

**Warm Spaces and a Warm Welcome**

**These are just a few ideas for parishes, schools and other public places who want to help out this winter – please send through any other suggestions.**And please let us know what you’re doing: email, send us photos,
or tag us on social media
*(details at the bottom of this document)*

**Community Welcome**

* Invite people together, listen to their experiences, their worries, hear their suggestions.
* Reach out to the margins, be inclusive.
* Continue (or start) your synodal journey, address the points raised in the first sessions, reach the people that you didn’t have time to engage.
* Look at what else is available locally in other faith and community settings – share a list, rotate with others, fill the gaps, initiate a conversation at your next local meeting of Churches Together, Faith Forum etc.

**Build on what you have eg**

* Extend coffee after Mass.
* Change the seniors’ bingo – maybe add soup, or offer it twice a week.
* Add bring and share food to the refugee ESOL lessons.
* Have a warm meal after the parents and toddlers’ group.
* Support your local SVP conference, help them to fundraise or recruit.

**Start something simple**

* Introduce a film night, games night, prayer, reflection, poets’ corner.
* Start a simple Soup and Scripture lunch club.
* Provide a hot community meal, look at Food Cycle *(see below).*
* Create a parish library ‘reading room’.
* Give tokens to the sports centre (which include warm showers).
* Start cooking lessons – eg with a free slow cooker.
* Have free wifi/computer banks for job search, universal credit or other needs.
* Have a “digital champion” on hand to help people learn new tech skills.
* See what help might be available from your local authority for any of the above.

**Save energy**

* Invite an energy saving expert in to speak *(see below).*
* Share cost saving ideas, start a self-reliance group.
* Start a *Laudato Si’* or Living Simply group in your parish with CAFOD.
* Start a repair shop (sewing, bikes, or electronics), or advice shop (phones and computers).
* Hold a second-hand clothing sale.
* Add a clothes recycling bin.

**Raise Financial Resilience**

* Partner with a local organisation able to provide information and advice on things like budgeting, benefits, rebates etc. If they can’t provide someone to visit, they can at least let you have leaflets and posters!
* Contact Caritas to find out about any training we can offer – or else sign up to our newsletter to keep informed *(see below)*
* Set up a funding circle in your parish.
* Start a Firm Foundations financial resilience group.
* Sign up to [Acts 435.](https://www.acts435.org.uk/)
* Open a branch of a credit union.

**Social Justice**

* Learn about Catholic Social Teaching.
* Find out more about running [Love in Action](https://www.stepforwardinlove.org/) in your parish.
* Get savvy about Economics, Politics and Faith.
* Collectively imagine a better future.
* Learn about Community Organising.
* Invite your local councillor in to share stories and solutions.

To learn more, or discuss any of this further,
contact your [Development Worker](https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/our-development-team.php), or [caritaswestminster.org.uk](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/)

Join our newsletter mailing list [here](http://eepurl.com/caQmNb)

Find out more about:

[FoodCycle](https://foodcycle.org.uk/)

[Green Doctors](https://london.greendoctors.org.uk/) and [National Energy Action](https://www.nea.org.uk/)

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