out of Work Where do you stand?**

On Teesside today

**40% of children are living in poverty**

**Middlesbrough & Stockton ranked top of Youth  
Unemployment Table**

**20,000 households living in fuel poverty**

**4,514 Sanctions in Stockton during 2013 across  
5,750 Job Seeker's Allowance Claimants**

**The high interest lending industry is growing at  
an alarming rate...**

*Come and hear the experiences of people from our area  
living on low incomes and the impact this is having on them  
and their families.*

**Middlesbrough Community Church,  
Clifton Street, Middlesbrough  
17th September 2014  
6.30pm**

**Very Rev Canon Derek Turnham will chair the event**

# **Dignity In and Out of Work**

## **Where do you stand?**

***The fight against poverty, economic injustice and social exclusion is probably at its most urgent for many years. No longer are these issues limited to those people who are out of work or on benefits. Those in work and living in poverty is higher than it has been for many years.***

We hear from our politicians that work is the best way out of poverty. This may have been true once but it appears to be no longer!

As a society we treat those who fall on hard times with impunity as though they are the cause of all our economic and social problems.

The often indiscriminate sanctioning of benefit claimants leaving them dependent on food banks and with little or no money for lengthy periods of time is having a disastrous impact on them and their families leaving them at the mercy of loan sharks and high interest or pay day lenders.

The low paid, the unemployed, the disabled, those in debt and people on almost any kind of benefit, suffer in silence. People make decisions concerning them but they don't stop to listen to them. This event is a chance for us to hear, first-hand, the impact of low pay, unemployment, and benefit reforms on the people actually affected by them.

We will hear the experiences of people in work and on low pay, of people on Job Seeker's Allowance, from those affected by the Bedroom Tax...

***Their voices will challenge us to act! They will make us feel uncomfortable and they will demand that those in power and authority listen and act positively on what they have heard!***

**Everyone is welcome to attend but we particularly invite those in positions of authority to come along and listen.**

The event will be chaired by Very Rev Canon Derek Turnham the Bishop of Middlesbrough's Caritas Social Action Representative.

### **Programme**

- 6.30pm** Registration, Tea/Coffee
- 7.00pm** Welcome and setting the scene
- 7.10pm** I'm a Person, NOT a Statistic
- 7.35pm** Dignity In and Out of Work—Job Centre Sanctions
- 8.05pm** Dignity In and Out of Work—In Work Poverty
- 8.35pm** How do we feel about what we have heard?  
What can we do about it?
- 9.00pm** Close and Depart

With your help and support we can begin to work alongside those in our area whose lives are blighted by low pay, debt, poverty and exclusion.

Through events like this we can challenge our politicians business leaders and civil servants to think again about their policies and how they implement them.

We can challenge them to act with justice and compassion so that our society becomes one of fairness and all feel they can play their part in making our region a place that reflects these values.

# Registration Form

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

.....

**Postcode**.....

**Tel**.....

**How many places do you wish to book?**.....

**Please return to**

Thrive Teesside  
Newtown Resource Centre  
123 Durham Road  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS19 0DE

**Or email:**      [mail@thrive-teesside.org.uk](mailto:mail@thrive-teesside.org.uk)

**Or telephone: 01642 614126 (ext 210)**