

OPENING EVENING: 6 – 8pm Friday 9 February at Highfield Trinity Church,
2 Highfield Place, Sheffield, S2 4UR,

We are delighted to be bringing the *Life on the Breadline Photographic Exhibition* to Sheffield and Barnsley this Lent. Our aim is to start conversations: to hear and amplify voices of people with lived experience of poverty, to create space for people to tell their own stories, and to reflect on how we should personally and collectively respond to what we are hearing.

The *Life on the Breadline* project focused on Christian responses to UK poverty. Many of our Methodist congregations are directly involved through practical responses such as hosting food banks and partnerships with other charities, and many who worship in our churches have direct personal experience of poverty. But as a justice seeking church we firmly believe we must look beyond ourselves and work in partnership with people of all faiths and none who seek to end poverty in the UK and in our region.

Alongside the public exhibition we will be hosting a series of public talks and events, details of which will be published on our website <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/news/news-stories/life-on-breadline-exhibition.html>.

We will be joined at our opening evening by two of the lead researchers from the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University: Dr Chris Shannahan and Dr Stephanie Denning. They will outline the research and we will talk about our contexts and what we believe could change. We would be delighted if you and/or another representative from your organisation could join us at this event.

Please do let us know if you will be able to join us, would like to discuss another opportunity to engage with the exhibition, or would like to know more. Reply to Katrin Hackett, the District Administrator – admin@sheffieldmethodist.org.

Life on the Breadline began as a three year (2018-2021) research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The project has analysed the nature, scope, and impact of Christian engagement with urban poverty in the UK since the 2008 financial crisis. It is the first intersectional academic theological analysis of Christian responses to UK poverty during the 'Age of Austerity' that draws on detailed in-depth empirical fieldwork across the UK in the form of interviews with national Church leaders, an online survey with regional Church leaders, and six ethnographic case studies. The *Life on the Breadline Photographic Exhibition* premiered at Coventry Cathedral. Further details can be found at <https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/events/photographic-exhibition/>

Yours sincerely

Julie Coates
Acting Chair of Sheffield Methodist District.