

# "HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE" CHRIST CHURCH 2024

## Hugh Balfour "Poverty & Injustice"

- **Relational** - support marriage
- **Political** - support and pray for your MP and councillors
- **Educational** - learn and teach practical financial planning
- **Financial** - help people get out of debt
- **Spiritual** - learn how to live and guide others to freedom in Christ

## "Poverty & Injustice" - why not...

- Find out who your MP / councillors are then pray for / support them
- Ask your children about liabilities, assets and depreciation (carry out research first)
- Get to know a Big Issue Seller
- Volunteer and / or give to a Food Bank / Night Shelter
- Sign up for email updates from Christians Against Poverty



## Miracle Church "Diversity & Inclusion"

- **Intentionality** - foster diversity & inclusion
- **Education** - raise awareness of racial justice issues & challenge unconscious bias
- **Collaboration** - partner with others
- **Awareness Events** - Mark key events like Black History Month & Race Equality Week
- **Addressing Community Needs** - respond to practical needs, poverty and inequality
- "Look Where God has Brought Us" book by Overseer Vaughan



## Vanessa Elston "Christian Activism"

- Benefits of 300 years of enlightenment science but failure to count creation cost
- The world is now in trouble, poor countries and brown / black people affected more
- Lack of ethical leadership by politicians
- Need for democratic citizens' assembly
- Vested interests lobby for status quo
- Many in the Church have adopted consumerist attitudes and Jesus comes 2nd
- **Metanoia** transformative change of heart

## "Christian Activism" - why not...

- Sign up for Christian Climate Action Newsletter. Join a pilgrimage for change.
- Many are looking for spirituality and action on climate. We need a deeper discipleship that connects us to the world around us
- It's time for non-violent, creative, prayerful protest.
- "Jesus Died to Save the Planet" Paul Kunert book (LICC May 2024)



## Ian Paul "Faith, Works & Deeds"

- We're saved by God's grace not by works Ephesians 2 v 8-9
- Works = Deeds in Greek
- Gift of God's grace - response required James 2 v 14 (faith and deeds)
- Partnership with God (walk and work with Him) Phil 2 v 12-13
- "The Practice of Evangelical Spirituality" book by Ian Paul



## "Diversity & Inclusion" - why not...

- Support Miracle Church Outreach (Pigeon Square 2nd Saturday of month 11:30am)
- Learn about unconscious bias and Black History
- Attend Bedford SpectaculArts events
- Get to know your neighbours - a diverse mission field
- Invite your neighbours to volunteer with you

## Alan and Will "Climate Change"

- Live in a responsible God-pleasing, earth-stewarding way
- Responsibly carbon offset our air travel
- Choose energy suppliers carefully
- Reduce single use plastic
- Recycle - Reduce - Reuse
- At election time, consider the climate



## "Climate Change" - why not...

- Consider eating less meat
- Sign up for email updates from Green Christian; A Rocha; Neno Macadamia Trust
- Ask MP about Green Policies
- Join a car share website
- "Renewing the Life of the Earth: Christian Discipleship and Environmental Action" book by Rachel Mash