

LOVE IN ACTION



THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS



Helen has always been a hard worker. It's how she was brought up. They've never had much, but they've always made do, and she's instilled in her children to also work hard. For most of her life she's been a cleaner. She enjoys the satisfaction of seeing something shine after it's been filthy, although all the bending down has taken its toll on her over the years. When she saw a job advertised at her local church hall to do some cleaning a couple of hours a few mornings a week, it seemed ideal as it was closer to home, and fitted around some of her other clients. The amount of money she was on was roughly the same as she got for her other jobs.

One day she had a meeting with the Parish Priest. The Parish Council had decided to review the contracts in the parish. Helen worried she would be let go. Actually, she got a pay rise. They had been thinking about how they treated others. Although Helen had been receiving just above the minimum wage, they'd realised that this wasn't a fair amount for what she did. They started paying her the living wage, almost £10 an hour. Helen feels far more valued as a person, and although it's only a few extra pounds a week, she's able to put some of the money aside and although money is still tight, she's not quite so worried about each bill that comes in.



We're all involved in employing people – whether directly, or through the places we shop and socialise, the products we buy. How do we ensure the rights and dignity of all those who labour are respected?