



TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Towards a
National
Conversation

Edited by
Nicholas Sagovsky
and Peter McGrail

How can we work together for the common good today? Thirteen contributors – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, non-religious – discuss the common good from a wide range of viewpoints. How have thinkers like Aristotle and Edmund Burke talked about the common good in the past? Catholic Social Teaching has a lot to say about the common good: what does the common good mean for the world's great religious traditions today? How can we usefully talk about the common good in a plural society? What responsibility has the state for the common good? Can the market serve the common good? If we care about the common good, what should we think – and do – about immigration, education, the NHS, inequality, and freedom? This book starts from the example of David Sheppard and Derek Worlock, the Anglican Bishop and Catholic Archbishop, who famously worked together for the good of the city of Liverpool in the 1980s. The contributors call for a national conversation about how, despite our differences, we can work together – locally, nationally, internationally – for the common good.

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‘The common good, differently expressed, can be found in all our faiths. But the question remains how it should be made real, who needs to take ownership of it, and how easy it is to make a difference when public attitudes seem to be shying away from any such concept. This book gives us brilliant insights into how faith and other leaders think of what can and should be done.’
Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger

‘This is a remarkable book, written by experts from different religious faiths. It should be read by all those interested in human rights, justice and politics in a secular and multi-cultural society. To work towards the common good is to work for peace.’
Jean Vanier

‘Together for the Common Good is a timely and accessible collection of helpful essays about a phrase which has become synonymous with Catholic Social Teaching but has applications for believer and non-believer alike. Combined with a belief in human dignity, where every human being should be treated as if made in the image of their Maker, the ideas which constitute the Common Good should inform political manifestos and discourse about policies, priorities, and the allocation of resources.’

Professor Lord Alton of Liverpool