



Justice and Peace

Autumn 2020

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STOP PRESS from THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

Steve Atherton retired as J & P Fieldworker at the end of August. There is no news yet about his replacement pending a decision by the Diocesan Trustees.



Marian Thompson writes: Everything is different as we move out of lock down and seek a new future. When I met Steve last year at Swanwick he hinted he was hoping to retire in 2020. And now it has happened. With no Swanwick this year and almost all of our contact with each other virtual there has been no chance for any of us to say 'Happy Retirement' to Steve in person, give him every good wish for the future and maybe hand him a card.

Ever since I took over editing Mouthpeace in Autumn 2006, Steve has been around and I have welcomed his good sense, his suggestions and his many contributions which were sometimes challenging and usually gave plenty of food for thought.

As an outsider I can see that under his leadership the J & P Commission has come to life and offers much not only within the Liverpool Archdiocese but further afield. The LACE lectures and Annual Assemblies in particular are appreciated. So it is appropriate that Steve's last article on Page 2 is a reflection on the successful virtual Assembly in June/July. We do not yet know how J & P there will go in the future. At present the office is still at LACE but Maria Hardacre is still furloughed.

Thank you, Steve, for all you have done in the past and we wish a very happy retirement.



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<https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk



INSPIRATION

Steve Atherton writes: I hope you were able to attend the Liverpool J&P online assembly and heard Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald speaking about 'inspiration' and referring to the council of Jerusalem where the disciples could say 'It seems good to the Spirit and to us that...'. By the end of our week of shared reflections on our topic, many of us (I can't speak for all but the feedback is wholly positive) were daring to believe that the Spirit does indeed speak through us. The plural pronoun is key: not to me but to us. This is theologically startling for those of us who have been trained to expect and accept a lowly role within the church.

Isn't one of the functions of theology to make the formerly obscure blindingly obvious? And it seems obvious that the Spirit is shouting loudly that we need to be involved in preparing the future, with the 'we' in question being the people in parishes. It's when we get involved that the Spirit speaks and our church comes alive.

Another theme that emerged strongly at the Assembly was the need to be prophetic. Prophets are disturbing but they are voices of hope, pointing to where we can find greater life. As we emerge from CV-19 lockdown we cannot stay where we are any longer, nor can we return to the old normal. We're called to make changes to the way we live as individuals, renewing the old mantra of Livesimply. Again, it's plural – communal. WE must change. It's not just that THEY must change. And the change we want is a cause for joy.

Crucially, prophets must work for systemic changes to the way society is organised, staying together because it's much easier to feel inspired in the company of prophets than as a lone, isolated voice. There is grace in this moment, which calls us to welcome a rebirth in hope. And so, as in Jerusalem early in the Christian story, it seems good to the Spirit and to us that we should be active as a church community to 'Prepare the Future'. We can expect stubborn opposition to calls for any change that affects the pockets of the super rich. At the point of resistance we will need courage to practice what we preach.

We 'get involved' when we cultivate the practice of 'See – Judge – Act': when we look outwards from church, with the doors wide open to the world, and we notice what is happening to our brothers and sisters, especially to the poorest and most marginalised and seek to invite them into the kingdom of God.

The Liverpool J&P Commission has had some influence on diocesan policy but never before have we dared to believe what now seems obvious. It was the work of the Spirit to gather a group of people who are lay led and well-integrated into the archdiocese a community of people who are encouraged and enabled to become active in the life of the diocese by knowingly using the practice of 'See – Judge – Act' to pray, reflect and act.

My hope is that this way of being Catholic can become even more important in the life of the dioceses so that we end up, not with a Justice and Peace Commission, but a Justice and Peace Archdiocese, committed to the vision and practice of our Lord Jesus who came to bring sight to the blind, to set captives free, to make the lame walk, and to protect widows and orphans. Then we would know that the Spirit is moving among us.

This is my last contribution as J&P fieldworker as I retire at the end of August.. It has been a privilege.

Everything begins in mysticism and ends in politics. —Charles Péguy

Editor: We hope to hear from Steve in future . **"SEE I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW"** If you missed this Liverpool Assembly that Steve reflects on, you can still enjoy the speakers on <https://www.facebook.com/jpliverpooljp/videos>

National Justice & Peace Network: No need to travel... you can join the **NEXT NETWORKING DAY on SEPTEMBER 19TH from 10.30 am till 4 pm on ZOOM** . Tickets are available from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/njpn-networking-meeting-tickets-113944779904?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Also for your diaries: the **NJPN AGM has been rearranged to SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER** in London at an event to be confirmed, but with Zoom access for anyone not able to travel. More information nearer the time.

POST PANDEMIC CHURCH: Paralysed or energised? Recovered or re-imagined? If you were not able to join the virtual conference in July (or would like to hear some of the speakers again) all 8 videos from the conference, are on the YouTube playlist at <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>



CATHOLIC NON VIOLENCE DAYS OF ACTION

Joan Sharples writes: This year, with people across the world, we are invited to take part in Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action sometime between 21 September (International Day of Peace) and 2 October (Gandhi's birthday). Falling within the worldwide 'Season of Creation' this poignantly underlines the interconnection of issues and the need for prayer and action for adopting nonviolence and for care of our common home.

