

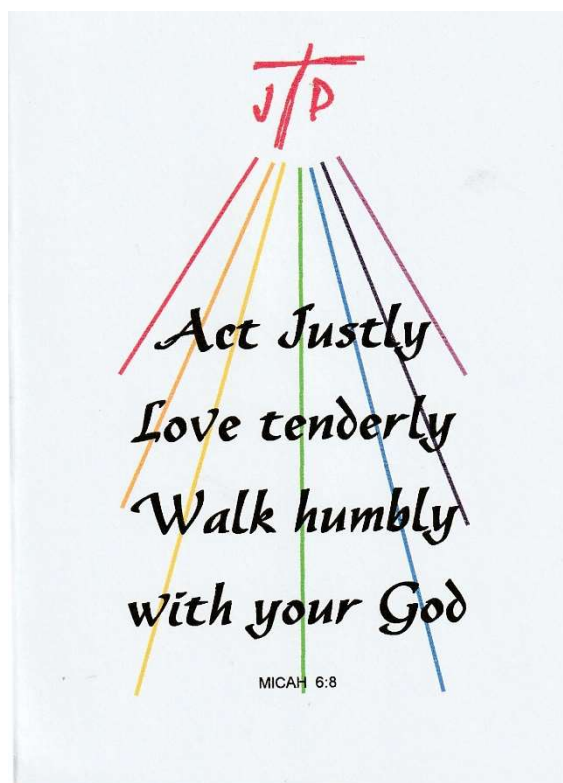


Justice and Peace

Winter 2020-21

Marian Thompson writes: Last winter there was carol singing in our streets and in church, last minute shopping, parties, meals at home and in restaurants with family and friends, theatre visits. Now there is zoom, skype, social distancing, face masks and tiers (with a threat of another lockdown). For a limited few days we could meet with family for a meal but should we? This 'new world' means that we are actually meeting with far fewer people than we used to but in its place have become space and time travellers. Sitting comfortably at home with the press of a few buttons, we can attend events all over the country or even the world. If we miss something or find two good things happening at the same time, we can catch up. All this is reflected in this Mouthpeace. There are fewer personal reports on meetings attended or group activities but instead invitations to zoom and to catchup so we can join more things ourselves rather than hearing of them second hand. And we can still send emails, sign petitions, donate to our favourite causes and pass round information.....virtually (another word with much more meaning).

As far as J & P is concerned it seems that 'networking' is key which makes the National Justice and Peace Network even more valuable and worth supporting. We thank Anne Peacey for all she has done as Chairperson and wish Paul Southgate well in his new role (see pages 4 & 5). A final thought from Anne: "This past year has taught me that we should try to be kinder and less judgemental in our attitudes in campaigning".



Above is one of a set of cards produced by Maureen Matthews for sale for NJPN

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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 Liverpool and Shrewsbury

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

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk



Register on <https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/2020/11/10/registration-for-advent-reflections/>

PAX CHRISTI events

From Joan Sharples..... **ADVENT SERVICE : Monday 7 December, 7.00 p.m. via zoom.**

The annual Pax Christi Advent Service of songs, readings, and reflections, is a highlight of the year for J&P folk, so I believe. I've never been to it....London...for an evening...in December... from Crewe...

But, I'll be there this year on zoom and hope you are too. You'll have to supply your own mince pie though!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pax-christi-advent-peace-service-tickets-129471232943>



PEACE SUNDAY : Sunday 17 January A Culture of Care as a Path of Peace

Pax Christi has produced its usual wealth of materials for Peace Sunday and will be sending mailings to its members and to those parishes who have shown strong support. All the resources - prayers, homily ideas, activities for children - will be available online this year, as will Pope Francis' message when it is released. Most of Pax Christi's income comes from Peace Sunday collections. This year, with limited numbers in church and so many organisations needing help, Pax Christi will be especially grateful for any donations you or your parish are able to make.

Making Active Nonviolence a Way of Life

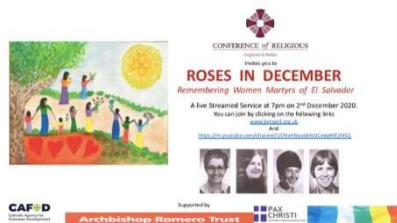
There will be an opportunity to join Pat Gaffney, former director of Pax Christi, to explore what Nonviolence means as a way of life and a way of change. This one-off session will take place over zoom sometime around Peace Sunday (date still to be confirmed). For all these events, to find out more, look at the website www.paxchristi.org.uk Facebook page, Twitter or Instagram

'PATHS OF PEACE : THE WORK OF THE CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE INITIATIVE' Joan will be talking via zoom to St Alban's J & P Group Macclesfield on Tuesday January 12th at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join this event. Please contact Keith Taylor on skeithtayl2@outlook.com for the link.



