



Carolyn Harris MP

Member of Parliament for Swansea East

Cost-of-living Crisis and Chancellor's Statement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer published his autumn statement on November 17th and we once again saw the Government refuse to apologise for the financial hole they dragged the country towards with the last mini-budget, whilst neglecting to support the most vulnerable in our society by omitting an adequate Windfall tax on oil and gas producers.

I had the opportunity to tell the Secretary of State during Welsh Orals, just how desperate the situation has gotten for so many of our local organisations, who are the backbone of the country. I told the Secretary of State for Wales that our brilliant local charity, Faith in Families – who support 500 households in our area – are now having to collect vouchers for toys so that no child goes without this Christmas morning. I made it clear that because of the disastrous financial mismanagement of his Government, more and more families will now be reliant on the support of organisations like Faith in Families and that the Government must do more to financially support these pillars of the community.



Everyone Deserves A Christmas Preparation

In Swansea East we have been hard at work organising and planning for Everyone Deserves A Christmas 2022. Donations have been coming in and we are set to launch at midday December 3rd, in Swansea Market, accompanied by another wonderful Christmas music video from our very own Mal Pope, Bronwen Lewis and Valley Rock Voices. Keep your eyes out for that!

#EveryoneDeservesAChristmas 2022 is set to be our best year ever as we have expanded our reach to Neath, Port Talbot and Aberavon thanks to Stephen Kinnock MP and Jeremy Miles MS joining I and Julie James MS to make a real concerted effort in South Wales. This winter is set to be the worst in decades for families up and down the country due to the cost-of-living crisis and the shambolic Tory Government. That is why it is more important than ever that local communities pull together to support one another, and I couldn't be more grateful for the help and engagement from my political neighbours to ensure we can reach as many families as possible.





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Joint Menopause and Ovarian Cancer APPG meeting

The campaign for better awareness and support of women going through menopause marched on this month as the Menopause APPG and Ovarian Cancer APPG held a joint session. It was fantastic to join Sharon Hodgson MP in raising awareness of the fact many treatments for ovarian cancer will see patients kicked into surgical menopause, with very little knowledge or preparation for what that will bring. This is why it is so vital to have menopause and its symptoms feature more prominently on training curriculums medical professionals will receive, when going through medical school, so that every woman's menopause is understood.



Union Engagement

It was also a great month for union engagement as the TUC held its rally on November 2nd, demanding better pay for workers nationally and a 'General Election Now' so that a Labour government can be brought in that respects hard working families. The rally was inspiring as I spoke to members across the union movement and from all over the country. A real highlight was meeting the lovely ladies of USDAW's midlands branch, Rosie, Nicki and Ann, who have secured a new menopause policy for workers at Tesco and are now working on doing the same at Morrisons and Sainsbury's. It was then lovely to meet Martyn Hall and local USDAW members at Morfa Morrisons, discussing USDAW's #FreedomForFear campaign and the importance that workers are not subjected to abuse in the workplace.



Remembrance

On the 11th hour of the 11th month, we came together to remember them, united across the country in silence as we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.

It was an honour to have our tribute planted in the Parliament Constituency Garden of Remembrance and our wreath laid on behalf of the people of Swansea East at Great Western Rail's remembrance service at Paddington station. The service at St Mary's on the Sunday was so touching and it was a privilege as always to represent Swansea East.