In his 2017 World Peace Day Message, Pope Francis urged, 'Let us... make active nonviolence our way of life', and since then the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative set up by Pax Christi International has been developing resources which will encourage us to do so.

A wealth of ideas under five headings: prayer resources, acts of public witness, nonviolence as a way of life, creating a nonviolent parish, and celebrating nonviolent heroes are offered in the forthcoming edition of Pax Christi's Just Peace and arranged so that there is something for the everyone, whether you are alone at home or able to meet with others. Do take a look. <https://paxchristi.net/2020/07/06/catholic-nonviolence-days-of-action/>
Pax Christi England & Wales recently launched a five-week course encouraging us to reflect on our lived experience in the light of words of Pope Francis. Pax Christi hopes to run the course again soon, so if you are interested in taking part, contact info@paxchristi.org.uk. For more information <https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE September 21st

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>



THE WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (WWPPI) 13 – 21 September.

This is the annual call from the World Council of Churches for prayer, reflection and actions in favour of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians. The 2020 theme is: 'Creative Solidarity in Common Fragility'. Have a look at the World Council of Churches resources on the theme.



One group of EAs pass on their ministry to another

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/world-week-of-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

Pax Christi has produced many suggestions for marking this week even in lockdown.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/resources-and-documents/>

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI) website offers many insights into the present situation to help with prayer <https://eappi.org/en>

75TH ANNIVERSARY - HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

Kathryn Lydon Pax Christi Liverpool writes:

On August 6th Liverpool commemorated the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at a gathering in St. John's Gardens, Liverpool. It was attended by the Lord Mayor, Anna Rothery, and peace groups including members of Pax Christi. During the service a wreath was laid to remember all victims of the bombing. By the end of 1945 it was estimated that 250,000 civilians had lost their lives through the bombing and radiation poisoning. The service included music, reflection, prayer and statements from a survivor of Hiroshima and from Pope Francis.

Pope Francis has condemned the use and possession of nuclear weapons. In 2019 he visited Nagasaki and called on all countries to support action for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, by using international legal instruments

such as the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) The Vatican was among the first states to ratify this treaty which needs 50 countries to ratify it. On August 6th this year a further three countries Ireland, Nigeria and Niue (one of the Pacific islands) ratified the treaty and on August 9th, the anniversary of Nagasaki, St Kitts and St Nevis followed suit. This brings the total to 44. However, the UK is one of the nine most powerful nuclear weapons states which have refused to sign, or play any part in the discussions of the treaty.

Following the Pope's visit to Japan in 2019, Archbishop Malcom McMahon wrote:

'Here is an opportunity for the leaders of nuclear weapons possessing countries, such as the UK, to demonstrate creative moral courage. We call on our government to sign the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and be part of a future built on just international relationships and the common good of all humanity.'

On August 4th this year the Bishops of Scotland and England and Wales issued a statement on nuclear weapons reminding people of Pope Francis' declaration in Japan 2019 that: 'the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possession of nuclear weapons is immoral'. They quoted from Pope Francis' statement that 'the threat of mutual destruction, the massive loss of innocent lives and the annihilation of any future for our common home, is completely incompatible with our efforts to build peace.' They committed themselves to the abolition of these weapons and to the Holy Father's call to pray each day 'for the conversion of hearts and for the triumph of a culture of life, reconciliation and fraternity.'

Jan Harper of Liverpool Pax Christi said: We encourage people to join us in daily prayer for peace and in practical action such as writing to their M.P.s to lobby the government to sign the Nuclear Ban Treaty (TPNW.) We are also campaigning for local authorities on Merseyside to support this treaty by joining 'Cities of Peace' across the world, such as Manchester, Norwich, Edinburgh, Barcelona, Washington DC, Paris and Geneva.

For further information: www.paxchristi.org.uk

Contact for the Liverpool group: janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

NUCLEAR WEAPONS TODAY

WATCH: Film: THE REAL COST OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS A two minute film by Pax Christi International Life is a gift. Precious. Sacred. The global pandemic reveals a lot about our values and our priorities. Every minute thousands are spent on nuclear weapons, where it takes just pennies to address humanity's most basic needs. We know how to save life. And how to take it. A face mask costs 53 cents. A nuclear missile costs 50 million dollars.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Njd4Ov6Xsp4>

READ: NUCLEAR WEAPONS: a beginner's guide to the threats As the world marks the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks, Dr Philip Webber, from Scientists for Global Responsibility, (SGR) summarises the key scientific and technological information on the current threat from nuclear weapons. Read the briefing:

<https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/nuclear-weapons-beginner-s-guide-threats>

SIGN THE PETITION

CLIMATE NOT TRIDENT

The hands of the Doomsday Clock – which show how close humanity is to a catastrophe caused by human activity – were set at 100 seconds to midnight in January this year, the closest since it was begun in 1947. The reason given by the scientists was the dual threat of climate change and nuclear war.



