

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## VIEWPOINT: CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mary Colwell 23 May 2019 (Updated 24 May 2019)

**Catholic filmmaker, broadcaster, environmentalist and journalist, Mary Colwell writes:** This month the Catholic bishops of England and Wales produced a statement from their plenary (twice-yearly meeting) called '*Stewardship of God's Creation*'. I thought I would give my thoughts on it as someone now deeply immersed in the world of conservation and the protection of life on earth. Of course, this statement is very welcome and I applaud the bishops for their commitment to produce a fuller one later in the year. It is, therefore, timely to add your voice to this issue. As the National Justice and Peace Commission you represent the initiatives of the bishops' conference and have to be involved. I trust the bishops and the newly formed environmental committee will consult you all.

The first thing that struck me about this short statement is the tired phrase, *Stewardship of Creation*. Immediately it brings to mind a notion of hierarchy and management. The Cambridge English Dictionary give this definition of stewardship: Someone's stewardship of something is the way in which that person controls or organises it: 'The company has been very successful while it has been under the stewardship of Mr White.'

The Oxford Dictionary is similar: The job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property: 'the funding and stewardship of the NHS' or 'responsible stewardship of our public lands.'

In my opinion this is the wrong message delivered in the wrong language. I have no idea where '*stewardship of creation*' comes from, it is not biblical, but it has been around for a long time. Stewardship is not a good word. There is no heart, no humility, no love in it. We are certainly not in control. We are not shop stewards of a factory floor, we are co-inhabitants of an astonishing planet that challenges and nurtures us and provides us with resources and wonderment. The earth and all its life forms are the source of our creativity and daily joy. We are not in charge of this planet, but we have a profound and holy responsibility towards it.

The statement then goes on to recognise "an unprecedented ecological crisis," which I hope embraces not only climate change but also the extinction of species. Yet again, however, the phrasing is cold and arm-wavy. I personally don't like the use of the word 'ecological'. Ecology is a field of study, like biology, theology, geology. We wouldn't say there is a biological crisis on earth, but there is certainly an environmental one. I do know that this phrase has slipped into common vernacular but it lacks a depth of understanding that comes from pondering and contemplation on the real meaning behind words.

Why am I being picky about language? Because language matters and words matter. We are acutely aware of the language people use. When the church says it is a steward or talks about ecology, that sets the tone for the discussion.

It is also lazy thinking. Simply presenting phrases someone else devised a long time ago gives the impression that this is the sum of things, that this phrase is the best way of expressing the situation and that nothing has moved on. Clichés are detrimental to progress. They are superficial and simply graze the surface, they bring no fresh thoughts or ideas. This is a great shame. We are in unprecedented times and we need a new language that expresses that urgency. Words matter. Expressed well, they bare our uncertainty and pain, desire and weakness, acceptance and humility.

We can do well to learn from Greta Thunberg's eloquence and authenticity. "It is still not too late to act. It will take a far-reaching vision, it will take courage, it will take fierce, fierce determination to act now, to lay the foundations where we may not know all the details about how to shape the ceiling. In other words, it will take cathedral thinking. I ask you to please wake up and make change possible."

And, yet again, David Attenborough strikes the perfect tone. He is a consummate and emotional storyteller who engages the heart as well as the mind. "We need", he said, "to fall in love again with the earth." Words matter.

It is true that everyone is both a storyteller and a lover of stories, it is how we communicate what is important to us. "Stories are just data with a soul" said the inspirational psychologist Brené Brown. Yes, indeed they are. Allow me to tell you one story about a visit I made recently to a nature reserve in Yorkshire.

The Lower Derwent Valley is a National Nature Reserve, an area of open grassland that floods in the winter and dries out in the summer months and provides soft soils, worms and insects for all kinds of life. The wetness of the soil has, so far, saved it from intensive agriculture and conurbation, although both of these press in all around. A hundred new houses are being built nearby and already the site is under increased pressure from dog walkers, light pollution and noise. On this calm spring morning, though, it was beautiful. A whitethroat sang in the bushes and sedge warblers were remarkably prominent as they caught insects for their young that were hidden somewhere in the low shrubs. My favourite sound, the bubbling soul-cry of the curlew, rang out in the distance.