ADVANCING NONVIOLENCE AND JUST PEACE IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD Published in October by Pax Christi International and its Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, this book is the culmination of a three-year global conversation among church leaders, community organizers, activists, social scientists and theologians about how the Catholic Church might return to its Gospel. The book shares the experiences of on-the-ground nonviolent interventions, explores the scriptural, theological and historical foundations of nonviolence, reviews the most current social science on how nonviolence has been effectively employed, and outlines a vision for how the Church might embrace active nonviolence into every aspect of its life.

This is an essential resource for moving forward the dialogue on how the Church can lead, teach and respond to conflict in the world. Order today and consider adding an extra to share with your bishop or other church leaders. Available now in English in paperback. Order from : www.fast-print.net/bookshop/2299/advancing-nonviolence-and-just-peace



THE ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST

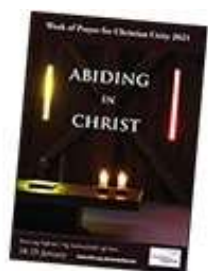
On December 2nd we plan to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom in El Salvador of four US women religious missionaries with a special non-eucharistic service at 7 pm in the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayes, Middlesex. Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ will preach. Unfortunately the lockdown regulations prevent us from having a congregation in the Church. But please join us on-line by clicking on the link to the parish website www.botwell.org.uk or to YouTube

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCNvHNooijkNJ3CedpME2NSQ>. For further information go to our website <http://www.romerotruster.org.uk/news/fortieth-anniversary-four-us-women>

NJPN ADVENT REFLECTIONS 2020

Anne O'Connor writes: My daughter Annie who died in June of natural causes was a scripture scholar and former teacher. For the past four years she worked for Church Army tutoring the Evangelists in Training - lay people who are then qualified to work in parishes implementing community support programmes, especially in areas of social deprivation. This year's Advent Reflections are based on Annie's writings. I've included some background information in each one as they can either stand alone or be used as a set for the four weeks. Church Army has given permission to use extracts from some of the articles she wrote for them and are delighted to see her work carrying on in this way. Please pass on for parish or individual use.

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/advent-reflections-from-njpn-2/>



THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18- 25 2021

This year's material has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning. For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are making the resources available to download only and printed versions will not be available to order. <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

REFUGEE GIFTS



A key part of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS UK)'s mission is to celebrate and promote the rich contribution that refugees make to the community each day. In November JRS UK commissioned EE, a talented artist and a refugee friend accompanied by JRS, to design a series of cover artwork for JRS UK's new virtual gift cards 'Refugee Gifts'. EE was delighted to contribute "I enjoy drawing, painting and writing poems. I love the opportunity to create the artwork for this project as I have to make lots of art and share it with you to understand more about JRS. I hope you like my abstract art cards."

The inherent talents, creativity and worth that are present in each of the refugees accompanied by JRS UK are celebrated across the Catholic charity's work. Refugee friends like EE regularly share their gifts with JRS UK and the local community in London; by volunteering at the JRS UK centre, taking part in regular refugee-led creative activities such as the Creative Arts Space, JRS Community Kitchen, and most recently a virtual creative writing space, and drama group, and by leading and contributing to spiritual and religious life in the men's and women's prayer groups who meet online each week.

Every Refugee Gift illustrated by EE is a real example of JRS UK's work supporting destitute refugees, asylum seekers and people held in immigration detention. When a gift is purchased, one of the three areas of our work that this gift represents, is directly supported; refugee hardship, immigration detention and our legal service. Gifts range from £5 through to £100 - so there is something for everyone! Order by 16th December to guarantee delivery in time for Christmas!

see Refugee Gifts - www.jrsuk.net/refugeegifts



Marian Thompson reports on:

AGM and Open Networking Day 21st November 2020 on Zoom

Last year 28 attended the AGM in London. This year there were 45 on zoom. I was one who probably would not have travelled to London but was happy to join at home. One of the pluses of zoom!

