



# Justice and Peace

Autumn 2023

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## Editor writes:

Thank you to all who have sent information for this Mouthpeace. It is good to learn of the varied activities going on in our area. As well as the events to attend in person, there are also suggestions for things we can do at home or in our local group without too much travelling.

The conference at Swanwick this year with its focus on the Sustainable Development Goals showed us that for those who care about justice and peace there is much we could do. We all see the suffering resulting from climate change in different parts of our world; we all witness the outrages of war and watch the flows of migrants and refugees. We are all aware of the extreme poverty that so many people struggle with each day. But at the conference we were also reminded that individually we cannot take up all the issues.



We each seem to be given special concerns about which we care and on which we feel we should focus. Maybe these could be a few or even just one thing we can cope with. Fortunately these will be different for each of us. It is then helpful to remember the words of St Oscar Romero " We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well." So together in our various groups and networks, we can try to weave a web in which the strands of justice and peace are strong and supportive.



*'Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.'*

Chief Seattle

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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the Dioceses of Lancaster and Liverpool .

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

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

[www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](http://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk)

## SEASON OF CREATION 2023



“Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme chosen for this year. The prophet Amos cries out, “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24.) “A mighty river” is the symbol chosen to go with this theme, representing biodiversity at risk. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. When we join the river of justice and peace together with others, it creates hope instead of despair and so we are called to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. Our prayers must call for justice not only for human beings, but for all creation. In covenant with peace, we are called to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes.

### PILGRIMAGE FOR THE PLANET SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH

Join Christian Climate Action, Faiths4Change, Friends of Port Sunlight River Park and local groups on this pilgrimage around Port Sunlight River Park for the Season of Creation. It is a 3km walk that will look at the use of this reclaimed land from its construction by Lever's, through use as landfill, to the creation of this biodiverse green space, focusing on how we have shaped the landscape and how can we take responsibility for our waste. Please assemble from 10.15 for 10.30 start.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to make a positive impact. Mark your calendars and spread the word about the Pilgrimage for the Planet event. Together, we can make a difference! More information and book Free tickets <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pilgrimage-for-the-planet-tickets-684647919357>

### FILM SCREENINGS OF 'THE LETTER'\*

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>** Westleigh (next to St Vincent's Church), Groby Road, Altrincham WA14 2BQ at 7.30 pm arranged by CAFOD/Justice and Peace group St Vincent's, Altrincham. Join us in Westleigh to watch the film and reflect on its message. Everyone welcome. Light refreshments will be served in the break. It would be helpful if you could register your attendance online through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-letter-screening-of-a-film-about-laudato-si-tickets-674654889937>, but it isn't essential. If you would like any further information, or can offer to help with organisation, please contact the CAFOD/JP secretary, Alison Sharrock, [alison@sharrock.org.uk](mailto:alison@sharrock.org.uk) 07906261107

**Also WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>** Cinemac Cinema, Roe Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UT Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/film-the-letter-tickets-677226281037>

\*The Laudato Si' Movement has made this film about the *Laudato Si'* encyclical, a teaching document of the Catholic Church which is also a letter to all people on earth. It stars the Pope himself, together with representatives of the poor, youth, indigenous communities, and wildlife scientists from across the world who are invited to meet him and with each other.



**Stephen Garsed, Environmental Justice Lead for Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission writes:**

The Season of Creation is a worldwide ecumenical celebration of the generosity of God. The Season lasts from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of

Creation) until 4 October (Feast of St Francis). Pope Francis made it part of the calendar for the Catholic Church in 2015.

It is a time of hope and renewal, reminding us that the earth is the Lord's and that we are mere stewards, entrusted to care for it. It is a time to reflect on and appreciate the beauty of Creation and, in doing so, seek to protect it. Never has this been more important as today because every day, somewhere in the world, there are floods, fires and tropical storms, whilst the ravaging of the rainforests is but one symptom of what the Head of the UN describes, bluntly, as our “war on nature”.

We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world, so let's celebrate it. What better way than by having a "Creation Mass" one Sunday during the Season for, as Pope Francis says "It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation". The Season coincides with harvest-time, so it is a wonderful opportunity to decorate the church with the fruits of the harvest as a visible act of gratitude. In my own church we also brought out the crib figures to celebrate God's gift of his Son and the animal world. It was unseasonal, but it felt right.

On reflecting on last year's celebration I realised that something was missing. We had overlooked all the small organisms that are so critical to the healthy function of our ecosystems - the insects and the fungi that are being wiped out by our indiscriminate use of insecticides and fungicides around the world - we must celebrate them too! Then I thought, "don't children just love drawing spiders and creepy-crawlies and toadstools – not forgetting all the wonderful life in our oceans, such as octopuses and seahorses. Wouldn't it be great to decorate the church with children's artwork celebrating these wonderful examples of God's ingenuity?"

At the entrance procession one might bring to the altar: seeds, earth and water as a reminder of what is needed to produce the bread of life and in anticipation of the later offering of the gifts "Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer...."

Let us draw particular attention to the references to Creation in our great profession of faith - the Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.....through whom all things were made.....the Lord, the giver of life".

The theme for the 2023 Season is "Let Justice and Peace Flow", reminding us that we cannot truly care for creation whilst there remains injustice and inequality in the world, so prayers of intercession, hymns and the homily might reflect both the celebration of creation and the need for justice. There are Collects appropriate to these themes; a Preface of Creation and the lovely Eucharistic Prayer IV, so plenty of ideas in the great repository for prayers for use at Mass. We have now held three "Creation Masses" in my parish. People leave church clearly uplifted. We pray that they also leave with a greater commitment to do what they can to love and care for our wonderful world.

**Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission invite you to a 'Care of Creation' event on Saturday 7th October 2023, 9.30 – 3.00pm at St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, LA1 4HT.**

**The theme of the event is 'Let Justice and Peace flow'.**

Keynote speakers include: Sr Margaret Atkins, Dr Stephen Garsed, Dr Paul Kelly, John Paul de Quay

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch. For further information or to confirm your attendance at the event please contact Sue Grubic [ldfjsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfjsue@gmail.com) or text 07791444417

Timetable of event:

9.30am – Tea & Coffee	10.00am – Welcome and prayer (Fr Hugh)
10.10am – Sr Margaret Atkins – 'Laudato Si in context'	10.50am Questions
11.05am – Stephen Garsed – 'War on Nature'	11.45am Questions
12.00pm – Group discussion	12.15pm – Lunch
12.45pm – Paul Kelly – 'Live Simply so that others may Simply Live, sharing ideas for individual and community action.'	
1.25pm – Questions	
1.40pm – John Paul de Quay - The Journey to 2030 'Dammed justice and peace'.	
2.20pm – Questions	2.35- Panel
	2.55 pm – Final words and prayer (Fr Hugh)



**Celebrating the Season of Creation 2023 in Macclesfield**



The Macclesfield Churches in HOPE North East Cheshire warmly invite you to join them for this Eco Festival of Events in and around Macclesfield to raise awareness and take action in protecting our local and international environment. The full programme is on Page 15

Download the programme and also The Day by Day Calendar of reflections and events in Macclesfield co-ordinated by St. Alban's Justice and Peace Group on <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Creation-Events-2023.pdf> or contact: Bernadette Bailey for more information at [justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com](mailto:justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com) or 07831 647 928

## PEACE NEWS



**"KEYS: A TROUBLED INHERITANCE" – The Balfour Project launch a new podcast on Wednesday, September 6 at 8 pm and weekly after.**

A journey that delves into the profound connections between two momentous catastrophes -the Holocaust and Nakba. The stories intertwine, revealing the question: Can both legacies truly be heard and understood by all involved in the Israel-Palestine impasse? Prepare to be moved as personal testimonies, letters, and memories from survivors and those who perished are brought to life in this gripping audio series, skilfully dramatised and narrated by

Mike Joseph, a veteran journalist and BBC broadcaster.

To ensure maximum accessibility, episodes of "KEYS: A Troubled Inheritance" will be available for streaming on <https://balfourproject.org/keys/> as well as popular platforms such as Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Audible,

**PAX CHRISTI LIVERPOOL meets on SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> at 2pm**

Venue: St Michaels Presbytery Horne Street Liverpool L6 5EH Contact Jan 0759108195

Subsequent meetings will take place on second Thursday of the month



**CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO LIVERPOOL PAX CHRISTI PEACE PRIZE WINNERS 2023 .**

**JAN HARPER** is an active Pax Christi member committed to working in her parish and the wider city of Liverpool where for the past twenty years she has been responsible for organising Pax Christi Merseyside.

She has also previously served on the Pax Christi. Executive. Much of Jan's work has been out on the streets, where there have been liturgies, talks, walks, stalls and vigils. Jan has frequently protested outside Liverpool University where research and development is funded by arms companies. She has always liaised with like minded groups, seeing the strength in working together with those in both faith and secular civil society groups.

**JENNIE ROWLANDS** is currently Head of Religious Studies at Bellerive FCJ Catholic College, Liverpool and constantly promotes peace through education. She has contributed to Pax Christi's resources and assemblies, was part of Pax Christi's team at Greenbelt for four years, as well as the CYMFED Flame Congress. Jennie has organised J & P days for schools and cofounded the annual Faith in Action conference. She recently nominated some of her students for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice leadership course. Visiting London, they took part in a mini-peace trail learning about Ghandi, Conscientious Objectors, the United Nations, Annie Frank and other peacemakers.

The two other prize winners this year were Martin Birdseye from West London and Sally Reynolds from Abingdon.