I sat in a hide with the ranger and we watched 30 whimbrels feeding in long grass about 200 metres away. They are fabulous long-distance migrants that spend the winter in West Africa and breed in Iceland. Their average round trip is 16,000 miles and the fields of the reserve are a stop-over site, or avian service station, that provides food and safe refuge while they gain strength for the final leg of their journey. The birds used to feed in a wider area, in the agricultural land surrounding the reserve, but the continued drainage, intensification and development of the land, as well as increasingly dry weather, has made this very difficult. If this reserve were ever to be requisitioned, the birds would die. It was so sobering - this group of beautiful, tough, long distance travellers are now totally reliant on a couple of fields in a nature reserve in Yorkshire to survive. "You can set your calendar on the day they arrive, 99% of the time on April 19th, it's incredible how they time things," said the ranger "but it also shows their vulnerability. They have to come here, there is nowhere else left."

The whimbrels had just flown in from west Africa where they spend the winter months. That part of the continent has seen a 5-fold increase in the human population level since 1950. Back then there were 73 million people but this is projected to exceed 1 billion by 2060. It is the fastest growing region in the world, and 40% of the population is Christian. It is also true that Africa is the future heartland of Catholicism. The number of baptised Catholics on the continent is growing at a significantly faster rate than anywhere else in the world.

What then for the whimbrels? They face increasing pressures from the spread of agriculture and development on their African wintering grounds, an increase in intensive agriculture and urbanisation in Yorkshire and accelerating climate change affecting their arctic breeding grounds in Iceland. All of these are related to the huge and embarrassing elephants in the room - population increase and rampant consumption, including a diet rich in meat and dairy. All of these difficult issues have to be addressed directly and honestly if any progress is to be made, but I wonder if there is the courage and conviction to do so. It will be painful to tease out what the Church can contribute, but there is no doubt that it has a lot to offer if it squarely faces the challenge.

Whimbrels, godwits, terns, ducks and geese, to name but a few world travellers, use the whole planet to live out their wild lives, they don't inhabit just one place. They tie the world together in great migratory flights and we are privileged to host them for just a few short weeks. The responsibility on us is huge. They are telling us an important story.

I hope the bishops' environmental committee recognises that nothing is seen in isolation, that England and Wales are not isolated from the rest of the world. A whimbrel may not be on the bishops' radar, but all wildlife tells us about the state of the planet. According to the devastating UN biodiversity report published on 6 May, we are in danger of losing 1 million species because of the way we are using the earth, especially for farming. We depend on the intricate web of life to keep ecosystems functioning to provide us with pollinators, fresh water, clean air and rich soils - to name but a few essential 'services'. It is also a terrible tragedy because we are losing the wellspring for so much that makes us human. Not to mention the fact that other life on earth has a right to exist too.

Catholicism is a global religion and in a prime position to address these global concerns. Arm waving statements about an ecological crisis and saving creation only go so far. The Church has 2000 years of truly beautiful and poetic wisdom to draw upon. It has profound insights into the meaning of human and other life on earth. It has the words of inspiring environmental writers like Thomas Merton and Thomas Berry [see below – Ed.]. I hope that these will be drawn out in the summer environment paper. Now, more than ever, we need to be moved to action. We live on a planet that is connected by a web of life upon which we all depend, but there is little in the statement so far that even comes close to recognising this. However, we wait to see, and I wish the authors the very greatest of blessings as they write.

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*"The destiny of humans cannot be separated from the destiny of earth."*

*"We might summarise our present human situation by the simple statement: that in the 20th century, the glory of the human has become the desolation of the Earth and now the desolation of the Earth is becoming the destiny of the human."*

*"From here on, the primary judgement of all human institutions, professions, programmes and activities will be determined by the extent to which they inhibit, ignore, or foster a mutually-enhancing human/Earth relationship."*

*"We see quite clearly that what happens to the nonhuman happens to the human. What happens to the outer world happens to the inner world. If the outer world is diminished in its grandeur then the emotional, imaginative, intellectual, and spiritual life of the human is diminished or extinguished. Without the soaring birds, the great forests, the sounds and coloration of the insects, the free-flowing streams, the flowering fields, the sight of the clouds by day and the stars at night, we become impoverished in all that makes us human."*