Anne Peacey gave a report of her last year as Chairperson before she handed over to Paul Southgate. Anne is continuing as Vice-Chair. Anne said the last face-to-face meeting of NJPN was in February 2020 at a meeting in Bristol organised with Clifton J&P Commission. Fr Augusto Zampini, from the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development, gave ideas for action inspired by Laudato Si'. Then came lockdown which led to the cancellation of the Swanwick Annual Conference. It is hoped that it will be held in 2021 with the theme 'Action for Life on Earth' as much work has already gone into the planning. Instead a mini online conference thinking about the Church after the pandemic was held on zoom with around 300 people joining. Anne thanked the various secretaries she has worked with in her time as Chair, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for providing a desk for NJPN at its headquarters in Eccleston Square for a number of years, and NJPN's working groups.



She then introduced Paul Southgate who took over as Chairperson. Paul is on the Justice & Peace Co-ordinating Council in Hexham & Newcastle diocese. Committed to ecumenism and Interfaith relations, Paul launched the North East Faiths Network and the County Durham Faiths Network. He also chairs Northumbrian Industrial Mission, an ecumenical organisation sending chaplains into workplaces. Paul suggested post covid we would have address the issues of loss and grief but also be ready as we were on the cusp of something new. He felt it was important to understand what others are doing and be prepared to work collaboratively with them.

There followed reports from J & P Commissions and various groups:

The Birmingham Commission at the end of September held a successful online event on Ecological Conversion and the Climate Emergency. You can still enjoy the 3 talks and final evening prayer service on

<https://www.birminghamjandp.org.uk/annual-assemblies.html>

Westminster J & P Commission held a short (3 minutes) video competition for parishes and schools on the Season of Creation theme. You can see the two winners on <https://westminsterjp.wordpress.com/season-of-creation-video-competition/>

Hexham & Newcastle has joined with the SVP to support asylum seekers, also pushing fossil fuel disinvestment and highlighting the disgrace of child poverty.

Group Reports: **CAFOD** Maria Elena Arana

Their Advent Calendar is on the website <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar> with a daily reflection and prayer. There is also one for families, children and young people.

'Messages to the Brave' is being repeated this year. You can find this year's on <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns/Messages-to-the-brave>. Please note in order to ensure our Defenders receive their messages by Christmas, please ensure CAFOD has received all physical Christmas cards by 7 December. All online messages will need to be received by 19 December.

Climate Action: Sign a petition to the Prime Minister asking the government to stop funding fossil fuels overseas

<https://e-activist.com/page/53571/petition/1>



Also mentioned **The Columban competition for young people 14-18 on Racism** is running until February 2021. www.columbancompetition.com/

Caritas Salford mentioned the 'Keep the Lifeline' campaign, which is advocating for the temporary additional £20 Child Benefit allowance to remain as a permanent addition after April 2021. **CARJ** fed back that it's recent AGM looked at institutional racism in the Church; Seeking Sanctuary reported that, "things are going from bad to worse" for refugees in Dunkirk and Calais and in detention barracks holding asylum seekers on the south coast.

Other events mentioned – Pax Christi and Romero Trust see page 2 & 3



HOMELESSNESS IN GREATER MANCHESTER

The main speaker in the afternoon was Rev Ian Rutherford who works with Greater Manchester Homeless Action Network (GMHAN). <https://www.gmhan.net/>. Ian pointed out that the logo represented a part of a honeycomb. People from Manchester will be very familiar with the bee symbol which suggests the industry on which Manchester was founded. But Ian also pointed out that bees work collectively. He suggested one sector alone cannot solve the homelessness crisis. What was needed was collaborative cross sector working with the public and private sector, faith communities, health workers and even the police all involved. I would add from my experience living in one of the 10 boroughs making up Greater Manchester you also need a good facilitating leader who will inspire, encourage and support these efforts – such as our Mayor Andy Burnham.

Ian described the change at the beginning of the first lockdown when nearly 1700 homeless people were amazingly quickly encouraged off the streets and into hotels and guest houses. This was for their own safety but also allowed social workers, GPs and housing officials to work with them to help them into more permanent accommodation. The Government's Next Step programme helped with this. But because of the disastrous effects of lockdown and Covid generally there are more people who have recently lost jobs, experienced broken family relationships and are on the streets homeless for the first time in their lives. GMHAN was trying to engage local people and groups in helping to find redundant property that could be repurposed into affordable housing. He suggested churches could help in this if they had large presbyteries, vicarages or manses that were not now needed. He mentioned two projects that worked well in Greater Manchester:



A Bed Every Night attempts to find emergency accommodation for people in the city centre who find themselves homeless. A number of charities, voluntary groups, and public services work together to connect local people and those in need of emergency accommodation.

