

# The challenge we face: reading the signs of the times

Jenny Sinclair



LIVING THE COMMON GOOD  
Keynote #1  
Diocese of Clifton, Bristol, 18 May 2024



# My story



# Pentecost



# Beginnings



# “The best kept secret”



# The Common Good



# The Common Good



**"The Common Good is the shared life of a society in which everyone can flourish - as we act together in different ways that all contribute towards that goal, enabled by social conditions that mean every single person can participate.**

**We create these conditions and pursue that goal by working together across our differences, each of us taking responsibility, according to our calling and ability."**

# Justice





# The treasure of the Church



# Building a common good



# What is the meaning of “mission”?



# Changing Church





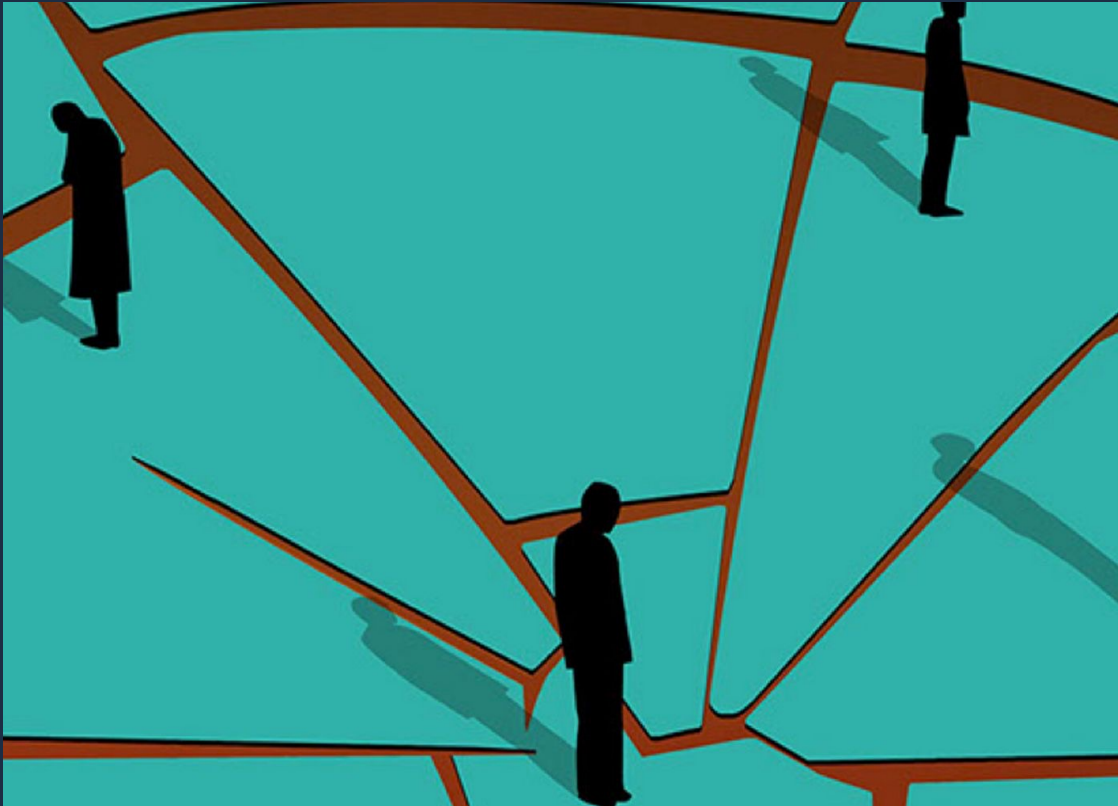
What stood out for you?  
A word, a sentence,  
an image?

# Reading the signs of the times



## Catholic Social Teaching

# “we are entering a change of era”



- Neoliberalism
- False anthropology
- Economic consequences
- Politics of abandonment
- Social consequences
- Malign culture, human distress
- Toxic cycle generates poverty
- Collusion of the powers
- Spiritual consequences

# Building common good



- Culture of encounter
- Joining with God
- Local relationships
- Local institutions
- The Family
- Constraints on capital
- Distributing power
- Accountability





What challenges do we discern  
in our own communities, our  
pastoral area?