• **Thomas Berry**, CP, PhD (November 9, 1914 – June 1, 2009) was a Catholic priest of the Passionist order, cultural historian and ecotheologian (although cosmologist and geologist – or "Earth scholar" – were his preferred descriptors). Among advocates of "ecospirituality" he proposed the idea that a deep understanding of the history and functioning of the evolving universe is a necessary inspiration and guide for our own effective functioning as individuals and as a species.

## Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission Annual Assembly: *Apocalypse Now? – Climate Change: What we must do*

*"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."* **Laudato Si 14**

In 2015 Pope Francis called on us all to work together to tackle climate change, then in October 2018 the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report stating that we have just 12 years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, after which even just half a degree extra would significantly increase the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

Just two months later in December 2018, Greta Thunberg, at the age of 15, addressing the United Nations' Katowice Climate Summit stated "You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes", and in February 2019, at the age of 16, speaking at Davos, she added, "Our house is on fire. I am here to say, our house is on fire." "Until you start focusing on what needs to be done, rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis."

It is obvious that we must act immediately if we want to prevent the destruction of the planet, and life, as we know it today. We must all change, we need to change our own lives; we need to help our families and households to change; we need to encourage our friends to change; we need to change our workplaces, and schools. We cannot rely on other people to solve this crisis; scientists alone will not be able to solve this, neither can politicians: we must all act to prevent the destruction of the planet! This year, the Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission's Annual Assembly will be focused on climate change, and what we must do.

The programme includes:

- **Dr Paul Rooney, from Liverpool Hope University**, who will talk about ***The Reality and Urgency of Climate Change action: the social and ecological imperatives.***
- **Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford**, who will talk about ***Addressing the theological imperatives of Climate Change.***
- **Jo Musker-Sherwood Director, Hope for the Future** – an organisation working to equip communities, campaigners and groups across the country to communicate the urgency of climate change. Jo will address our need for ***Action: from the personal to the collective.***

The assembly will take place on **Saturday, 6 July 2019** from 10am until 4pm, at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA. Everyone is welcome to attend, lunch is included in the day, and a donation of £10 is suggested.

*"The earth is a gift, not a possession; it was given to us to administer, not to destroy. Hence, we must respect the laws of nature, as all of creation has its own goodness..."* **Laudato Si 75**

## WAITROSE LAUNCHES PACKAGING-FREE TRIAL

**Rebecca Smithers** Consumer affairs correspondent ***The Guardian*** 4 June 2019

Waitrose has unveiled its vision of environmentally conscious shopping, offering customers the chance to buy food and drink that is completely free of packaging as part of a ground-breaking trial for a large retailer. In a new drive to try to eliminate unnecessary plastic and packaging, shoppers will be able to fill their own containers with a range of products from a series of dispensers, using the first dedicated refill station installed by a major UK supermarket. In a trial starting this week at a Waitrose supermarket in Oxford, customers are being given refillable options for products including wine and beer, rice and cleaning materials, with prices typically 15% cheaper than the packaged alternatives. A standalone pick and mix range of frozen fruit and a borrow-a-box scheme to help carry shopping home are other new retail formats being tested by Waitrose at the Botley Road shop. Waitrose has transformed the store by removing hundreds of products from their packaging, although shoppers will still be able to buy the packaged versions if they wish.

Plastic waste has become a major environmental issue, with television programmes such as *Blue Planet* exposing its detrimental effects on the oceans, and media coverage highlighting the dangers of a global plastic binge. Waitrose is among the UK's supermarkets which have signed up to the UK Plastics Pact – an industry-wide initiative to transform packaging and reduce avoidable plastic waste. However, retailers have been criticised for not doing more to tackle the issue at an earlier stage. "This test has potential to shape how people might shop with us in the future so it will be fascinating to see which concepts our customers have an appetite for," said Waitrose's Tor Harris.