Rather than seeing these two threats as separate they should be understood as intrinsically linked. Every penny the government spends on Trident is money that could be better spent on tackling climate change by investing in green technologies and renewable energy sources. As climate change leads to increased competition between states over dwindling resources, such as land, clean water and food, the threat of conflict and even nuclear war is increased. Studies suggest even a regionalised nuclear conflict could devastate our eco-system causing mass starvation affecting millions of people.

The solution to climate change must involve global nuclear disarmament. Not only would this free up a massive amount of resources which could then be used in the fight against climate change, it would also help to ensure a future for our planet free from nuclear war.

CND is proud to be part of the movement calling for urgent action to deal with the climate threat. We are a member of XR Peace and support other peaceful campaigners such as the school strikers. We believe

that furthering understanding and collaboration on the issues of climate change and nuclear weapons will help us to build a world free from these existential threats.

In the face of two looming catastrophic threats it is more important than ever that we take our planet's future into our own hands and organise collectively for change. If you have not already done so why not sign the Scrap Trident petition <https://cnduk.org/actions/time-stop-trident/>

SEASON OF CREATION SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4



SEASON OF CREATION

This is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the Season of Creation (sometimes called Creation Time) we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. This year, amid

crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. The Season of Creation unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation. This year's theme is

JUBILEE OF THE EARTH : New Rhythms, New Hope

Climate change is a result of greed, inequality and destruction of God's Earth. The theme of Jubilee is chosen for this year's Season of Creation as it reflects those three interlocking themes. Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor. Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most must make restitution to those who have suffered the most. Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people.

The concept of Jubilee is rooted in the holy wisdom that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities. When one variable is exploited to maximize growth of another, the whole system will eventually suffer. When one part of the Earth community is stressed, every part is affected.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic demonstrated this reality on a global scale. While the experience of living with the COVID-19 outbreak points back to this need to maintain justice, the lessons that we learn may point us towards the need for a Jubilee and motivate us to restore balance to the very systems that sustain life.

Well done St. Alban's Macclesfield Justice and Peace Group.

In spite of the constraints of Covid-19, they have managed again to produce a programme of daily reflection, enjoyment and action for the Season of Creation. You can see the group's full programme, some things local and others for everyone wherever you are.

Sunday 6th Climate Change Sunday Masses St Alban's Macclesfield Live streamed
http://stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/stalbanslivestream.html

10 am St Michael's Church Macclesfield zoom meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

Sunday 4 October Celebrate the end of Season of Creation and the Feast Day of St Francis details of services as above.

Local activities: Sunday 6th 12 noon Local Family Family Cycle Ride

Sunday 27th 2 pm Reflective Ramble to appreciate God's creation followed by tea and cakes at Tegg's Nose Country Park

Details for these events from dwbailey@btopenworld.com Full details plus a suggestion for each day of the Season of Creation on <http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/monthlynews.pdf> Pages 8,9,10 and 11

RESOURCES

CAFOD: Novena to St Francis a series of nine brief reflections asking for St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his Canticle of the Sun. <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Novena-to-St-Francis>

Our Common Home – celebration organisers guide

https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/48375/582074/version/2/OCH_guide_for_downloading.pdf

Sign the petition to our Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. <https://eactivist.com/page/59334/petition/1>

CAFOD material for schools <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources>

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES:

Global Healing and Global Caring are free film-based resources to help us to respond to the damage being done to our planet – our common home. It is for parishes, groups and individuals and aims to engage you with Pope Francis' vital call to Care For Our Common Home. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/global-healing/>

Guardians of God's Creation material produced for 2019 .. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/season-of-creation/guardians-of-gods-creation/>

COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY "A Catholic Season of Creation" resource explores the Sunday scripture readings to help us find the voice of the earth as the voice of the Holy Spirit. Our common Sunday worship is an easy place to start seeing the natural world in God's plan of Salvation in Jesus Christ by linking the insights of ecology with Scripture. <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-year-a>

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE J & P COMMISSION AND CAFOD IN LIVERPOOL have produced an excellent resource for Creation Time and for Lent in each liturgical year. There are 30 sessions in total. Each session has four sections: The Sunday Gospel, stories to illustrate some of the issues, excerpts from Laudato Si and suggestions for action. Each begins and ends with prayers and each of the four sections is followed by pointers for discussion. <https://liverpooljp.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/creation-time-complete-new-resource-sept-2019.pdf>

TIPS FOR A GREENER LIFE <http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/themes/care-creation/resources/52-tips-life-greener/>

'WHAT IF?'



Eco Communities is a new organisation that has formed as a result of lockdown. Founded by members of Chester Friends of the Earth it offers to all those interested (wherever you live) a chance to find out more and help to mitigate the effects of climate change. Their first event was a VIRTUAL ECO FAIR in June which offered talks and also environmentally friendly goods to buy. Since then there have been various half day events. Their latest group of virtual seminars with the theme 'What if?' that took place on August 8/9 . All these can be seen on <https://www.crowdcast.io/ecocommunities> There are enough for one a day to watch during the season of creation!

