

CONTACTS

Scottish Churches Housing Action

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www.churches-housing.org

Positive Action in Housing

Positive Action in Housing Ltd
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www.paih.org

Church Action on Poverty (CAP)

Dale House
35 Dale Street
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F: 0161 237 5359
www.church-poverty.org.uk

Triodos Ethical Banking

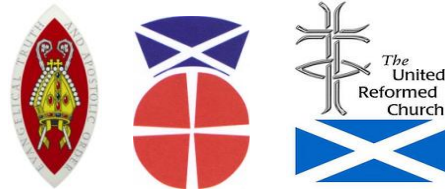
32 Annandale Street Lane
Edinburgh EH7 4LS
T: 0131 557 5528
www.triodos.co.uk

The Co-operative Bank

The Co-operative Bank
29 Gordon Street
Glasgow G1 3PF
T: 0141 221 4937
www.co-operativebank.co.uk

Shelter Scotland

4th Floor
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6 South Charlotte Street
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T: 0131 473 7199
www.shelterscotland.org.uk



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Monthly leaflets downloadable from
www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/church_in_society_committee/

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Homelessness

A dilemma we all face every day when we pass a homeless person asking for our money, is whether to give money when we know that it might be used to fund drug or alcohol addictions.

Whatever you decide one thing is vital: not to let this dilemma stop you helping and prevent you from seeing Christ in your homeless neighbour.

In Scotland two of the largest Christian organisations working for the homeless are the Bethany Christian Trust and Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA). They can give you all the information you will need about projects in your local area, and advise you on how you and your Church can help more.

You may wish to try the following:

- pray for homeless people
- give money to charities working with the homeless
- give meal tokens to homeless people
- give a chocolate bar or a cup of coffee to a homeless person you meet on the street
- Buy the *Big Issue* regularly (more than half of the cost goes directly to the vendor) and get to know each of the different vendors on your way round town
- give your time to talk to people and try to establish a rapport
- make those who are homeless feel wanted, loved and included
- see what your Church can do for Scotland's homeless by applying for an information pack for the annual 'Homelessness Sunday'; Church Action on Poverty Week is at the end of January to the beginning of February
- volunteer for the Bethany Care Van which operates 365 days per year
- become a Friend of the SCHA and receive a monthly newsletter giving you regular updates on the Scottish Churches' collective endeavour to help the homeless on our streets
- buy a Caring Christmas Tree from Bethany Christian Trust
- save money as well as supporting a variety of homelessness charities through the ethical banking firm 'Triodos', a plethora of different saving policies allows you to save money and contribute differing proportions of the interest made to support various homeless charities

PRAYERS

Penitence

For the times when we have just passed by,
And pretended that we did not see
Lord, have mercy upon us.
For the times when we have said 'no, sorry',
And failed to reflect your love.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
For the times when we have made assumptions
And judged our brothers and sisters
Lord have mercy upon us.
AMEN

Seeing and loving the homeless Christ in the homeless

Homeless Saviour, teach us to see you
In the pale faces we meet huddled under blankets,
In the out-stretched hands,
In the anger, tears and pain,
That by recognising you in their faces, we might
see their real loveliness,
And so, by your love, love you in them.
AMEN

From Scotland to the World

Lord, be with the homeless on the streets of
Scotland.
And lest we forget the extent of your love,
We ask that you might be not only with all the
people sleeping rough on Scottish streets,
but also with those sleeping in the dusty highways
and shanty towns of your creation.
In the loneliness of a thousand cardboard boxes,
And in the squalid darkness of a thousand
doorways,
Homeless Saviour, be with your homeless
children wherever they may be.
AMEN

Thanksgiving

Homeless Saviour, despite the darkness of
despair,
Through your light in all those who help the
homeless,
Let your glory shine!
In the soup kitchens and hostels,
Let your glory shine!
In the befriending projects and charity shops,
Let your glory shine!
Till the world is luminous with your love.
AMEN