Ariana Densham, an oceans campaigner for Greenpeace UK, said: "This is a genuinely bold step from Waitrose to trial food dispensers so customers can use refillable tubs and jars. Lots of supermarkets are starting to sell loose fruit and vegetables, but this kind of innovation could spark a refill culture that's so desperately needed to cut plastics in mainstream shops. The top 10 UK supermarkets produce 810,000 tonnes of throwaway packaging each year, so we need to see other major retailers taking plastic reduction seriously and following Waitrose's lead."

A choice of 160 loose fruit and vegetables will be available, along with four different wines and four beers on tap to be taken home in reusable bottles and nearly 30 products including pasta, rice, grains, couscous, lentils, cereals, dried fruit and seeds available from dispensers. The "unpacked" model relying on refills has already been adopted by some independent retailers, delicatessens and farm shops but this is the first time it is being used at a national supermarket chain.

For the borrow-a-box scheme, customers will pay a £5 deposit which is refundable when the container is returned. A frozen pick and mix section initially selling fruit such as blueberries and mango will encourage shoppers to bring in their own containers.

<https://amp.theguardian.com/business/2019/jun/04/waitrose-launches-packaging-free-trial>

## PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic production contributes to climate change, and the waste harms the environment, polluting our waterways and threatening our wildlife. Every year we throw away millions of tonnes of plastic. And vast amounts of it find its way into the ocean. As the plastic breaks down into tiny pieces it's consumed by marine animals. All this plastic pollution means a cocktail of harmful chemicals can be passed up the food chain. Plastic is even getting into our food and water supplies.

**Friends of the Earth** are calling for urgent government action to stop the flow of plastic pollution into our environment. Please sign our petition: <https://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/act/help-reduce-plastic-oceans>

### Plastic facts

12 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the sea each year.

Only 9% of all plastic waste has ever been recycled.

700 or so marine species have been found entangled in plastic.

1 million plastic bottles are bought worldwide every minute.

100,000 tiny bits of plastic could end up in the ocean with each shower you take, depending on the products you use.

9 billion fewer plastic bags used in England since the 5p charge.

### How to avoid plastic

1. The majority of teabags in the UK contain a very thin layer of polypropylene plastic. That thin layer will likely end up as tiny pieces in the soil, which could then find their way into our rivers and eventually the sea. Switch to loose tea instead.

2. Avoid plastic-wrapped fruit and veg and polystyrene trays. Use a veg-box scheme or buy from your local farmers' market.

3. Prefer a flat white? Buy a reusable coffee cup. Because of a plastic film on the inside, very few coffee cups are recycled.

4. It's the final (plastic) straw - if you really need a straw use bamboo or steel.

5. Use laundry soap nuts. These little, dried-fruit shells contain a 100% natural soap and can be used with all fabrics, at all temperatures from 30-90oC

6. Change to a bamboo toothbrush and buy your toothpaste in a jar instead of a plastic tube.

7. Cotton buds are plastic imposters. Buy organic cotton buds / Q-tips with 100% bio-degradable card sticks.

8. Stop wrapping food in cling film - a material made from crude oil. Beeswax food wraps are reusable and biodegradable. <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/9-really-good-alternatives-plastic>

## UPSTREAM: MICROPLASTICS IN UK RIVERS

### GREENPEACE - Publication Date 18th June 2019

The UK's River Mersey contains proportionally more plastic pollution than the infamous Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an area recognised by scientists as one of the most plastic-polluted expanses of water on earth. This was one of the findings of a new scientific study released by Greenpeace which reveals that every one of the 13 UK rivers tested were contaminated with microplastics.

Greenpeace is urging the UK government to set legally-binding plastic reduction targets in the upcoming Environment Bill and to create an independent environmental watchdog with proper powers to enforce those targets.

In the first nationwide exercise of its kind, experts found:

- All 13 UK rivers tested contained microplastics.
- A total of 1,271 pieces of plastic, ranging in size from straw and bottle-top fragments to tiny microbeads less than 1mm across.
- The River Mersey was proportionally more polluted than the Great Pacific Garbage Patch – containing equivalent to 2 million pieces of microplastic per square km.
- Five out of 13 rivers contained microbeads – which were partially banned in 2017.
- More than half the rivers tested contained plastic pellets called 'nurdles', which are used as a raw material in the production of plastic products.