WHAT IS GREEN CHRISTIAN?



Green Christian was formed in 1981, and formally constituted in 1982 when the vision was to share green insights with Christians and Christian insights with the green movement. Since then the ecological crisis has deepened so we seek the more urgently to live gently on the earth, encouraging one another in discipleship which accepts our impact on God's creation as a whole. As with many other organisations the new virtual way of working allows more of us to join meetings while at home. <https://greenchristian.org.uk/whats-on/>



RE-IMAGINING THE PROMISED LAND

Green Christian Festival, 23rd-25th October 2020

This free online event replaces the Green Christian Retreat at Ringsfield Hall .

Both the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis call us to move forward beyond established certainties, to re-imagine the land that lies ahead. Join us in our 2020 Green Christian Online Festival, as we come together to encourage faith, courage, justice and hope.

The weekend will include inspirational speakers, discussion, conversations; art, poetry and music; prayer and shared ideas for action; with the freedom for busy people to dip in and out. The festival is free. To reserve a place, and importantly places at the different workshops, go to <https://greenchristian.org.uk/>(to be added) The Festival is still being planned and more details will appear here shortly.

OUR LADY'S AND ST. BERNARD'S JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP ELLESMERE PORT

Tony Walsh writes: Our J&P Group has not met since March but we did manage to hold our final quiz of the series just before the lockdown. We did raise £2200 overall for CAFOD which is the most we have collected. Sadly our quizmaster Mike Ives died a few months later. He did have Coronavirus but also a number of other health issues. He will be greatly missed as he has been our quizmaster for more than 20 years. I don't know when we will be able to restart the quizzes, what format they will take and who will take on the role of quizmaster but that could be some months away.

MAUREEN MATTHEWS REMEMBERED

In August we received the sad news of the death of Maureen Matthews. She had been suffering for several years from the gradually debilitating disease, scleroderma. She is remembered both on the national Justice and Peace scene and also for her work locally.

Anne Peacey Chair of NJPN writes:

I worked with Maureen for many years when she was NJPN Administrator between 1996 and 2007. During this time we were greatly supported and often 'carried' by her skill, commitment and enthusiasm. Maureen worked to coordinate the preparation for each of 11 NJPN Conferences during that time and her administrative and organisational skills contributed greatly to the success of the Conferences. She was also responsible for editing and producing our NJPN newsletter, a huge task and the extent of which we may not fully appreciate. She also helped to develop the NJPN website. Maureen established and helped to develop an email link group through which members can receive regular updates on a range of issues relating to justice and peace. In addition to the regular administrative tasks relating to NJPN meetings and events Maureen gave much of her time to creating valuable resources for NJPN. She produced a range of cards, posters, bookmarks, banners and flags all which are a source of income for NJPN as well as visually enhancing our gatherings. Maureen also represented NJPN at a European level and established many international links.

Thirteen years on, we note that although Maureen had been very unwell for some time her involvement with justice and peace never wavered. She was unable to attend the NJPN conference in 2019 but was determined to be present this year and was one of the first to return her booking form. In fact, a webinar replaced the postponed conference. She had a keen eye for detail and was most particular when hanging the rainbow drapes - to represent God's Covenant with Creation - on the stage. There are many who will have known Maureen much more closely than I did but I have only happy memories of shared experiences and meals at both our homes. What I can say she was totally committed to NJPN and felt our network should strive to be the 'go to place' the 'one stop shop' for Justice and Peace'. Rest in peace Maureen.

Marian Thompson writes: Maureen and David live about 3 miles away and so I have worked with them both over the years within many local community groups. Both Maureen and I have represented our churches on Marple Area Churches Together (oddly due to quirky boundaries the two catholic churches we represented are in different Dioceses!). We both took our turn as Chair of Churches Together (Maureen in 1998 and again in 2012). In 1998 Maureen decided to form an ecumenical J & P group and together we have both been involved in this ever since. At our last meeting before lockdown, the last time I saw Maureen, we were discussing if we needed to make changes in future to attract people from further afield. This may be the way forward in the new future. Over the years, apart from the ongoing letter writing, contacting our MP, Fairtrade and other stalls etc., the group planned several study days and invited the whole local community. One on dementia led to Maureen and some others helping to establish a local Dementia Group which was meeting weekly until Covid-19 ended all social activities.



Another study day on Climate Change led to the founding of an environmental group MESS (Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy). Amongst other things, this established a Community Orchard being planted and tended on the local Recreation Ground in Marple (see working party in picture with Maureen in the centre). The last event MESS organised was "Climate Crisis in Marple". 290 people came to this Sunday afternoon last September which was seen then as a prelude to a bigger event this September (another Covid cancellation!) We shall greatly miss Maureen's input into our J & P group and as Chair of MESS. Joan Sharples summed it up in an email to me: 'How impressive to read, that despite her fragility Maureen was still working for Justice and Peace so near to her death.' What an example for us all. Thank you, Maureen.

THE 106th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES will be celebrated on September 27th

As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee". The message will focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people (IDPs), who currently number over 41 million worldwide.