Read about these other two and more Paxchristi news on <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>



**Christian CND AGM 2023 – Saturday 9 September at 1030 am  
C3 Church on Kempston Street Liverpool 3**

We will gather together for prayers, fellowship and to share the latest developments on our campaign. There will also be workshops and a chance to enjoy lunch together.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-cnd-agm-2023-tickets-678851040737?>

**Christian CND Peace Pilgrimage 2023**

**September 15th-18th, Barrow-in-Furness to Grange-Over-Sands**

Christian CND is very excited to announce that we are planning a Peace Pilgrimage . This will be a chance to come together with like-minded people for a time of walking, fellowship, enjoying the beauty of God's creation and lots of opportunities for prayer. We'll be starting in Barrow-in-Furness, near the BAE Systems site building the next generation of UK nuclear-armed submarines. We'll then walk through the surround countryside to finish at Grange-Over-Sands.

Register your interest by completing the form

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fvCNNPgPxx46o\\_WPVJNQuWoalp8aCkaRmrTZOm1rSV4/viewform?](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fvCNNPgPxx46o_WPVJNQuWoalp8aCkaRmrTZOm1rSV4/viewform?)



Details of both of the above on <https://christiancnd.org.uk/events/>





### Michael Mears' play THE MISTAKE

A dialogue offering the Japanese Perspective on the atomic bombings. Not to be missed ...

Find out more on <https://jpschremsbury.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/mouthpeace-summer-2023.pdf>

You can see the play on

**SEPTEMBER 12TH 7.30pm Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA**

Buy tickets <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hydratheatrecompany/920334>

**SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 7.30PM Gregson Community & Arts Centre, 33-35 Moorgate, Lancaster LA1 3PY**

Buy tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/44582>

### 16-23 SEPTEMBER WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL Theme: "No place to lay my head"

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land during this week.

While commemorating 75 years of Nakba (catastrophe) of the Palestinian people since 1948, the preparatory committee for this year's materials questioned the injustice in all this for the family and chose the Bible verse Matthew 8:20 to lay down the issue as presented by Jesus Christ: "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

WCC RESOURCES: <https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

### PAX CHRISTI RESOURCES FOR WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL



Pax Christi has produced a card to encourage us to 'learn, pray and act'. One side has the prayer, 'Among the Rubble' by Jan Sutch Pickard and the other side some useful resources and ideas for action you can take.

During this week, which includes the **International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September**, church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of support in favour of peace and justice for Palestinians and Israelis.

Pax Christi resources including the card

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/world-week-for-peace-in-pi/>

## Praying for Peace in Palestine and Israel

### Among the Rubble

Compassionate God,  
In our minds, we pray among the rubble,  
the unholy mess of demolitions  
in the land that we call Holy.

In our hearts we hold  
families who have lost their homes,  
children who have seen their schools destroyed,  
communities which no longer have a clinic.  
We pray for them as they weep for all that's lost.  
We pray that they will not lose hope.

And we pray, too, for  
the men who drive the bulldozers,  
soldiers who beat back protesters,  
politicians who sign the orders -  
aware that such actions destroy their humanity.



Photo credit: John Lynch

Bless those who campaign against injustice;  
bless the patient rebuilders;  
bless those who hope against hope  
that peace with justice will prevail  
in the land that we call Holy.  
Amen



© Jan Sutch Pickard



## CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE DAYS OF ACTION

21 September – 2 October 2023



The Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (21 Sept – 2 Oct) align with Campaign Nonviolence, the Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel, and the Season of Creation. We see these as opportunities for highlighting the place and power of nonviolence in bringing about change.

**Pray/Reflect** on the Vow of Nonviolence (see below) alone or in your parish community on October 2 International Day of Nonviolence

**Act** Send a message of hope and solidarity to nonviolent peacemakers (list below)

**Learn** about the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net>

**View/use** the Pope's peace video/ message for a nonviolent culture to see how Pope Francis is moving us in the direction of nonviolence at every level. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRNI2BrATVI>

**Celebrate the creativity of nonviolence.** Can you bring a story or prayer for nonviolence and link it to one of the dates/events listed? Share and pray the Vow of Nonviolence on 2 October.

**Making a commitment to nonviolence.** We offer this vow as a focus for prayer and reflection to help individuals and communities affirm their intention / commitment to live a nonviolent life. It was created in the United States by Eileen Egan and Rev. John Dear. It can be used privately, with a local peace community, as part of a parish liturgy, or any other way that suits you. Many have used the prayer at the start of each year as part of their New Year observance.

**These Pax Christi partner organisations are all working to bring about nonviolent change in their own context.** Alone or with a group, find out more about them and send an email of support and encouragement to one or more.

South Sudan Council of Churches: <https://sscchurches.org/> and email Fr James Oyet Latansio, [oyet62@gmail.com](mailto:oyet62@gmail.com)

Serpaj Mexico: [www.serpajmx.org](http://www.serpajmx.org) and email Pietro Ameglio [serpajc@lanete.apc.org](mailto:serpajc@lanete.apc.org)

Pax Christi Germany, this year celebrating 75 years of peace-work.

<http://www.paxchristi.de/> and [www.aktivgewaltfrei.de/](http://www.aktivgewaltfrei.de/) and email [sekretariat@paxchristi.de](mailto:sekretariat@paxchristi.de)

DHUMA, Human Rights and Environmental Organisations, Peru <http://www.derechoshumanospuno.org.pe/> and email [derechoshumanospuno@yahoo.es](mailto:derechoshumanospuno@yahoo.es)

Miriam College, Centre for Peace Education, Philippines [www.mc.edu.ph/cpe/](http://www.mc.edu.ph/cpe/) and email Loreta Castro [lcastro@mc.edu.ph](mailto:lcastro@mc.edu.ph)

Download as a leaflet: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2CNVDALeaflet-2023-2.pdf>

I vow to carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus  
 by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life;  
 by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence;  
 by persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart;  
 by living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live;  
 by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war from  
 my own heart and from the face of the earth.

God, I trust in Your sustaining love and believe that just as You gave me the grace and desire to offer this, so You will also bestow abundant grace to fulfill it. Amen

**PAX CHRISTI ADVANCE NOTICE December 3 Pax Christi Advent Service in London at Holy Apostles, Pimlico. This will also be streamed.**



**Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) Arms Fair , Excel Centre, London  
September 12 -15**

Every two years, the global arms trade comes to London. DSEI, one of the world's largest arms fairs, returns to London's Docklands this September. This is where those who profit from war, repression and injustice do business. This is where we can stop them.

1,700+ arms companies plan to set up shop, marketing their lethal wares to an expected 36,000+ attendees from around the world.

Nothing is organised centrally by STAF (Stop the Arms Fair) , but the resistance is strong because our network is strong. Local groups put on events during the week that the fair sets up and throughout the fair itself, and at the gates of the arms fair and around London – check out our events page for details! <https://stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/>

**Thursday 7 September 2023 No Faith in War day of witness 09:00 - 18:00 at the ExCeL Centre Eastern Gateway  
(nearest tube: DLR Prince Regent) Royal Victoria Dock London, E16 1FR**

The day will start with Quaker Meeting for Worship, joined throughout the morning by a number of Faiths undertaking pilgrim walks. There will be Witness and religious Worship throughout the day. We will also have craft activities and testimonies from people who have experience of conflict and war. There will be different ways of taking part, everything has risk but to a less and greater degree. The area is accessible, we will have toilets and food.

<https://quaker-roots.org.uk>

**Monday 11 September Quaker – Pax Christi Walk of Witness in Central London** to locations associated with the Arms Trade. Meet at 2:00 PM in Friends House garden 173-177 Euston Rd London, NW1 2BJ

**6.30 – 7.30 pm Silent Candlelit Vigil at Excel Centre on eve of opening of DSEI Arms Fair .**

If you can't join any of these please consider setting some time aside to pray for and with them.

**109<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**



The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

This year Pope Francis has chosen as the title for his traditional Message, “Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay”, with the intention of fostering renewed reflection on a right that has not yet been codified at the international level: the right not to have to migrate or, in other words, the right to be able to remain in

one's own land.

The fact that many persons are forced to migrate demands a careful consideration of the causes of contemporary migration. The right to remain is older, more deeply rooted and broader than the right to migrate. It includes the possibility of sharing in the common good, the right to live in dignity and to have access to sustainable development. All of these rights should be effectively guaranteed in the nations of origin through a real exercise of shared responsibility on the part of the international community.

The Pope's full message can be read here

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20230511-world-migrants-day-2023.html>

*Prayer: God, Father Almighty, grant us the grace to work tirelessly for justice, solidarity and peace, so that all your children may enjoy the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.*

*Grant us the courage to denounce all the horrors of our world, and to combat every injustice that mars the beauty of your children and the harmony of our common home.*

*Sustain us by the power of your Spirit, so that we can reflect your tender love to every migrant whom you place in our path, and to spread in hearts and in every situation the culture of encounter and of care. Amen*

See also <https://nationaltoday.com/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>



## THE ILLEGAL MIGRATION ACT.

In light of the passing of the Illegal Migration Bill in Parliament in July, Bishop Paul McAleenan, the lead Catholic Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, has stated 'This legislation stands at odds with the teaching of the church on welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating refugees'.

'The Love the Stranger' publication from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales earlier this year provides a Catholic response to migrants and refugees. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/>  
The national Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) has produced 'Call to Action' as a practical accompaniment. <https://www.csan.org.uk/love-the-stranger-call-to-action/>

Caritas Shrewsbury as a CSAN member is supporting diocesan study and action in response to Love the Stranger and the Call to Action. Please get in touch with them if you can help speak up about this issue - Telephone: 0151 652 1281; Mobile: 07824 329 344; Email: [ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

**MEDAILLE TRUST Summer 2023 Magazine.** In this edition there are reports on the expansion of our Mersey safe house and our work to target trafficking at its source. The Albanian Entrepreneurship Academy has taken another step forward with the decision to invest in the expansion of a small business in one of the poorest areas of Albania.

There are also two moving stories of victims of modern slavery from Albania who were locked up, abused, and exploited but who are now being supported by Medaille Trust. This year we have launched our first regional staff conferences; you can read about these on page 5. There are also the usual updates on the fantastic work being done by our staff at various services.

<https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/resources/newsletter>



## SUSTAINABILITY? SURVIVAL OR SHUTDOWN

REPORT ON NJPN 45th ANNUAL CONFERENCE at Hayes centre Swanwick July 21-23

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs).



You can see a quick reminder about the goals <https://youtu.be/OXTBYMfZyrM> More detailed reading about each goal: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (click on individual goals)



NJPN Conference continued:



There was a strong focus on these SDGs at the Conference this year with the diagrams on the previous page posted around our area. There are 17 SDGs. Although numbered 1 to 17 these numbers are NOT in order of importance. The goals are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

**Some background: 2015 was a very significant year** On June 18th Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'* his letter addressed not just to Catholics or to Christians or even people of faith but to everyone throughout the world.

On September 25th the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN Assembly. 193 nations including UK signed up to them. They are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

**December 12th The Paris Climate Agreement was adopted by the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris** at its 21st session. 196 Parties signed this legally binding international treaty on climate change. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”

Almost eight years have passed since the international community agreed to take bold and transformative steps to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, only about 12% of SDGs are on track to be achieved by 2030. **The International UN SDG Summit, in September 18-19 2023 in New York**, must mobilise the political commitment and breakthroughs our world desperately needs. <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023> The NJPN conference showed how people of faith can support that process.

The three main speakers gave us their insights into the SDGs as a whole and the workshops allowed us to concentrate on one or two goals more specifically.

On the Friday evening **Brian O'Toole**, Director of the Presentation Sisters Justice Desk for Ireland and England gave an introduction to the goals. He described them as ambitious, a collective agenda which was universal, applying to everyone and strong on working to end poverty. They offered a human rights framework, addressing such issues as women and children, care of creation and indigenous peoples.

**Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD**, on Saturday morning did a Q & A session with Columban Education Worker James Trewby. They focused on the hope the SDGs could offer to the poorer people of our world. Christine reminded us that the strap line in 2015 was 'Leave nobody behind' and yet this seemed to be forgotten by the world leaders today. We need an integrated approach as Pope Francis writes in 'Laudato Si' as everything is connected. That is not to say that we can do everything about everything, but that our analysis and our understanding has to take that wider perspective so we can clearly see what our particular contribution is.

Christine described the CAFOD strategy 'Our Common Home' launched in April 2020 for staff and volunteers offering a vision for the 10 years till 2030. In our dealing with differing partners and their communities Christine suggested we must recognise that 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' are equally important. It is our responsibility to speak out amplifying the voices of local people. To be able to do this we need to listen first and learn - this is about 'Doing-Together', not 'Doing-To'. We may need to change ourselves, be converted to working and living in a different way. Read about this <https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/how-we-work/our-common-home-vision>. You can read the whole of Christine and James' discussion on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47671>

The third speaker **Sir John Battle was an MP for Leeds West** for many years. He is currently chair of Leeds Diocese J & P Commission and active in the local community anti-poverty campaigns in Leeds. He talked of the present challenge of simplistic misinformation by being told that we are winning on climate change issues. This is the organised and powerful lobbying against green issues. Politics is reduced to short term decisions in which present performance matter rather than principles. Politicians like to give the illusion of competence. Activism between elections is used as a word of abuse and there is a clamp down on protest. Democracy is treated as if it begins and ends at the ballot box. Sir John urged us to speak up, to undertake sustained advocacy working on behalf of the poor to change structures. On a practical level:

MPs used to get a few thousand letters, now they get up to 3,000 emails within the same time span from various causes. One hand written letter can make much more impact.

Do research to find out where change needs to take place      Who has the power in your neighbourhood? Contact them  
It is often whom you know that is important.                      Craft a simple message and use stories to illustrate it.

Tell the truth and fight misinformation and falsehood.

He suggested as a helpful book to read <https://davidfentonactivist.com/books/the-activists-media-handbook/>



On Sunday morning in small groups there was a 'What can we do?' session. Some of the commitments were lobbying politicians and leaders in general, involving the Bishops' Conference, to remind the UK government of its promises in terms of the SDG goals. "No new oil, coal and gas" was another call encouraging individuals and groups to disinvest and a promise to live more simply as individuals and in our communities and make sure 'nobody is left behind'.

You can read more on <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/justice-and-peace-network-is-needed-more-than-ever-before/>



Two long-time supporters of NJPN who died very recently were remembered at the Saturday Vigil Mass - Brian Davies, former Head of Education at CAFOD, and Mike Clarke, former NJPN Treasurer.

Among the many tributes paid to Brian, Anne O'Connor offers her personal memories: "Brian was a wonderfully gentle and empathetic person and a great support to me and many others. I looked forward to receiving his acknowledgement of the NW NJPN E Bulletin mailing each month, always with words of encouragement that meant so much to me, especially in the early days of the bulletin when I was finding my feet with a new venture after my involvement with my own diocese came to an abrupt and painful end.

When my daughter Annie died in June 2020 and I took time off, Brian kept in close contact and assured me of his prayers and those of the people to whom he circulated the bulletins. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

You can read more about Brian and many other issues on <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-north-west/nw-njpn-e-bulletin-august-2023/>

## GREENSTOCK IN STOCKPORT

*Marian Thompson writes:*

On a sunny Saturday at the end of July Woodbank Park near the centre of Stockport welcomed GREENSTOCK . This took place in the Community Food Hub run by the Kindling Trust\* . This was planned as a fun day for all ages with a chance to learn more about 'green issues' at the same time. It was organised by Liz Atherton, Project Manager of Climate Action Now Stockport Council, and her team of paid workers and volunteers from the Stockport Green Network. Some of you J & P regulars will notice Liz's surname and it was a joy to meet Steve and Ann Atherton who had come over from Liverpool for the day to support and help their daughter.



The following report was in 'ONE STOCKPORT' the Council's newsletter:

The event saw more than 300 visitors attend, with 50 others volunteering their time to help run the activities and stalls. Visitors took part in seed planting, learning about growing, playing carbon footprint games, making pedal powered smoothies, finding pre-loved items in a clothes swap shop, nature arts and crafts, and a silent disco.

In the orchard there were bug hunts, pond dipping for tadpoles and yoga under the trees. In the talks tent people heard about rewilding Stockport, the impact of consumerism, took part in a vegetarian Arabic cooking demo and were part of an important community conversation asking, 'how can we increase diversity in climate and environmental action here in Stockport?'

The Kindling Trust served up more than 200 portions of wood-fired pizza, dhal and cakes. Refreshments and activities were provided free of charge, a decision that the Green Network made so that everyone attending the event could participate

in the same way without worrying about money. There were no single use plastics offered and the Green Network thought carefully about how to reduce the amount of rubbish generated.

This is the first event that the Stockport Green Network has co-organised. Rebecca from the Conservation Volunteers said “It felt like a special thing to be part of. It was a nice venue with great facilities and hosts, it was really amazing. It was really positive to meet people in different volunteer groups, councillors, school workers and more.”

Running the event has strengthened the group as a Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) network, while opening up the network to new members and starting a buzz about what they can do next.

Jacqueline is a new member of the Green Network and said, “it was a lovely event and I enjoyed it very much, it is such a positive thing to be involved in, being with like-minded people and seeing visitors, especially children enjoying it was lovely.”



## Stockport Green Network



The Stockport Green Network meets four times a year and is a space for people from different groups and areas to come together to take climate and environmental action. Anyone is welcome to join and can come along to as many or as few events as they want to. The Network is run by the community and supported by Stockport Council’s Climate Action Now team and Sector 3.

The network will next meet on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 4:30 – 7 at the Upper Gallery at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, on Wellington Road South. Free booking is available here:

<https://stockportgreennetworkseptember.eventbrite.com/> Find out more about the Stockport Green Network on their website: <https://stockportgreennetwork.weebly.com/> or email: [stockportgreennetwork@gmail.com](mailto:stockportgreennetwork@gmail.com)

\* Read more about the Kindling Trust work around the Manchester area and their farm between Manchester and Liverpool on <https://kindling.org.uk/>



### SUNFLOWERS TO THE RESCUE

*Marian Thompson writes:* We all learnt in February 2022 ( if we hadn’t known before ) that the sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine. But did you also know that sunflowers are the international symbol for nuclear disarmament?

In 1996, when Ukraine became a non-nuclear-weapon state, sunflowers were planted at a missile base in the country to celebrate this monumental occasion. Since then, sunflowers have become a symbol of a world free of nuclear weapons, but that’s not all there is to the story.



It has been discovered that planting sunflowers after a nuclear accident may help clean up the contaminated areas, given the appropriate conditions. Following the meltdown at the Chernobyl Power Plant in Ukraine, which released over 100 radioactive elements into the environment, sunflowers were planted in droves to pull out the radioactive isotopes from the fallout-impacted sites – an approach based on the principle of phytoremediation, which employs the use of plants to cleanse the environment.

Sunflowers have the ability to soak up exceedingly large amounts of toxic elements in their tissues, like  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ , which were found in the radioactively contaminated sites (soil and ponds) around the power plant. Owing to this enhanced ability of metal uptake, sunflowers are called hyperaccumulators.

Sunflowers are proficient in root-to-shoot translocation of contaminants, i.e., the absorbed radioactive contaminants are concentrated in the plant's biomass, and are converted into carbon-based forms. The harvestable biomass of the grown sunflowers can be disposed of via pyrolysis, a process in which the organic carbon in the plant is burnt, leaving behind radioactive waste. The radioactive waste can be converted into glass by vitrification to be stored safely underground.

There is always a chance of hyperaccumulator plants being ingested by animals or birds, thus causing contamination to spread through the food chain. This is why, typically, sunflowers would be harvested before they start bearing seeds, as the aim is to harvest the biomass that contains the contaminants. Once flowering and seed-production are initiated, the plants do not grow much vegetatively (roots, stems and leaves are known as a plant's vegetative parts), i.e., the production of harvestable tissue to store the contaminants is much lower.

Nearer to home sunflowers are good for bees. As well as providing food, sunflower pollen is also medicine for bees. It helps to protect the domestic honey bees from a single celled parasite called *Nosema apis*. For this to be effective you need to sow the right cultivar of sunflower. There are now many varieties on offer some of which to suit flower arrangers have had the ability to produce sticky pollen bred out of them. Avoid these and stick to the pollen rich cultivars such as Lemon Queen if you want to help the bees.

Thank you to members of the Stockport For Peace who had a stall at the Greenstock Festival and told me about sunflowers as healers. Information for this article came from <https://www.scienceabc.com/nature/why-were-sunflowers-planted-in-the-shadow-of-nuclear-disasters> and Adventures in Sustainable gardening in The Tablet July 22nd 2023



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER March 1st 2024** This year the service has been prepared by the women of Palestine with the theme: 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'

**PREPARATION DAYS** If you are helping organise a service in your area, these days are helpful as well as enjoyable.

Thursday 21 September Our Lady and St Edwards Parish Centre, Marlborough Drive, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9UE 10:30 - 15:00

Friday 6th October Manchester Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ 11:00 - 14:00

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October Langwathby Methodist Church, Langwathby, Penrith, CA10 1NB 10:00 - 15:00

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Jubilee Road, Buckley, CH7 2BF 10:30 - 15:00

To book for the days <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/preparation-days/>

**EDITOR - 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/>

NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

Please send material for Winter Mouthpeace to the editor by November 20<sup>th</sup>



# “It’s not all about Hospitals”

A conference for people working in the NHS, Local Government and the Voluntary Sector



## Our Guest Speakers:



**Kevin McGee**  
Chief Executive,  
Lancashire Teaching  
Hospitals



**Louise Taylor**  
Director of Health  
and Care Integration,  
Lancashire



**Andrew Bennett**  
Director of Population  
Health , Lancashire  
and South Cumbria  
Integrated Care Board



**Fr Neil Kelley**  
Director of the  
Wellness Hub at  
St Lawrence Church,  
Chorley

and others

20th September

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Preston North End’s Deepdale Stadium,  
PR1 6RU

Registration  
[events@calico.org.uk](mailto:events@calico.org.uk)

Event supported by:

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the **calico** group together

## AUTUMN DIARY

September 1 – October 4 Season of Creation see pages 2 & 3

### SEPTEMBER

7 Pax Christi Liverpool meeting see page 4

7 No Faith in War day of witness in London prior to opening on DSEI page 7

9 Christian CND AGM 10:30 am - 3:30 pm 79-81 Kempston Street Liverpool L3 8HE page 4  
<https://cnduk.org/locations/c3-liverpool/>

9 Pilgrimage for the Planet - see page 2

10 Education Sunday (Churches Together in England) The theme for 2023 is "The armour of light". Resources:  
<https://cte.org.uk/educationsunday2023/>

11 Pax Christi Walk and Candle lit vigil London prior to opening of DSEI arms fair see page 7

12 The play The Mistake Chester see page 5

15 CAFOD Quiz in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle with good prizes and entry is still only £3 - contact Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

15 -18 Christian CND Peace Pilgrimage 2023 Barrow-in-Furness to Grange-Over-Sands see page 4

16 -23 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, "No place to lay my head" see page 5

17 Disability Awareness Sunday (Churches Together in England) Resource pack on 'The Unique Gifts God Gives Us' with a short video, a suggested service outline and free postcards available for everyone who attends.

