

# LOVE IN ACTION



## PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR



John had never really had to worry about things like food. He could usually take his family on at least one holiday a year, and they always put something in the collection plate on a Sunday. Then the recession happened. His job wasn't affected at first. But then more and more people were made redundant. It's not that he hasn't been looking for work, but there's so little out there for his experience. At first, they made do. Friends and family have been so generous. Then all of a sudden, with such a long wait to receive benefits, they realised that there just wasn't enough money to buy food for the family to live healthily on.

There was a notice in the parish newsletter. They'd started a food bank for people in the local community. At first it was just a few cans of food people brought on a Sunday. Overwhelmed by the generous response, they knew they needed to get more organised. A group came together to work out what sorts of food were needed, and appeals put in the newsletter. They sorted it into boxes ready for families like John's.

John's not found it easy to accept the food package, he's grateful for it. It's made life that much easier when times have been particularly tough.



Who are the poor within our own community, whether visible or invisible? How do we work alongside one another, learning and growing through the encounter with each person we meet?