<https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2020/>

A SAFE PASSAGE?



The body of a 16-year-old boy washed up on a beach in Calais in August. He had been trying to reach England in a dingy using shovels for oars. He has since been identified as Abdulfatah Hamdallah, originally from West Kordofan, a Sudanese state bordering the war-torn areas of Darfur and the Nuba Mountains, Hamdallah fled his country in 2014 and spent two years in Libya with his older brother before heading to France via Italy.

Sarah Teather, Director of Jesuit Refugee Services UK (JRS) said: "This is terrible news. He was just a child. What an awful way to die. In amongst the news coverage, we must remember that he was someone's son, brother, and friend. We pray for all who loved him and who will grieve for him. This terrible tragedy tells us again that governments have to act. We have systematically closed down the safe managed routes for people to travel to claim asylum. In doing so, we force people into ever more perilous journeys, with the inevitable consequence that someone will lose their life."

Beth Gardiner-Smith, CEO of Safe Passage, which works with unaccompanied young people in Europe, fleeing persecution and seeking sanctuary said: "This morning's tragic news is the direct consequence of a lack of safe alternatives for those seeking sanctuary. The French and UK Governments have been quick to blame people smugglers but fail to recognise that the best way to destroy their business model is to provide safe and legal routes for refugees and a clear pathway to asylum."

"Just this year, the Dubs route designed to give safe passage was closed, and now the only legal route available to children - family reunion - will end unless a deal is reached with the EU. And with four months to go, the negotiations on a deal haven't even started. Boris Johnson and Priti Patel have the power right now to make sure today's tragedy is never repeated. Rather than political posturing, Ministers in the UK and France need to get a grip and make it their personal priority to prevent any more needless loss of life."

Source Independent Catholic News Aug 21

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40281>

See also: JRS <https://www.jrsuk.net/> SEEKING SANCTUARY <https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com>
SAFE PASSAGE www.safepassage.org.uk/stop-the-drownings-safe-passage



ANTI-SLAVERY DAY October 18th provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address the problem. It was created by the Anti-Slavery Day Act, a Private Members Bill introduced by Anthony Steen CBE, now Chair of the Human Trafficking Foundation. Each year more and more charities, individuals, local authorities and police forces take action to mark Anti-Slavery Day.

The Human Trafficking Foundation hosts Anti-Slavery Day Awards to recognise journalists, filmmakers and broadcasters who have exposed issues of modern slavery, and to celebrate organisations and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the fight against modern slavery. Find out more by visiting <https://www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/>

RENATE ANTI-TRAFFICKING SHORT FILM COMPETITION for 16 – 24 year olds

For the first time, BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) in London will mark European anti-Human Trafficking Day, 18 October, by hosting a festival of films about trafficking and the moves to combat what Pope Francis has described as a 'crime against humanity'. It is organised by RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation).

As part of the festival, RENATE is inviting 16-24 year-olds in European countries to join in their mission by entering a film competition, using the following slogan and #tags as themes for short four-minute films. The slogan is 'Slavery - Human Trafficking - Near YOU!' The tags are #StopTheDemand, #BreakTheChains and #EndTheCycleTOGETHER.

Winning films will be shown in London at the RENATE Film Festival. First place will be shown at BAFTA, and all three winning entries will be shown at the Royal Society of Arts. Entries can be made by an individual or a team. Up to five team members can attend the festival, and will also receive a certificate.

Competition winners will also receive £2000 for first place, £1000 for second place, and £500 for third place. If entering as a team, the prize money is per entry, so will be shared between team members.

Deadline for all entries is 30th September 2020. For more information: www.renateevents.net/film-competition

PRISONERS SUNDAY 11 October and PRISONS WEEK



Prisoners' Sunday marks the first day of the ecumenical Prisons Week, a week of prayer which raises awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. Founded by Bishop Victor Guazzelli in 1975, for over forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of prisons . <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisonerssunday>

PRAYERS FOR PRISONS WEEK

For families of prisoners: We pray for those loved ones who serve a hidden sentence as a result of the shame associated with having a family member imprisoned. In times of darkness we pray they are able to go beyond the bonds of societal stigma and maintain positive relationships with their loved ones.

For those who work in the criminal justice system: Let us pray for those who work throughout the criminal justice system. May they continue to go beyond in their work towards creating a safer society and promote justice and mercy on the road to rehabilitation.

For victims of crime: May they be supported to go beyond their victimhood and find comfort in God's love. Teach us to be mindful of the impact of our actions on others. Lead us and heal us in your journey to new life and hope.

For prisoners: We pray for those who are prisoners. Through reflection and understanding, may they be able to go beyond their sentence and see hope for a future without crime. Let us follow Christ's message and reach out so that his presence be known by those who seek him.