If this is your first Disability Awareness Sunday, we recommend the initial resource based on the Luke chapter 5 'through the roof' theme which contains a full range of videos, key messages, children's and youth ideas, prayers, and much more:

<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday>

18-19 UN Summit on Sustainable Development Goals in New York – see 9

19 The play The Mistake Lancaster, see page 5

19 & 20 Film screenings of 'The Letter' see page 2

19 CWDF Forum meeting, 7pm at The Unity Centre 17 Cuppin Street, Chester CH1 2BJ. This will take place a week later than usual to avoid clashing with the play The Mistake. Gill Miller will be giving us a talk on "Dealing with Disease; the role of global institutions and local players". [www.chesterwdf.org.uk/events/](http://www.chesterwdf.org.uk/events/)

20 'Its not all about Hospitals' A conference for people working in NHS, local government and voluntary sector 10am – 3pm Preston North End's deep Dale Stadium more details on the poster page 13

21 the International Day of Prayer for Peace  
<https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

21 Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (to 2 October) see page 6

21 Preparation Day for World Day of Prayer in Preston see page 12

23 Sustainable Cheshire Festival in Grosvenor Park, Chester. This event is being organised by Eco Communities and Sustainable Cheshire. For full details of this and their other events, check their online "What's on" list: <https://sustainablecheshire.uk/whats-on/>

28 Green Network meeting at the Upper Gallery at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, on Wellington Road South 4:30 – 7 see page 11

### OCTOBER

3 Geographical Association lecture at 4:30pm in the Best Building, University of Chester Parkgate Campus. Professor Tony Binns will talk on "Resilience and Sustainability in a remote West African community: the case of Kayima, Sierra Leone". Everyone is welcome.

6 Preparation Day for World Day of Prayer 2024 in Manchester see page 12

7 Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission 'Care of Creation' event see page 3

8 Prisons Sunday  
<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Pages/Category/mark-ing-prisoners-sunday>

8-14 Prisons Week of Prayer  
<https://www.prisonweek.org/>

13 CAFOD Quiz in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. see Sept 15

14 CWDF Forum meeting, 7pm at The Unity Centre 17 Cuppin Street, Chester CH1 2BJ. CWDF member Peter Spiers, and Philip Austin – coordinator of Northern Friends Peace Board – will talk on the subject of work for peace, with a specific focus on Quaker initiatives. The presentation will be followed by a small celebration of the 30 years of CWDF's activities.

17 & 20 Preparation Day for World Day of Prayer 2024 Penrith and Buckley, page 12

### NOVEMBER

17 CAFOD Quiz in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. see Sept 15

18 Stockport Fairtrade Fair 10 am – 4pm Stockport Guildhall 169 Wellington Road on A6 close to Co- op shop SK1 3UA

**ADVANCE NOTICE** December 3 Pax Christi Advent Service in London at Holy Apostles, Pimlico. This will also be streamed.

The Macclesfield Churches in HOPE North East Cheshire warmly invite you to join them for this Eco Festival of Events in and around Macclesfield to raise awareness and take action in protecting our local and international environment.

Friday 1 September 7.00pm Prayer Service at Riverside Park Meet at carpark - Riverside Park, SK10 2SL

Saturday 9 September 10.00am Explore Natural History: Natural Future Working with nature in over the years. Meet at the bottom of 108 Steps, Waters Green for a 2 mile walk to Danes Moss.

Sunday 10 September 12.00 – 2.00pm Family Fun Afternoon in West Park Scavenger hunt, quizzes and games. Meet at the Rangers Hut next to the Café.

Thursday 14 September 7.00pm for 7.30pm Sustainable Shopping How to shop sustainably. At Scoop and Scales, The Old Sunday School, SK11 6UT

Sunday 17 September 2.00pm Creation Walk 3 mile walk to appreciate God's creation Redesmere Sailing Club, Siddington, SK11 9JU

Wednesday 20th September Film – The letter Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Cinemac, The Old Sunday School, SK11 6UT Free, donations appreciated.

Saturday 23 September 6.30—8.00pm Saving our Planet Workshop and Worship For young people 8+ (with an adult). The Hope Centre, Park Green, SK11 7NA Book via The Hope Centre 01625 404384.

Sunday 24th September, 10.30 am: special Season of Creation service at St Peter's in Prestbury

Friday 29th at 3.30 pm and Saturday 30th September 10 am :Children's Coat Swap at St Peter's Church Rooms, in partnership with Prestbury Primary School. Bring a coat your child has grown out of, and exchange it for a bigger one - save the planet and your purse!

Sunday 1st October, 10.30 am: Creation Communion at St Peter's in Prestbury

Tuesday 3 October 7.30pm "How to clean up a river: the Bollin and Dean" Talk St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY

Wednesday 4 October 4-7pm , and on Thursday 5 October.12-2 pm Children's Cost Swap will at the food pantry at Church of the Resurrection, Upton Priory, Macclesfield

Wednesday 4 October at 7.30pm Celebration & Feast of St Francis of Assisi Prayer Service to close and thank God for the Season of Creation East Cheshire Hospice, Millbank Drive, SK10 3DR



Download this programme and also The Day by Day Calendar of reflections and events in Macclesfield for The Season of Creation co-ordinated by St. Alban's Justice and Peace Group at:

<https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Creation-Events-2023.pdf>



or you can contact: Bernadette Bailey for more information at [justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com](mailto:justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com) or 07831 647 928