

## What's it all about?

In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace was set up to “promote justice and peace in the world in the light of the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church”.

In Shrewsbury Diocese, the Bishop, Rt Rev Joseph Gray, established a Justice & Peace Commission in 1984, and its work has continued since then, its membership renewed from time to time, and working with Bishop Joseph's successor Bishops, Brian Noble and Mark Davies.

During the last 12 months sixteen people have served on the Commission, adapting the scope and mode of operations in the absence of paid support (Joan Sharples our long-standing and highly effective coordinator being declared redundant for financial reasons in May 2012).

The Commission has links with the National J&P Network [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) and, through that Network, with a range of national organisations working for justice and peace.

## Priorities over the year have been :

- Fostering J&P activity in parishes and Local Pastoral Areas (LPAs);
- Maintaining *MouthPeace* as a highly-regarded journal, produced jointly with Liverpool Archdiocese J&P;
- Making best use of IT communications in developing the scope of the monthly J&P e-bulletins and of the Commission website;
- Discussing with the diocesan curia the role and work of the Commission within the Department of New Evangelisation;
- Making particular contributions to diocesan “Year of Faith” programmes, providing opportunities for reflection on Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

## Commission Members 2012-13

**Chair:** Tony Walsh  
Elizabeth Barratt  
Sue Bownas (*CAFOD Diocesan Manager*)  
Ged Cliffe (*Treasurer*)  
Michael Crawley (*Secretary*)  
Maura Garside  
Ann Gill (*resigned May 2012*)  
Bernice Halson  
Bryan Halson  
Anne O'Connor (*E-bulletin Editor*)  
Bernard Payne (*Vice Chair*)  
Ann Taylor  
Marian Thompson (*MouthPeace Editor*)  
Pat Thornhill  
Fr Ned Wall  
Anne Westmacott

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

## Diocese of Shrewsbury Commission for the Promotion of Justice & Peace and Social Responsibility



## REPORT 2012 - 2013

### Vision:

A diocese fully engaged with the call of God to be a people of justice and peace.

### Purpose:

As Christians, we are called to try to live out God's will. God calls us to act for the common good and the good of all creation. The main task of the members of the Commission is to answer that call personally and to engage the diocese in doing likewise, in the light of scripture and Catholic social teaching.

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

June 2013

## In the past year the JP&SR Commission have:

- Adjusted our activities and *modus operandi* to suit life in the absence of a paid coordinator. These adjustments aided and informed by:
  - An Open Commission meeting held in October 2012 with representatives of J&P Groups from across the Diocese to discuss the Commission's work and priorities in the new circumstances.
  - Chair and Vice-Chair holding discussions with Canon Philip Moor VG (given particular responsibilities for JP&SR by Bishop Mark).
- Developed and maintained the website to allow ready access to a widening range of J&P resources. The website is updated regularly by Commission member Bernard Payne.
- Produced the quarterly magazine - **MouthPeace** containing a huge range of topical articles. Edited by Commission member Marian Thompson, this is produced in conjunction with the Liverpool Archdiocese J&P team— and now printed by them.
- Produced the monthly **J&P E-Bulletin**, compiled by Commission member Anne O'Connor.



Commission Open Meeting, October 2012: Tony Walsh sets the scene for a "thank you" gift to Joan Sharples



Commission Open Meeting—retiring member Ann Gill providing helpful advice to grandmother-to-be Joan?

- Marked the **Year of Faith** by means of:
  - Publishing a regularly-updated *J&P Calendar for the Year of Faith* compiled by Anne O'Connor;
  - Holding a half-day event "Drawing Inspiration from Vatican II" led by Brian Davies, former Education Officer for CAFOD.
- Fourteen people from the diocese attended the 2012 National J&P Conference 'A New World Order? China Today and Our Response' at Swanwick, Derbyshire.
- Organised a **J&P Advent Reflection** at Wistaston Hall, given by Clare Dixon, Head of CAFOD's Latin America and Caribbean team—in celebration of CAFOD's 50th anniversary year.
- Specially-prepared resources made available and placed on the Commission website. These have included:
  - Reflections for each week of Advent 2012, prepared by Anne O'Connor;
  - Daily Actions and Reflections for Lent 2013, prepared by Bryan Halson;
  - Justice and Peace Stations of the Cross—including Young People's version—prepared by Anne O'Connor.

## Times of change

2012-13 was year of big change for the Commission. It was in early May 2012 that we first learned of the departure of Joan our paid coordinator, the diocese making the post redundant due to financial cutbacks. This occurred at the time the Commission was seeking to clarify its role within new departmental arrangements in the diocesan curia—with the Commission being placed within the Department of New Evangelisation under the leadership of the then Vicar General Mgr Philip Egan. Discussions were just underway when the news came through of his appointment as Bishop of Portsmouth.

It was a few months before revised departmental responsibilities were settled, with the Commission staying within the Department of New Evangelisation but with Canon Philip Moor (who is Head of the Department of Administration and one of Bishop Mark's two Vicars General) taking responsibility for the work of the Commission.

Commission members are appointed by the Bishop for a 4-year term, and it is not always the case that the terms are renewed. Discussions have been held with Canon Philip to clarify each member's wishes concerning future service, and conclusions on the size and make-up of the refreshed Commission are awaited—it is expected that the new Commission will operate from September 2013.



Full use will be made of the Commission website and e-bulletin system to keep people in the picture, but in the meantime these dates have been set:

- Saturday 14th September**, jointly hosting the National Justice & Peace Network quarterly area meeting, 10.30am-4.00pm, St. Columba's, Chester;
- Sunday 8th December**, Advent Reflection with Fr Peter Phillips, 4.30pm Wistaston Hall, Crewe.