MARK THIS YEAR'S HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI 75TH ANNIVERSARY

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT VIRTUAL ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION :

<https://cnduk.org/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-cnd-exhibition-introduction/>



Right: The Dome seen from the Memorial Park today was the building closest to the hypocentre of the nuclear bomb that remained at least partially standing. It was left how it was after the bombing in memory of the casualties

Left: The Genbaku Dome amidst the devastation in October 1945. Photograph by Shigeo Hayashi, one of two photographers attached to the academic survey teams



VISIT VIRTUALLY:

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum tour <https://vimeo.com/441253466> password Rise

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum tour <https://vimeo.com/441253649> password Rise

THE STORIES OF TWO SURVIVORS: Sands Films Studios Theatre, Rotherhite, present live streamed performances telling the story of two people who survived - a Jesuit priest and a young doctor.

THE PRIEST'S TALE is an adaptation by actor/playwright Michael Mears of one of the survivor's accounts from John Hersey's classic book HIROSHIMA. Father Wilhelm was a German Jesuit priest living in Hiroshima at the time of the first atomic bombing. His account is a compelling and clear-eyed description of his experiences that day and in the subsequent months and years - told with compassion and warmth. , Michael Mears performS this story live, with live violin accompaniment by Chihiro Ono. (Duration approx. 55 mins.) See: <https://vimeo.com/438259377>

THE DOCTOR'S TALE is a version by actor/playwright Michael Mears of NAGASAKI 1945, an account by a young doctor working in a small hospital in Nagasaki at the time of the second atomic bomb, detailing how he and his few staff, with very limited supplies, survived that day and the following weeks. Japanese actor Leo Ashizawa gives reading of this story, with support from Michael Mears and with live musical accompaniment by Chihiro Ono. (Duration approx. 75 minutes.) See: <https://vimeo.com/438273483>



The organisers hope to raise money through donations to offer the two Japanese performers payment, for Sands Films streaming the event, and for CND.

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

SABEEL-KAIROS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE from 10 am-12 noon.



We are delighted that we will be joined by speakers from our two key partners in Palestine – Rev Dr Munther Isaac from Kairos Palestine, and Omar Haramy from Sabeel Jerusalem. These two fantastic speakers will cover the key themes of the conference; ‘You cannot serve God and the occupation’ and ‘Antisemitism, Israel and Palestine.’ There will be chance to ask your questions in an interactive Q+A on both topics. In addition to this we will be led in worship by Amos Trust founder

Garth Hewitt, and there will be chance to take an online campaigning action together.

The AGM We are planning to go ahead and hold our AGM, following the online conference. Members who have paid their fees for 2019-2020 will be invited to attend the virtual AGM following a short break at the end of the conference. The AGM will last no longer than 30 minutes and will contain all of the essentials reports and business that needs to be done. If you have any queries about the AGM please contact info@sabeelkairos.org.uk

<https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/category/news-and-events/sabeel-kairos-conference-2020/>

THE TRUTH WILL MAKE US FREE

Phil Kingston writes:

For five months the world-wide climate catastrophe has been pushed into the background by the impacts of Covid-19. I am a grandfather, deeply disturbed that this urgent concern of great danger is receiving so little attention. Christian Climate Action, of which I am a member, is currently preparing to return it to the forefront of public and



Phil is in the white tee shirt

government consciousness during the Extinction Rebellion protests beginning 31st August. This article is also prompted by the fact that the Bishops of England and Wales are preparing to update their 2002 Call of Creation. In their statement published on 15th August last year (Guardians of God's Creation) they outlined their recognition of the potential catastrophic consequences of climate change and they quoted Pope Francis' comment on the illusion of unlimited (economic) growth on a planet with finite resources.

An ongoing plea of Francis is that we listen to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. These two cries are incorporated in Catholic Social Teaching as care of the earth and the common good. I have long regarded his two major statements of these issues in *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel) 2013 and *Laudato si* (Praise be! Care of our Common Home) 2015 as complementary, with the former focussing primarily upon the common good and the latter upon care of the earth. Many responses to these cries rely almost exclusively upon *Laudato si* so Francis' critique of the global economy is left out. To rectify that I draw upon both, but give more space to *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Climate breakdown is inextricably related to the current economic system. For 25 years the UN COP meetings have failed in their commitment to achieve an annual reduction in CO2 emissions. Each year the global economy has either grown or flatlined and emissions have synchronised with that. This year however the effects of Covid-19 have produced a dramatic fall in emissions worldwide.

IPCC scientists state that the carbon budget for a 66% chance of staying within the 1.5C target, will, at recent emissions rates, be used within 10 years. (1). Instead of emissions falling steeply, they reached record highs in 2018 and 2019 (2). According to the International Monetary Fund the global economy grew by 3.6% in 2018 and was, before the arrival of the Coronavirus, forecast to continue growing by 3.5% in 2019 and 3.6% in 2020 (3 and 4). While the global economy is currently in steep decline, the overall ethos of relying upon growth as our security shows no sign of lessening. But as Christians our security can only rest upon our obedience to God.

Pope Francis' critique of the Global Market Economy and evidence which supports its accuracy. I draw particularly upon *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG) (5) and *Laudato si* (Ls) (6).

Francis describes the global economy in this way: *"The worship of the ancient golden calf (cf. Ex 32:1-35) has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose"*. (EG para 55). He is particularly concerned about the effects of the economy upon poor, exploited and marginalised people: *"We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor."* (EG para 48).

The following passages can hardly be more explicit about the injustices inherent in this economic model: *"...today we also have to say "thou shalt not" to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless."* (EG para 53). *"...some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralised workings of the prevailing economic system."* (EG para 54).

Far from promoting trickle-down, the inequality and exclusion is gross. Oxfam's research, based upon Credit Suisse figures, shows that 8 billionaires own the same wealth as half of the world's population (7).

This growing inequality is no accident. The interlinked international financial and economic organisations of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation are now major forces in promoting both riches and poverty. This was not so when they were set up but as Neo-Liberalism took hold in the 1970s and 80s, a massive amount of unused capital was made available to poor countries. This quickly resulted in unpayable debts which were responded to with Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), programmes which continue to this day. (8&9). An inevitable accompaniment of these has been the undermining of democratic participation within the affected countries. Severe indebtedness has again returned to many of them. This return demonstrates the way in which the international financial and economic system continues to disadvantage the poorest countries. Transnational corporations have thrived under these policies by being allowed to monopolise vital aspects of the production of poor countries. For example 90% of palm oil is produced by five transnational corporations, and 60% of seeds by three. (10).

SAPs and WTO trade agreements have removed many policies of environmental protection in poor countries and this deregulation process has been promoted across the world. Francis states it thus: "In this system, which tends to devour everything which stands in the way of increased profits, whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenceless before the interests of a deified market which become the only rule". (EG para 56). Just how defenceless is shown by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report in May 2019 which estimated that about one million animal and plant species are currently threatened with extinction. (11).

The human family is now using the Earth as though we have access to 1.75 planets. (12). Ls para 106 goes to the heart of this overuse: "...the idea of infinite or unlimited growth which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology ... is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the Earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit." This still-escalating process is marked by Earth Overshoot Day (see ref 12) which last year was on 29th July. Francis commented: "What shocked me is that from July 30th we started to consume more resources than the planet can regenerate in a year.... It's a global emergency". (13).

Francis links the economy directly to violence: "Today in many places we hear a call for greater security. But until exclusion and inequality in society and between peoples are reversed, it will be impossible to eliminate violence.... This is not the case simply because inequality provokes a violent reaction from those excluded from the system, but because the socio-economic system is flawed at its root." (EG para 59).

There is much in Francis' critique which those who promote the current economy do not want to hear: "How many words prove irksome to this system! It is irksome when the question of ethics is raised, when global solidarity is invoked, when the distribution of goods is mentioned, when reference is made to protecting labour and defending the dignity of the powerless, when allusion is made to a God who demands a commitment to justice." (EG para 203).

A subject which is almost entirely off-limits in mainstream media is voluntary de-growth of the economy. The following in Ls para 193 brings it to the fore: "We know how unsustainable is the behaviour of those who constantly consume and destroy, while others are not yet able to live in a way worthy of their human dignity. That is why the time has come to accept decreased growth in some parts of the world in order to provide resources for other places to experience healthy growth."

The political and economic processes which I have referred to are comprehensively covered in Jason Hickel's *The Divide*. (14). For a recent critique of economic growth see Positive Money's *The Tragedy of Growth*. (15).

I have been inspired on my path to faith by the commitment to God and the poor of many bishops, priests and lay-people in Latin America, Africa and Asia who were murdered by political and economic elites. One of them was Saint

Oscar Romero of El Salvador to whom CAFOD gave considerable support. He spoke and lived these words: “A church that does not provoke crisis, a gospel that does not disturb, a word that does not touch the concrete sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed – what kind of gospel is that?”. (16). His words and actions witness to the depth of faith involved in taking decisions regarding the political, ecological and economic path to which Pope Francis calls us. Persecution by those with power is likely when we follow him and St. Oscar in these political-economic concerns. I pray that our Church will be on fire with the same passion displayed in the writings of Francis so that its members will take whatever risks are necessary to keep God’s Earth safe for those who follow us. Catholics working within the Extinction Rebellion movement need the fullest support we can be given in fulfilling this task.

References

1. Carbon Brief, Why the IPCC 1.5C Report expanded the Carbon Budget, 18.10.2018
<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-why-the-ipcc-1-5c-report-expanded-the-carbon-budget>
2. Carbon brief, 4th December 2019 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-global-fossil-fuel-emissions-up-zero-point-six-per-cent-in-2019-due-to-china>
3. World Economic Outlook Update, International Mon



UNFREE SPEECH –THE THREAT TO GLOBAL DEMOCRACY AND WHY WE MUST ACT, NOW

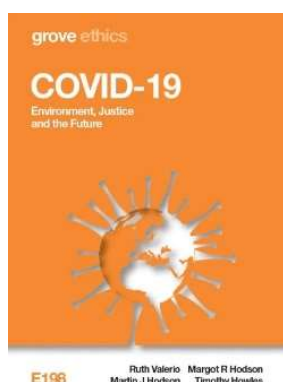
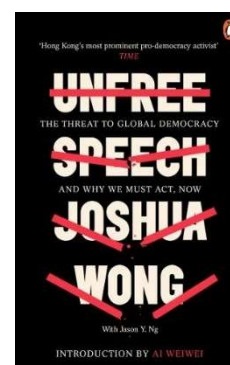
By Joshua Wong and Jason Y Ng Introduction by Ai Weiwei Published February 2020 by Penguin

At what point do you stand up to power? When he was 14, Joshua Wong made history. While the adults stayed silent, Joshua staged the first ever student protest in Hong Kong to oppose National Education – and won.

Since then, Joshua has led the Umbrella Movement, founded a political party, and rallied the international community around the anti-Extradition Bill protests, which have seen 2 million people – more than a quarter of the population – take to Hong Kong’s streets. His actions have sparked worldwide attention, earned him a Nobel Peace Prize nomination, and landed him in jail twice.

Composed in three parts, Unfree Speech chronicles Joshua’s path to activism, collects the letters he wrote as a political prisoner, and closes with a powerful and urgent call for all of us globally to defend our democratic values.

You can hear Joshua talking to Sophie Richardson of Human Rights Watch at this year’s virtual Edinburgh Book Festival. <https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/joshua-wong-hong-kong-s-champion-for-democracy/player>



E 198 COVID-19: ENVIRONMENT, JUSTICE AND THE FUTURE

Published June 2020 by Grove Books £3.95

This little booklet explores the justice and environmental issues raised by COVID-19, considering its causes, the impact of the lockdown in many countries and the ethics of rebuilding for sustainability and human flourishing and considers how Christians might respond

Find out about the authors and order the booklet

<https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/e-198-covid-19-environment-justice-and-the-future>

SERVING A WOUNDED WORLD

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) have released a joint document, 'Serving a Wounded World in Interreligious Solidarity: A Christian Call to Reflection and Action During COVID-19 and Beyond.' Its purpose is to encourage churches and Christian organizations to reflect on the importance of interreligious solidarity in a world wounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. The document offers a Christian basis for interreligious solidarity that can inspire and confirm the impulse to serve a world wounded not only by COVID-19 but also by many other wounds.

The publication is also designed to be useful to practitioners of other religions, who have already responded to COVID-19 with similar thoughts based on their own traditions.

For more details and to download the pamphlet see <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40327>



Serving a Wounded World
in Interreligious Solidarity
A Christian Call to Reflection and Action
During COVID-19 and Beyond

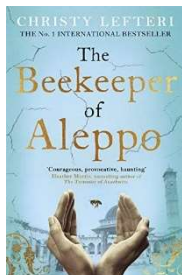
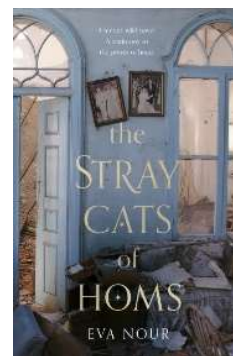


TWO NOVELS ABOUT SYRIA

THE STRAY CATS OF HOMS by Eva Nour Published August 6th 2020 by Penguin

Sami's childhood is much like any other - an innocent blend of family and school, of friends and relations and pets (including stray cats and dogs, and the turtle he keeps on the roof). But growing up in one of the largest cities in Syria, with his country at war with itself, means that nothing is really normal. And Sami's hopes for a better future are ripped away when he is conscripted into the military and forced to train as a map maker.

Eva Nour is a journalist writing under a pseudonym. She was inspired to write this, her debut novel, by meeting and falling in love with the real 'Sami'. Today the couple share a life together in Paris.



THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO by Christy Lefteri Published 2019 by Zaffre

It deals with the flight of refugees from Aleppo in Syria to Europe during the Syrian Civil War. While a work of fiction, it is based on the author's experience over two summers volunteering in Athens at a refugee centre.

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

Season of Creation September 1 – October 4 Pages 5,6,7

6 Climate Sunday <https://ctbi.org.uk/climate-sunday/> see page for service in online services in Macclesfield to join

13 -21 The World Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel Page 3

19 NJPN Networking Day on Zoom Page 2

19 Sabeel-Kairos Virtual conference and AGM Page 10

21 International Day of Peace page 3

21 – 2 October Catholic Non Violence Days of Action Page 3

27 Macclesfield Season of Creation Reflective Ramble followed by tea and cakes at Teggs Nose Country Park more details from Bernadette Bailey dwbailey@btopenworld.com Page 5

27 World Day of Migrants and Refugees Page 8

30 Deadline for entries of Renate Short Film Competition Page 9

OCTOBER

4 St Francis Feast Day – Celebrate end of season of Creation Macclesfield see churches on Sept 6 Page 5

11 Prisoners Sunday 11-18 Prisons Week Page 9

18 Anti Slavery Day Page 8 & 9

23 -25 Re-imagining the Promised Land Green Christian Festival online Page 6 & 7

NOVEMBER

21 NJPN AGM in London – also on Zoom Page 2

Thank you to the following helpful websites:

ICN Independent Catholic News <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

National Justice and Peace Network <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/>
with links to their monthly news letter