



Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem

Bulletin 15th December, 2024.

Overview

Recent news in the UK highlights a growing concern over rising poverty and the cost of living crisis. Senior Christian leaders and charities have called for urgent action from politicians to address these issues. The "Act on Poverty" campaign, led by Churches Together in England, emphasises the need for political leaders to set clear plans to eradicate extreme poverty and halve overall poverty by 2030.[1]

Christian charities, such as Christian Aid, the Trussell Trust, and Church Action on Poverty, are at the forefront of tackling these challenges. These organisations provide essential services, including food banks, debt counseling, and housing support, to those in need. The rising poverty levels mean that these charities face increased demand for their services, putting additional pressure on their resources and funding.[2]

To support their efforts, Christian charities are encouraged to collaborate with local churches and communities. The "Act on Poverty" campaign provides resources for church groups to explore the impacts of poverty and take action. Additionally, grant-making trusts and organisations, such as the Benefact Trust and the Henry Smith Charity, offer funding opportunities for projects that address social issues like homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity.[3]

The current economic challenges in the UK present both challenges and opportunities for Christian charities supporting the vulnerable. By working together and leveraging available resources, these organisations can continue to make a significant impact on the lives of those blighted by poverty.



Developments



The Knights Templar Goodwill Charity of Scotland has launched 'Templar Tots' a charity which supports children and families struggling with poverty. The team has been in meetings with the NHS in order to take this further forwards. The Knights have struck and struck powerfully in this endeavour, this is excellent work! Pictured is Gary and a Lady who works as Asda Halbeath. Many thanks and respect to Asda for supporting the most vulnerable in their community.



Nottingham Care Pack Deployment

The date has yet to be finalised, end of January looks likely, but a decision has been made to proceed with this. All contributions or input would be most welcome in order to maximise impact. More information will be released nearer the time. This event will definitely be going ahead.

Walk the Bridge

Multiple Walk-The-Bridge Events are planned for the New Year including an incorporated sleep-out. To this articles such as care packs and dawgs for sale are being included to raise the profile and raise funds. Also, the police are sending officers to support the event, it will not be too long, I suspect, before fire, ambulance and medical staff are attending also. Mental health affects us all. The sooner we break the undeserved stigma and come out in mutual support the better. Keep on going here!

Phone Appeal

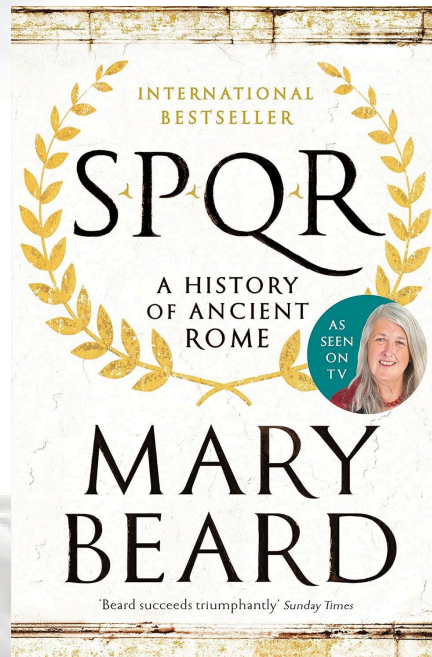
Keith is appealing for any second-hand mobile phones to be sent to him. All of the information is wiped back to factory settings and the phone is then charged, loaded with data and given to a vulnerable person to provide a vital lifeline, if you have any that you do not need, someone somewhere would greatly appreciate the gift. Please see Keith for taking it forward.

Christian Aid Poverty Resources.

A valuable collection of information is [HERE](#)



Book Review



Mary Beard's International Best Seller on Ancient Rome

Mary Beard's work on Ancient Rome, particularly her book "*SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*," provides an engaging and comprehensive exploration of Roman history. Beard's ability to weave scholarly research with compelling narratives makes her work accessible and captivating to a broad audience. She delves into the intricacies of Roman politics, society, and culture, offering fresh insights and challenging traditional perspectives. Her work is celebrated for its depth, clarity, and the way it brings ancient Rome to life for modern readers.

No work penned by the human hand could ever fully encapsulate the intricacies, highs, and lows of the Roman Empire. It's legacy, both explicit and implicit, lives on. 'In examining the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, we find invaluable lessons in leadership, resilience, and the dangers of complacency', as noted by Edward Gibbon (1737-1794):



Central to Gibbon's thesis is the loss of civic virtue. He argues that the decline in moral and ethical standards among Rome's citizens undermined the very foundation of the empire. The erosion of civic responsibility and the prioritisation of personal pleasure over public duty weakened the social fabric, making the empire vulnerable to internal strife and external threats. Gibbon's analysis suggests that the strength of a society lies in the virtue of its citizens. Without a commitment to the common good and a willingness to sacrifice for the greater benefit, even the mightiest of empires can fall. Words that are so relevant today.

Summary

The rise and fall of the Roman Empire provide a rich template for organisations and is often considered essential reading for those entering politics. By learning from historical successes and failures, modern organisations can develop strong organisational structures, innovative practices, strategic planning, resilience, and effective human resources management. History not only informs but also inspires, offering timeless lessons for contemporary challenges. Exploring these lessons can help organisations avoid repeating past mistakes and capitalise on proven strategies for success.

A documentary on the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire is here. [ROME: Rise and Fall of an Empire - Part 1/14](#)



Conclusion

In these challenging times, the collective effort of Christian charities, community leaders, and dedicated individuals stands as a counter to the circumstances many are facing, we must strengthen and consolidate this. The initiatives like 'Templar Tots' and the Nottingham Care Pack Deployment demonstrate the power of compassion and collaboration. To echo Gibbon's remarks, we are reminded that unity and vision can create functioning societies and conversely lack of public consideration can cause the decline, and the UK is full of it!

The ongoing support from organisations such as Asda and the commitment from local communities highlight the enduring spirit of generosity and solidarity. With upcoming events like Walk-The-Bridge, we are poised to make a significant impact, breaking down barriers and fostering mutual support. Major plans are underway for 2025.

Let us continue to harness this collective strength, ensuring that every action taken today paves the way for a brighter and more equitable future. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities.

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Privy Chamber.



References

1. Churches Together in England, 'Act on Poverty in 2024' (cte.org.uk, 5 January 2024) <https://cte.org.uk/act-on-poverty-2024/> accessed 15 December 2024.
2. Matt Holderness, 'Five Christian charities tackling the Cost of Living Crisis' (Stewardship, 26 August 2022) <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/cost-living-crisis-christian-charities> accessed 15 December 2024.
3. Evangelical Alliance, 'List of grant-making trusts and organisations that are taking applications from Christian charities' (eauk.org, 2023) <https://www.eauk.org/list-of-grant-making-trusts-and-organisations-that-are-taking-applications-from-christian-charities> accessed 15 December 2024.