# PART TWO



LIVING THE COMMON GOOD  
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# Hearing the Call: Discerning our unique vocation to build the common good

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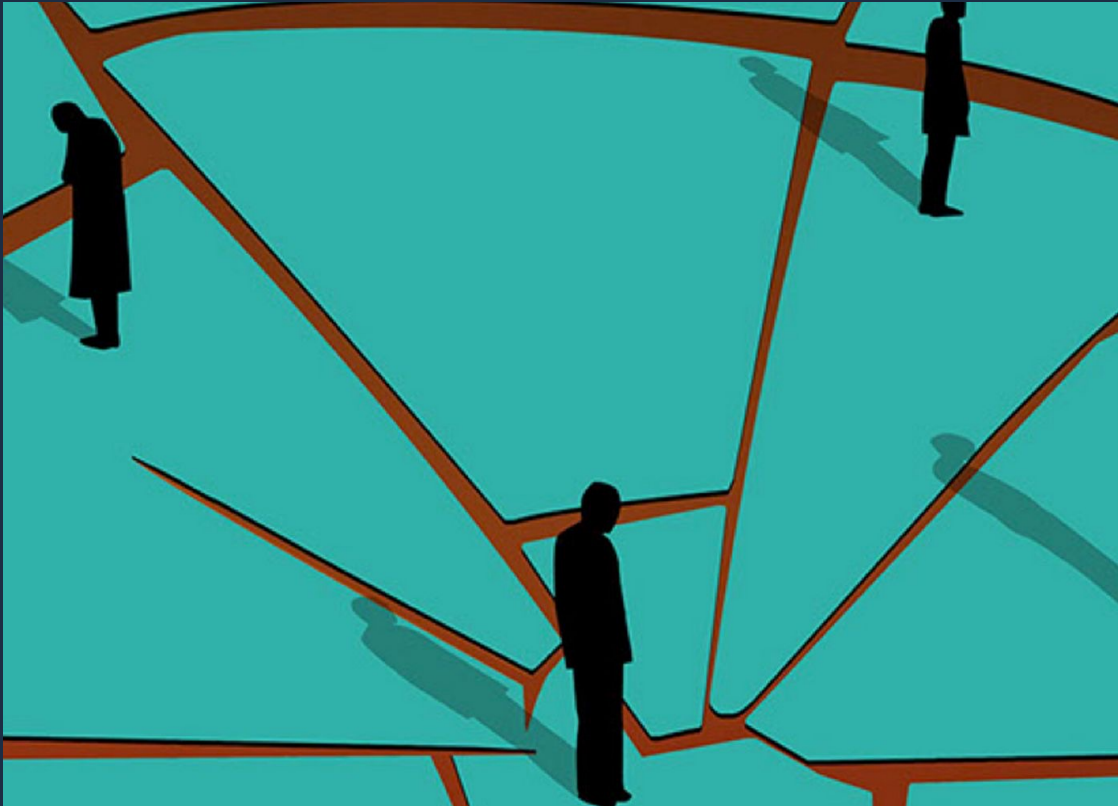
# Signs of the times



## COMPONENTS

- Our calling at Pentecost
- Catholic Social Teaching
- The Common Good
- Our tradition of justice
- The treasure of the church
- Building Common Good
- Mission
- Changing church

# Signs of the times



## CHANGE OF ERA

- Neoliberalism
- False anthropology
- Economic consequences
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# Signs of the times



What we see  
at local level

# Hearing the call: becoming a common good community



- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Not on our own
- Shared leadership
- Attentive to the charisms
- Not being the saviour
- Sense of family
- A relational people

# Becoming a relational people – internal practices



- Culture of expectation
- Allow experiments
- Communal spirituality in liturgy
- Communal practices of prayer
- Small discipleship groups
- Conversations in the Spirit



# Becoming a relational people – outward-facing practices



- Joining God in the neighbourhood
- Looking for signs of the Kingdom
- Occasion for communion
- Gift of curiosity
- One to one conversations
- Knowing the neighbourhood
- Connect with other human beings



What stood out for you?  
A word, a sentence,  
an image?

# Shifting the Christian imagination





What is God calling me to do  
in concrete terms?

What are my gifts and skills? How can  
I build common good where I live?

But seek the peace of the city  
where I have sent you into exile  
and pray to the LORD on its behalf  
for in its peace you will find your peace.

*Jeremiah 29.7*

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Get in touch [jenny@togetherforthecommongood.co.uk](mailto:jenny@togetherforthecommongood.co.uk)

[www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk](http://www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk)