

## THE MANGER OF POVERTY

The manger of poverty is a broken cardboard box, representing the homeless and rough-sleepers in the UK. The "Fragile" stickers were unintentional, but very appropriate, for the poor of the world are some of the most fragile and vulnerable people.

The manger is lined with newspaper, which happens to show the share prices and commodities – how ironic.

The items in the manger represent hunger, lack of clean water, and lack of proper sanitation. But poverty goes further than that. Poverty of opportunity is shown on the blackboard, highlighting lack of employment, education and healthcare.

There is some hope, because in many countries a few charities are providing the means for climbing out of this hellish situation. Instead of handouts, communities are being offered drought-resistant crops to plant. Training is also provided for skills such as carpentry or tailoring, enabling them to support themselves and their families.

Jesus was born in poverty, and lived as a refugee. In His ministry, He was filled with compassion for the poor, the hungry, the sick and the outcast. He came to give them life and hope.