

Poverty in older age

The economic recession, the attempts by central government to reform the welfare system, the erosion of pension values and the general increases in the cost of living – all these and more have combined to make a consideration of pensioner poverty an urgent topic for debate.

A recent study prepared for Age UK gives some of the background, the facts and figures and indicators for the future. You can find a summary of the findings at http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Research/Living_on_a_low_income_overview.pdf

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster have both made interventions in the public debate about welfare reform and its consequences. They have criticised central government for failing to acknowledge and deal with the ‘traps’ into which those needing welfare benefit support can often find themselves falling. **Christians on Ageing** will be bringing together commentaries by the various Church leaders and others so that the voice of older Christians is heard.