Housing First came from Finland and Canada and was piloted in Greater Manchester. It states every individual has a human right to shelter and security and so should be provided with accommodation first and then their other needs which could be very complex could be looked at to enable them to keep in their home and off the streets.



He mentioned the 4 Rs all of which are important in helping deal with homelessness and he felt that churches should try to be involved in all 4.

REDUCTION - Tackling the causes of homelessness through practical and political action to reduce numbers on streets;

RESPITE – Providing safe places for people off the streets day and night;

RECOVERY - Managing individual issues to help a person live a more stable life moving towards employment and settled living

RECONNECTION enabling an individual to lead meaningful lives making their own choices within their local community.

Ian drew our attention to the number of young people homeless on our streets who were particularly vulnerable to trafficking. The GMHAN is encouraging The Legislative Theatre project as a positive contribution to this problem <https://news.streetsupport.net/2020/06/11/introducing-gm-legislative-theatre/>. He also mentioned that advocacy is needed on behalf of people with No Recourse to Public Funds, particularly asylum seekers. Ian urged NJPN to be involved in practical action but also to campaign for a fairer welfare system, a welcoming immigration policy, increasing basic income, retraction of the 'no recourse to public funds' policy, building more social and affordable housing.

We then went into break out groups to consider : What do you see? Is that what you want to see? What contribution would I like the church to make?

Then followed Feedback and a concluding Liturgy. I confess I had to go and missed these last two!



Medaille Trust's mission is to provide refuge and freedom from modern slavery. The Trust began when one lady – Sister Ann Teresa SSJA (now life president) – said 'something must be done'. She gathered a group of friends from different Religious congregations and together they started tackling the scourge of modern slavery. What started in 2006 with a house for women trafficked into prostitution quickly grew into a national network supporting all people trapped in modern slavery – women, men and families. Medaille Trust is now one of the largest provider of supported safe house beds for victims of modern

slavery in the UK. Our specialist teams support clients 24/7 on the road to restoration and independence. You can read their Winter Newsletter <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/resources/newsletter#>

A HEALTHY GREEN RECOVERY?

With the promise of a vaccine and a chance to 'be normal' again, now is the time to ask what is normal? Do we really want to go back to life exactly as it was before Covid-19? Or has this been a wake-up call and a very real opportunity to look at our world and plan in a different way for the future? Do we want to rebuild a resilient economy that benefits everyone in society? and tackle climate change and nature's decline? Do we want to create new jobs and protect the most vulnerable in the UK and around the world? Or will we let the moment for change pass us by, go back to old ways and wait for new crises to hit?



The Prime Minister is due to set out the full ten point plan before the end of this year. The Climate Coalition made up of leading UK NGOs have set out their own 10 Point Plan for the UK to forge a green recovery from the pandemic and inspire the world to follow, ahead of the crucial COP 26 climate summit that the UK will be hosting next year. You can read their 10 point plan <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/greenrecovery>

The Ecological Conversion Group is a small group of Catholic volunteers spurred on by the publication of the Pope's document "Laudato Si" in which he calls for us to become Ecologically Converted. They set out to help people understand how little things in our daily lives can be changed in order to build community, and in doing so build stronger relationships with God, ourselves, our neighbours through care for our common home.

This Website is intended to be a resource for anyone who wants to know more about the ecological conversion or spread it's joyful message. There are resources to download and use, as well as creating a library of useful articles, links and videos to help you along your journey to a holy and sustainable life. <https://theecg.org/>



HELPING CATHOLIC ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE INVESTMENTS WITH POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS .

Webinar series Catholic Investment for an Integral Economy hosted this Autumn.

Part 1 'Fossil fuel divestment: accelerating the clean energy transition' brought together Catholic organisations to learn more and share experiences of divesting from the fossil fuel industry and supporting a just recovery from Covid-19. Speakers included Fr Augusto Zampini, Dr Lorna Gold, Stephen Power SJ and Sr Susan Francois CSJP <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoSWjJQMnjU>

Part 2 'Investment for a green recovery: innovation in impact investing'. Lord Deben, Chair of the UK's Committee on Climate Change and keynote speaker, said that Catholic organisations need to 'look at the effects of [their] investments and make decisions based upon those effects'. He added that, in the lead up to the UN climate talks (COP26) in Glasgow next year, 'It is hugely important for the Catholic community to be very visible ... it must be very determined, and it must be clear that we all ought to be in this together.' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwU-Zla_3KY

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT BILL

'2020 has been a year like no other. The world has faced an unprecedented health crisis. But the Covid-19 pandemic has also brought economic and social turmoil. It revealed the fragility of our societies, and shined a light on inequality worldwide – much like other crises before it, the poorest and most vulnerable have been hit the worst from the coronavirus pandemic.

2020 has also highlighted our interconnectedness – not just as people, but the system that support us. When one collapses, we all fall down. Reforms to the financial system have often been most focused on climate change. But, while preparing for one crisis, we have been shocked by another. To build resilience we need to move from a focus in individual risks, to a focus on collective impact. That's why we're proposing a new law – a Responsible Investment Bill. To make sure our investment system helps to fix, rather than aggravate, the social and environmental problems we're all facing.'

To find out more about the bill, please go to the Share Action Website.

<https://shareaction.org/five-things-to-know-about-the-responsible-investment-bill/>



GREEN CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL CATCHUP The ecumenical organisation Green Christian celebrated hope amidst uncertainty at its online Festival. It was attended by more than 300 people over three days.

Throughout, the festival, hearts and souls were encouraged and uplifted by sensitive worship and prayer. Musicians from Resound (www.resoundworship.org) provided beautiful songs, alongside meditations from Green Christian chaplains and others. Organisers were warmly thanked in the chat and in a show of clapping for stimulating Christians to imagine a better future and then create it. The recordings of the major sessions are available on the Festival webpage: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/festival2020/>

SILENT NIGHTSIN BETHLEHEM

As we ponder on what if anything we will choose to do for our Christmas celebrations this year, the situation in the place where the Nativity story began is clear cut and desperate. Ecumenical charity Friends of the Holy Land which supports Christian families in need around the Holy Land, says that far from there being no room at the inn, coronavirus has devastated livelihoods as bustling pilgrim hotspots are abandoned.



At a time of year when Bethlehem would be looking forward to welcoming over a million tourists and pilgrims to the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square, the streets are silent in what Friends of the Holy Land CEO Brendan Metcalfe has described as a 'disaster' for the people of the region. Around 80% of Bethlehem's residents are dependent on tourism for their income, from hotel workers, taxi drivers and tour guides to the artisans who make souvenirs and the shop workers who sell them. Brendan said: *"People have flocked to Bethlehem for centuries, especially at Christmas. It seemed like a stable source of income. Nobody could have predicted the 2020 pandemic, or that this total collapse of tourism would last so long. The whole of the Holy Land is now suffering from a lack of visitors that is set to continue deep into 2021."*

The charity has now launched a Christmas appeal to help support people who are turning to it out of desperation. Bethlehem needs a Christmas lifeline. Even those who work outside the tourist sector are affected. People in professional jobs have had to agree to significant pay cuts to avoid redundancy - university and hospital staff in Bethlehem have had their pay cut by up to a quarter.

CEO of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Sami El-Yousef, said: *"It is certainly expected that the humanitarian situation will get much worse soon. Even on our institutional level, payment of tuition fees at our Palestinian Authority (PA) schools has hit an historical low since the beginning of the new school year, standing at just 11% collection. Within two to three months, we may not have enough money to pay the salaries of our 1,350 employees in schools across the Palestinian Authority and Jordan."*

In this context, help from small charities like Friends of the Holy Land has become a vital lifeline, Brendan Metcalfe said. He commented: *"We have never had to support so many people through unemployment before. Bethlehem churches who have also helped so far, are now running out of funds, and there is nothing forthcoming from the Palestinian Authority. There is no furlough scheme or other form of safety net, so people really need the aid we can give."*

"Our supporters in the UK have done an amazing job this year. But this tourism shutdown is lasting longer than anybody anticipated. We've launched a Christmas appeal to raise further funds to support as many of the families coming to us as we possibly can."

"We want to supply more emergency food and pay off urgent medical or utility bills that are plunging vulnerable families into debt. We think Bethlehem, of all places, should be able to enjoy Christmas."

You can give to Friends of the Holy Land's Christmas appeal at: www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/Christmas
Find out more about the charity at: www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk.

FHL operates an office in Bethlehem to support vulnerable Christians. In addition to meeting their direct emergency needs, when families fall into financial difficulty, FHL's team in Bethlehem also work with other partner agencies to support vulnerable Christians with medical costs and school fees. Both of which can be very expensive often accounting for as much as a quarter of a normal household's yearly income.

Friends of the Holy Land have two major projects in Bethlehem, School of Joy providing education and therapy to disabled children and St Martha's House which is a day centre for elderly women, mainly widows or those whose family have emigrated. FHL also provide long term support to St Luke's Hospital in Nablus, by supporting a medical exemption fund for the local Christian population.

PEACE ISSUES:

CHURCHES SUPPORT THE UN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY.

Many Christian traditions and denominations in the UK have supported the idea of a Treaty to ban nuclear weapons for some time. The Baptist Church, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and Quakers have long-standing positions opposing nuclear weapons and have welcomed the Treaty. <https://christiancnd.org.uk/ban/>

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are among 30 Anglican bishops who have put their names to a public letter urging the UK government to sign the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons which was ratified recently and comes into force in January 2021. The letter was published in The Observer on Friday, 13 November 2020. Read the full text follows:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/bishops-letter-un-nuclear-weapons-treaty>

Pax Christi UK says "Pope Francis has said that, 'even their very possession is to be condemned.' We would like to hear the Catholic bishops of England & Wales speak up on this issue. We can rid the world of nuclear weapons. Let's do it." Source:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40903>

You can sign a petition urging the government to sign the treaty <https://christiancnd.org.uk/tpnwpetition/>



BACKGROUND On Saturday October 24th 2020 the treaty making nuclear weapons illegal was finally ratified at the United Nations. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) opened for signature three years ago. The treaty needed 50 countries to ratify it before it before it could come into force. On Saturday night that milestone was reached. The Treaty will now officially enter into force on January 22nd after 50 countries ratified the agreement, with a further 84 signing.

The terms of the TPNW only apply to the countries that have signed and ratified the agreement. Although the nine nuclear-armed states (US, UK, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) currently state they will not support it, the treaty is a significant pointer towards changing international attitudes to nuclear weapons. Previous treaties prohibiting chemical and biological weapons helped to stigmatise them in the minds of the public. This is now taking place with nuclear weapons. https://www.icanw.org/the_treaty

GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO INCREASE TO DEFENSE BUDGET AND CUT OVERSEAS CRITICISED

Rethinking Security, a network of peace and security experts, has criticised the Government's recent announcement to grant an exceptional four-year increase to the Ministry of Defence's budget while other government departments face swingeing cuts and long-term funding uncertainty. The Treasury is considering a permanent reduction in spending on overseas development aid from the legally mandated 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% in 2021/22 . This would further undermine conflict-affected and developing countries in the midst of pandemic and global recession and damage the UK's attempt to position itself as a 'force for good' in the world.

Rethinking Security
for a just and peaceful world

The prioritisation of military spending over other levers of influence also pre-empts and undermines the much-delayed Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, which was supposed to integrate and balance the needs of different departments concerned with international security. Rethinking Security Co-ordinator Richard Reeve said: *"By prioritising military spending over other means of influencing international security, the government is sending a powerful signal that Global Britain's security strategy is increasingly and overwhelmingly about projecting military power. If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us one thing it is that the real threats to people's lives and livelihoods cannot be offset by spending on weapons. A return to cold war confrontation makes us all less safe and does nothing to address health crises, ecological collapse or colossal inequalities of opportunity. The government's spending calculus is a retrograde step that would reverse two decades of rebalancing from defence to development, coercion to cooperation. The Integrated Review is disintegrating before our eyes."*

Theresa Alessandro, from Pax Christi, said: "We agree with Rethinking Security's analysis. In apportioning more money to the military, our government is revealed to be out of step with the now commonly-understood insight that military approaches cannot help us with the major risks we face, such as pandemics and climate change. In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis cautions that: 'War is not a ghost from the past but a constant threat. Our world is encountering growing difficulties on the slow path to peace upon which it had embarked and which had already begun to bear good fruit'. More military spending continues to lead us away from peace."

AGENCIES HAVE WARNED OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF PERMANENT CUT IN OVERSEAS AID.

Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, said: "At a time when international solidarity and cooperation across borders is needed more than ever, it is deeply alarming that the Government has chosen to turn its back on the world.



"Aid spending on tackling global poverty must not be treated as a charitable favour to the world, but as Britain's moral duty.

"Britain became one of the world's wealthiest nations due to its long history of colonization and fossil-fuelled industrialization.

"We recognise the economic challenges we face at home, but when the government have increased spending on defence, there can be no argument to reduce spending on the means to tackle conflict and its causes. Yet despite our wealth, this government has decided to take money from the world's poorest."

Christian Aid's UK Advocacy and Policy Lead, Jennifer Larbie, said: "Cuts have consequences. Cutting the UK aid budget will have consequences for the world's poorest. This is not just about the compassion of our country it is about justice.

"It will result in people not accessing vital health care during a global pandemic. People going hungry. In fewer children being educated and their already limited choices being further diminished.

"These are the tangible effects. The intangible, but no less damaging, ones are to the UK's global standing. By not keeping our foreign aid promises we further undermine our position as host of the G7 next year. We give the impression; do as we say not as we do.

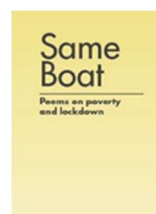


NEW WINE NEW SKINS Church Action on Poverty Sunday on 21 February 2021

Join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action this Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Share a vision for a society founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power. <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>

'SAME BOAT?' is the title for both a book of poems and a short film, based on people's experiences of poverty during lockdown in 2020. They were both produced as a result of creative workshops run by Church Action on Poverty over summer 2020, and launched during the first Challenge Poverty Week England and

Wales. The book brings new perspectives around poverty and challenges many of the prevailing myths and clichés, and challenges us all to ensure that society after the pandemic is more just and compassionate. We know we can build back better and the outpouring of kindness and community has been heartening – but it cannot be taken for granted. Simply reading the poetry in this anthology is "a radical act of empathy". <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sameboat/>



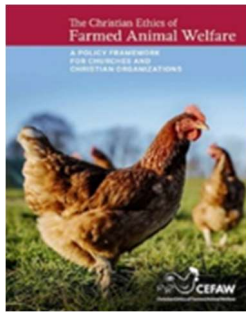
THE WHITECHAPEL CENTRE is the leading homeless and housing charity for the Liverpool region. We work with people who are sleeping rough, living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation. We are committed to helping people find and maintain a home and learn the life skills essential for independent living.

<https://www.whitechapelcentre.co.uk/>

Another catch up COME AND BE REVIVED

This series of talks from Chester Cathedral were given on zoom in September/October. You can still hear them on youtube - maybe something for Advent? Themes: Social Justice, Black Lives Matter. Invisible Women, Climate Crisis, Slavery and Salvation and Poverty in the UK. The first talk on Social Justice is interesting as it deals with the effects of climate change in Melanesia today. The World Day of Prayer next March 5th has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu, one of the countries of Melanesia <https://www.youtube.com/playlistlist=PLBpNYZcQctPeKgfOwxkvLoDMWh49oGw>





WHY THE WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS MATTERS

The Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare (CEFAW) project, based at the University of Chester, have published a free Policy Framework for Christian communities, about why farmed animal welfare should matter to Christians and how Christians can address farmed animal welfare, together.

In a statement CEFAW says: "Christian churches urgently need resources to make sense of farmed animal welfare, especially now, as we move to establish new global trading agreements and tackle urgent concerns about climate change and our environment. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the need for us to think carefully about where our food comes from and to take more responsibility for the robustness of the supply chain. Parliament is currently debating amendments to the Agriculture Bill that would protect UK farmers and UK farmed animal welfare standards from imports produced to lower animal welfare standards. Learning more about how farmed animal welfare connects to Christian faith will help us to shape the world to enable farmed animals, farming communities, and all people to flourish in the future."

"This policy framework gives us the tools to have a voice. It is the product of a research project led by subject specialists in Christian ethics and farm animal welfare and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, with major UK churches as partners (Church of England, Church of Scotland, Church in Wales, Methodist Church, Roman Catholic Church, United Reformed Church)."

The Policy Framework shows why Christians - as Christians - should care about farmed animal welfare and how the Church can respond. It provides:

A theological account of farmed animal flourishing and its relationship to human flourishing, drawing on scripture and doctrine.

An ethical account of Christian responsibility for farmed animal flourishing in today's context.

An evaluation of how animals are currently farmed in the UK in relation to a Christian understanding of what is required for them to flourish.

Conclusions and recommended actions for churches and Christian organisations; farmers and farm workers; food retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers; Christian investors; and policy makers.

The Policy Framework concludes that Christians have strong faith-based reasons for being concerned about the flourishing of fellow animal creatures and have a distinctive responsibility for those farmed for food. Across the world many farmed animals are raised in environments that diminish their ability to flourish. The UK has some of the best farmed animal welfare standards in the world, and yet improvement is both necessary and possible with proper encouragement.

Christians have reason to avoid animal products sourced from systems offering poor opportunities for flourishing. Churches should support farmers who provide the animals in their care with lives worth living and seek to influence wholesalers, retailers, and policymakers to ensure that farmers are paid fairly for providing high levels of farmed animal welfare.

The Policy Framework is useful in various areas of church activity:

Environmental & rural policy ; Worship and church education; Resourcing church schools

Engaging public policy; Informing church investment policy

Download here https://www1.chester.ac.uk/sites/default/files/CEFAW_PolicyFramework-Interactive.pdf

In 2021 CEFAW will host a series of webinars aimed at exploring different elements of the Policy Framework and providing guidance for how it could be used in different contexts. The webinars will take place on the second Wednesday of each month, from January to April.

Wed 13th Jan 2021, 1 pm GMT	Why Should Christians Care about Farmed Animal Welfare?
Wed 10th Feb 2021, 1 pm GMT	How Do Farmed Animals Flourish?
Wed 10th Mar 2021, 1 pm GMT	What Does Farmed Animal Welfare Cost?
Wed 14th Apr 2021, 1 pm GMT	What Can Christians Do about Farmed Animal

Register for more information about the webinars or receive a hard copy of the report

<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/christian-ethics-farmed-animal-welfare/request-print-copies-policy-framework>

DIARY

NOVEMBER

Monday 30th Liverpool J & P Commission Advent reflection 7 pm 'Stay awake' see page 2

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st World AIDS Day Mass - 6pm Church of the Immaculate Conception (Farm Street Jesuit Church), W1K 3AH. Hosted by LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council. Celebration on UNAIDS 2020 Theme, Global Solidarity - Shared Responsibility. Celebrant - Canon Alan McClean, Music provided by the 530 Music Group. Retiring Collection for the Mildmay Hospital. Watch Live: www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream

Wednesday 2nd 7pm Livestreamed service to mark the fortieth anniversary of Churchwomen's murders in El Salvador. See page 3 for details and link

Thursday 3rd 6.30 - 8.20pm Author and screenwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce to give this year's Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture 'Some Things We Can't Think' Presented by Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) via Zoom. To find out more and book your place please go to: www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Event/hh2020

Monday 7th Pax Christi Advent Service 7 pm via zoom. See page 2

Also Mon. 7th Liverpool J & P Commission Advent reflection 7 pm 'Prepare a way for the Lord' see page 2

Tuesday 8th Jesuit Refugee Service Advent Service on line – details and booking <https://www.jrsuk.net/adventservice2020/> Or <https://www.facebook.com/jesuitrefugeeserviceuk/>

Monday 14th J & P Commission Advent reflection 7 pm 'Bearing witness' see page 2

Wed 16th Dec – Stories, Poems, and Music for Advent and Christmas organised by Chester World Development Forum 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm St Mary's Without-the-Walls Overleigh Road, Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7HL Trevor Dennis will introduce and read seven of his published stories and poems on the themes of Advent and Christmas, while Brian and Claire Heald from Wesley Church will provide some wonderful music. Places limited if the service goes ahead live. But it will also be on zoom. To reserve a place on zoom contact Trevor on trevordennis11@gmail.com with your name. You will have a chance to donate to Christian Aid through a JustGiving page

Monday 21st J & P Commission Advent reflection 7 pm 'Get on with it lass' see page 2

JANUARY

Tuesday 12th 'Paths of Peace: the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative' talk by Joan Sharples for St Alban's J & P Group Macclesfield on zoom 7.30 pm. Contact Keith Taylor skeithtayl2@outlook.com for the link

Also Tuesday 12th - CWDF Forum Speaker Ciara Hogan, on her work as Community Participation Coordinator for CAFOD – the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. Ciara's responsibilities cover the Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury, (extending from Birkenhead in the north down to Telford in the south) fostering the work of local groups. Zoom joining details to be supplied nearer the date.

Peace Sunday 17th Promoted by Pax Christi. See page 2

18- 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity see page 3

Racial Justice Sunday 31st An opportunity to reflect on the action needed to counteract racism and promote diversity, belonging and inclusion. Materials produced annually by the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)

FEBRUARY

Church Action on Poverty Sunday 21 New Wine New Skins see page 9

Saturday 27 NJPN Networking Day 'Faith issues for J & P' on zoom

ADVANCE NOTICE: JULY 23- 25 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT SWANWICK – postponed from 2020

NOVEMBER 1 - 12 United Nations Climate Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow. The climate talks will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together over 30,000 delegates including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. The Vatican will be represented.

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