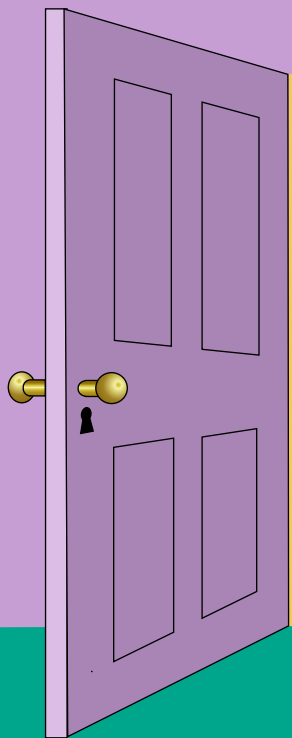


B.A.S.H

Breaker's Anointing Support Housing

HOMELESSNESS

SOLUTIONS



**INFORMATION
PACK**

B.A.S.H
Breaker's Anointing Support Housing



HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

Hello!

We hope this pack will help you better understand homelessness, be prompted to pray for those most in need, and learn how everyone can help to make a difference to people who are trapped in homelessness.

Homelessness is at record levels right now in the UK, and numbers are still rising. But there is hope, if we work together we can make a difference.

B.A.S.H is dedicated to joining with other Church organizations to take a stand in prayer and action to tackle this growing scourge of homelessness. We hope this resource will be a huge benefit to you and we invite you to partner with us in this great work.

If you have any questions or feedback, please do get in touch with us at, email: info@breakers-anointing.com.

The B.A.S.H team.



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WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

When you picture a homeless person - and most likely when you notice one - they will be a rough sleeper. Rough sleeping, however, is only one manifestation of homelessness, and not the most frequent one. Homelessness includes living in the streets, in open spaces or cars; living in temporary emergency accommodation, in women's shelters, in camps or other temporary accommodation.

Homelessness is not always a visible problem. People who might be described as "hidden homeless" are often slipping through the cracks. Crisis has estimated that as many as 62% of single homeless people do not show up on official figures.

The cost of living crisis, rising rents, stretched local services and the withdrawal of emergency measures in place during the pandemic have seen more people fall into insecure positions than ever before.

The loss of a private tenancy is the leading cause of homelessness, with 19,940 households made homeless from the private rented sector. This was a 39% increase from last year and accounted for 29% of households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness.



CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Addiction
- ✓ Mental health
- ✓ Family breakdown
- ✓ Unemployment
- ✓ Unaffordable housing

There are social causes of homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty and unemployment; and life events which push people into homelessness.

People are sometimes forced into homelessness when they leave prison, care or the army with no home to go to.

Many women experiencing homelessness have escaped a violent or abusive relationship. Many people become homeless because they can no longer afford the rent.

And for many, life events like a relationship breaking down, losing a job, mental or physical health problems, or substance misuse put people under considerable strain. Being homeless can, in turn, make many of these problems even harder to resolve. However, in nearly all cases homelessness is preventable and in every case it can be ended.

THE CURRENT NATIONAL PICTURE

New government figures show 79,840 households faced homelessness in England between January and March 2023 – the highest number on record.

The numbers are staggering and the situation is quickly worsening, with unprecedented amounts of people reaching out to councils for help or while record numbers are living in temporary accommodation. It truly is a homelessness crisis.

In Scotland there were **28,882** homeless households recorded in **2021/22**, that accounts for **32,592** adults and **14,372** children. In Wales, **11,704** households were assessed as homeless or owed a duty by local authorities to help them secure accommodation between April **2021** and March **2022**. A total of **10,872** individuals were also reported to be in temporary accommodation in Wales during May **2023**. In Northern Ireland, official statistics show **7,478** households presented as homeless between July and December **2022**, with a further **3,945** living in temporary accommodation.


104,500+
households
including over
131,000 children
living in,
hostels,
B&Bs, etc.



271,000+
people in England
recorded as
homeless in 2023,
including
123,000
children.



In England another **296,180** households were owed a homelessness duty over **2022/23**, meaning local authorities have a duty to prevent them becoming homeless. Overall, Crisis estimated that around **227,000** people were experiencing the worst forms of homelessness – rough sleeping, sleeping in vans and sheds, and stuck in B&Bs – across England, Scotland and Wales in **2021**. That figure is projected to rise beyond **300,000** households on any given night in **2023**.

A photograph of a person sitting on a sidewalk at night. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a patterned beanie, and is wrapped in a bright blue blanket. They are sitting on a piece of cardboard on the ground. In the background, there is a city street with a building, a person walking, and some traffic lights. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting it is nighttime.

**Whatever you did
for one of the least
of these brothers
and sisters of mine,
you did it for me.**

Matthew 25:40

With more than 2000 verses in Scripture on poverty and justice, it's abundantly clear that tackling the injustice of homelessness is an issue close to God's heart.

We believe that the Church should be leading the way in showing compassion and offering support to those facing homelessness.

Jesus was sent by his Father "to proclaim good news to the poor . . . freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18-19). And he says, speaking to his Father, "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (John 17:18).

A Christlike, compassionate response to homelessness is to pray, and to take action, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Church has a long history of sharing the love of God in word and deed with the homeless. In B.A.S.H's work with Homelessness we partner with Green Pastures. They are one of a family of many amazing ministries and charities which were started in response to the call upon Christians to tackle homelessness, including: Centrepunt, Church Army, Church Homeless Trust, Emmaus, Hope Into Action, Housing Justice, The Salvation Army, Shelter, St Mungo's, St Vincent de Paul Society, YMCA, and many more.

In Galatians 2:10 the Apostle Paul says

"All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along."

Are you eager to remember the poor? There is a definite blessing from God in assisting the poor



Jesus said to his disciples: ***"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Luke 6:20-21"***



The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

As you begin to consider how to respond to the homelessness crisis, here are some ways that your church can begin in prayer:



1. PAUSE

Be still

Become aware of the presence of God
Consider His heart for those in need
Spend some time in silent reflection

2. REFLECT

Reflect on those overwhelming numbers from page 5: picture one of the thousands of people those numbers represents, and take a moment to imagine what it would be like to be facing homelessness.

Read Psalm 145:8-16 and consider the will of God to have compassion on all on all those in need.

3. ASK

Pray for:

- Those facing homelessness
- Government
- Local Government
- Housing Benefit Offices
- Prison & Probation Services
- B.A.S.H and other homeless ministries

4. YIELD

Start to consider how you respond to the need amongst the poor and marginalised.

Pray a yielding prayer: asking we yield to His will in our lives come what may.

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**All they asked was
that we should
continue to remember
the poor, the very
thing I had been eager
to do all along.**

Galatians 2:10

OUR TOP 4 WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION:

1

Volunteer with Homeless Shelters and organisations helping the homeless:

Many amazing organisations across the UK work tirelessly to support the homeless. Consider volunteering your time and skills at local homeless shelters, food banks, or organisations that provide support services.

2

Donate to charities making a difference: Support reputable charities and ministries that focus on homelessness by donating money or essential items. Donations can provide essential resources such as food, clothing, hygiene products, and temporary shelter for homeless individuals.

3

Advocate for policy changes at the local and national level to address the root causes of homelessness: Remember that helping the homeless is not just about addressing immediate needs but also about addressing the underlying causes of homelessness, such as poverty, mental health issues, and addiction. Combining prayer, practical assistance and advocacy for systemic change can lead to more comprehensive solutions to homelessness in the UK.

4

House the homeless in your area: If you have a heart to tackle homelessness in your area, we can connect to partners who will work with your church or charity in partnership to give people in need a home and support.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

Everyone can help move us towards a future without homelessness. How can you play



Some questions you might ask:

What is the current homeless situation in our area?

What churches, ministries and charities are working to serve and support the poor and homeless, and how could we join them?

What resources do we have, as a church and as individuals to make a difference locally and nationally?

What ways could we advocate to those in power on behalf of the poor?

How can we regularly pray for the homeless and marginalised?



Street Link

If you see a rough sleeper, send details of where and when you see them, as well as a brief description of the person, to StreetLink using their website, app or phone line. StreetLink is operated in partnership by Homeless Link and St Mungo's. Scotland has no centralised service so you should check for contact details of your local council.

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**Whoever is kind to
the poor lends to the
LORD, and he will
reward them for what
they have done.**

Proverbs 19:17

NOW IN OPERATION

B.A.S.H

HOMELESSNESS

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The first of many B.A.S.H homeless projects is now up and running.



In cooperation with our partners we have purchased a property in North London that is now occupied by formerly homeless tenants who are being provided support in the form of mental well-being check ups, general health monitoring, life skills, language development, employment preparation and Job finding assistance.



OUR PARTNERS

HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS

B.A.S.H PARTNERS INCLUDE:



If you would like to partner with us and help reduce Homelessness you can send a donation at our [online giving portal](#) on the website.

For further information or emergency assistance

Email: info@breakers-anointing.com or call the

Emergency Helpline

Tel: 07376322135

