



THE CLEWER
• INITIATIVE

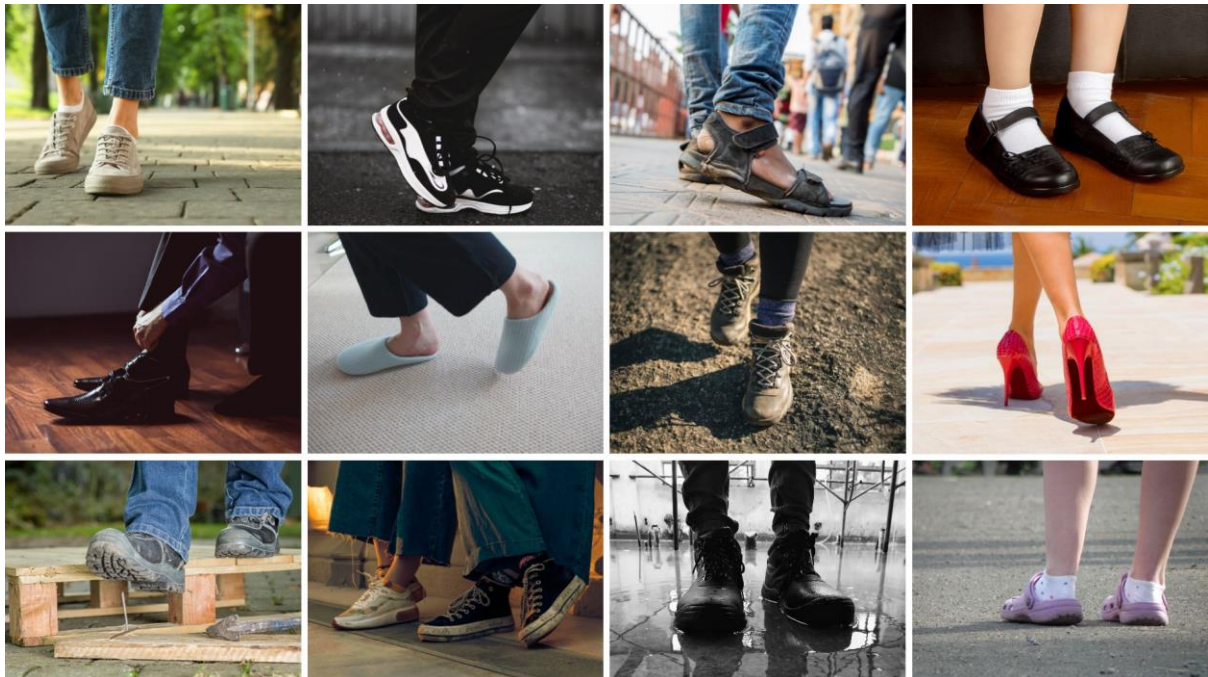
Church Name or location

Day Date Month Year at XX.XX am/pm

with

(add guest speaker name if applicable)

Look at their shoes



Look at their shoes ...

These were the words shared recently by Bishop Alastair as he reflected on modern-day slavery, particularly within the hand car wash trade. At first, it seems like a small detail — something easily overlooked. Yet it can reveal a hidden reality. When people working at car washes are not wearing protective footwear, it may be more than poor practice or lack of resources; it can be a sign of exploitation, vulnerability, and modern-day slavery.

Shoes tell stories. Throughout history, shoes have become powerful symbols representing people who have suffered, people who have been displaced, and people whose dignity has been denied. Today, the shoes placed here represent individuals who are hidden in plain sight, but who experience modern-day slavery.



O God, who created the heavens and stretched them out.

We praise you.

You made the earth and all that lives here.

We praise you.

You give breath to all creatures and your spirit to your people.

We praise and thank you, O God.

That the eyes of the blinded may be opened,
the poor hear the good news,
the captives be brought out of darkness,
the wealth of the world Serve the good of all,
your kingdom come, O God, your will be done.

Then let us sing, God, a new song

With joy, let us honour our Maker.

Hymn (banners may be processed)

Prayer

Over time, over space, over matter, over thought.

you are our God, in all and through all.

**The noises of war are loud in your ears,
as is the cry of a newborn child.**

**You share the excitement of those pioneering research
as well as the last breaths of those nearing death.**

**And in Christ, all the pain and the potential in the world
are held together in the hope of healing.**

**Be present to us here, gracious God,
and let your spirit open us to glimpse that fairer world
which you intend for us and for all people.
Amen**

Voices of the Voiceless

Does God hear anymore?

When is a home not a home, when it is a prison.
When is a job not a job, when it is exploitation.

Behind the curtains of many homes
are people like me denied even phones,
washing, cleaning, cooking and more,
with no proper pay, made to sleep on the floor.

Employers think they are doing me a favour,
a place of safety and permanent labour.
They judge me by my work, not as myself
a household implement a new kind of wealth.

My work helps the family be happy and free.
No one knows how their freedom scares me.
I'm too scared to complain. Where could I go?
No one to help. Who do I know.

Yet I too, would really love to be free
for others to care about my dignity.
I always thought that God hears the cries of the poor.
The big question is, **Does God hear any more?**

Prayer

Loving God,
you hear the cries spoken in silence and see suffering hidden
behind closed doors. Forgive us when comfort blinds us to
the suffering of others.

Open our eyes to those denied freedom and dignity and
strengthen us to stand alongside them in love and justice.
Join us. Join in God's work of freedom.

Finding my way

Parents can be such a drag.
Dad's never there. Mum's just a nag.
Much more fun to find mates who are cool,
a new kind of family out of school.

At first, it felt good. All was calm,
the chance of fun, freedom, no harm.
But as I found my place in the gang,
there were jobs to be done. A special slang.

Drugs were the key for others, not me.
I needed to deliver them so no one would see.
This helps my mates thrive and succeed.
Making a pot for others in need.

The more I passed on, the better it got,
growing business through substances I know not what,
but the commands got tougher, asking a lot,
and no one could help me ask, whether to carry on or not.

Being a teen can be lonely and unsure.
We need help to check out each open door.
But where can we find mates to listen and care
the deeper you're in, **the harder to share.**

Prayer

Faithful God,
be close to young people searching for belonging and
purpose. Forgive us when we fail to notice those who feel
lost or unheard. Help us become communities of welcome,
where every person is valued, guided, and loved.
Join us. Join in sharing hope and belonging.

A cog in the wheel

I did not know that love, trusted him totally,
could be a call - to death.

He promised me so much
hope, purpose, proper work,
my heart began to sing,
and then the moment of betrayal,
no job, no hope, no love,
just a command to do his will.

The call came from others,
greedy, selfish, no concern for me.
I was just a cog in a fantasy wheel.
There I was trapped and hurting.
My heart crying for help.
My body abused again and again.

Why someone on the inside should notice
I will never understand,
but they did and helped me to run into the arms of the law,
the state, the church, arms that gave protection and comfort.

Prayer

God of healing love,
you see the wounds carried by those who have been
betrayed or abused. Forgive us for the silence and
indifference that allow exploitation to continue. Bring
protection to the vulnerable, justice to the oppressed, and
restoration where trust has been broken.

Join us. Join in God's work of restoration.

Being washed away

The car was filthy; it needed a clean.
Here was I to polish and sheen,
and the price is the lowest it's ever been.

The chemicals in the wash are ruining my trainers.
In fact, lack of proper protection is a real explainer,
but people don't notice or feel my restrainers.

They get out their phones and I hear their "Hi's."
No chance of seeing the pain in my eyes.
They want voices that flatter, not heartbreaking sighs.

What can I do to escape from this place?
Who can reach out and offer me grace?
How can I connect face to face?

I wield the power to make shiny and new.
They have the power to make me that too,
but the car moves on – **so does the rot in my shoe.**

Prayer

God of justice,
help us to see the people behind the tasks we take for granted. Forgive us when convenience matters more to us than compassion. Where work brings harm instead of dignity, give us compassion to notice and courage to challenge injustice.

Join us. Join in building dignity for all.

Collect

Heavenly Father,
who sees the unseen and notices the unnoticed,
help each of us to hear the hidden voices of those who pray for release from slavery and exploitation,
so that we may give ourselves more fully to the service of your saving love,
and be strengthened together as agents of healing and hope, through Jesus Christ,
who himself came to serve as a slave,
so to bring freedom and grace to all.
Amen

Hymn

Sermon – (Title) Name Surname

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heave and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all
baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes
for peace and builds up our common life.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Blessed be God
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
By whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God forever.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.
Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave
for you, and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion

Father God,
may we who have been strengthened by this sacrament,
strengthen those in weakness;
we who have been fed, feed those in hunger;
we who have been welcomed, welcome others;;
we who have been seen and known,
see and know the needs of others;
give us your grace to respond always in loving service.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of
your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

[Notices](#)

[Hymn](#)

[Closing Prayer](#)

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union
as we seek to share your love through the encouragement,
strengthening and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit,
may we be united in prayer and worship,
and in love and service
reach out as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name.
Amen

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge
and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

Please join us for refreshments in the church hall.

Donations will be in aid of The Clewer Initiative.

We would like to thank (Title) Name Surname for speaking,
(add others here) and all who have helped in this service.

The four poems have been taken from The Clewer Initiative's
course, Waiting in the Wilderness. Go to the Resources
section of The Clewer Initiative website to download in full
and access other poems.

This service was designed and first used by Revd Daile
Wilshire of Holy Trinity Church, Cleeve and St Barnabas,
Claverham for the annual Deanery service of the Mothers'
Union in Portishead Deanery.

We are thankful to Revd Daile and the Mothers' Union in Portishead Deanery for making the service idea, liturgy and prayers available to others.

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