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/reports/upstream-microplastics-uk-rivers/>

**Download the report in full:** [https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/plastics\\_v08.pdf](https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/plastics_v08.pdf)

## MICROPLASTICS FOUND IN WATER, FOOD AND AIR = EATING A "CREDIT CARD A WEEK"

**Jack Peat** 12 June 2019: Humans are ingesting the equivalent of one credit card per week from water, food and the air they breathe. A new WWF study called 'Assessing Plastic Ingestion from Nature to People' reports that people consume 2,000 tiny pieces of plastic each week, on average, which is the equivalent of eating a teaspoon of plastic — or a credit card — every week. Carried out by Australia's University of Newcastle the research found that water, both bottled and tap, was the largest single source of plastic ingestion, but large amounts of microplastics were found in the food chain and in the air. Since 2000 the world has produced as much plastic as all the proceeding years combined, a third of which is leaked into nature. By 2030 some 104 million metric tons of plastic could be released into the environment unless drastic action is taken.

This week Canada announced it would move to ban single-use plastic items by as early as 2021. It followed the European Union's decision in March to ban plastic items such as plastic cutlery, cotton buds, straws and stirrers by 2021.

<https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/microplastics-found-in-water-food-and-air-the-equivalent-of-eating-a-credit-card-a-week/12/06/>

**Jack Peat** is a business and economics journalist and the founder of *The London Economic* (TLE). He has contributed articles to *The Independent*, *The Big Issue*, *VICE* and *Huffington Post*.

## AIR POLLUTION — CLEAN AIR DAY 20 JUNE

Walking is great for your health, but air pollution is putting the public at risk. The two pollutants of most concern are microscopic airborne particles, known as particulate matter (PM), and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). There is no safe level of particulate matter and the UK Government is breaking the law with current levels of air pollution. People who walk or cycle do not contribute to air pollution, but are unfairly exposed to it. The campaigning group **Living Streets** want the Government to take action on diesel exhausts in our towns and cities and to invest more in walking and cycling. Living Streets is also calling for a new Clean Air Act. The first act was introduced to deal with coal fire smog in 1956. New legislation is needed now.

### Make clean air a priority in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester is consulting local people on proposals it has released to tackle pollution created by motor vehicles, and we invite you to take part - first by helping shape Living Streets' official response and then by submitting one of your own.

We have until 30 June to have our say. <https://e-activist.com/page/43834/action/1?ea.url.id=3570347&forwarded=true>  
<https://e-activist.com/page/43834/action/1?ea.url.id=3570348>

A key Greater Manchester proposal is to introduce a Clean Air Zone most commercial vehicles, including trucks and vans, as well as buses and taxis, would be charged to drive in. Living Streets believes that to truly reduce traffic, this must be extended to include private vehicles too.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/policy-and-resources/our-policy/air-pollution>

**See also:** <https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/>

## GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

According to local authorities in Greater Manchester air pollution is the greatest environmental risk to public health in the region, contributing to the equivalent of 1,200 deaths a year. They are developing a Clean Air Plan to tackle harmful and illegally high levels of roadside air pollution across the city/region. To understand how to best tackle the problem some local modelling has been carried out which has identified the stretches of road likely to have levels of nitrogen dioxide (more than 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in breach of legal limits beyond 2020 if no action is taken. They include busy stretches of local roads in all 10 local authority areas. Find out more about the GM Clean Air Plan and top tips to reduce and avoid air pollution by visiting [CleanAirGM.com](http://CleanAirGM.com) or contact [info@cleanairgm.com](mailto:info@cleanairgm.com).

## POPE TELLS OIL CEOS 'TIME IS RUNNING OUT, DECISIVE ACTION NEEDED'

**Source: Vatican Media** 15 June 2019

Pope Francis yesterday met with representatives of multinational oil companies and others, at a summit entitled: 'The Vatican Dialogues: The Energy Transition and Care for our Common Home.' During his address to them, he warned that today's ecological crisis, "threatens the very future of the human family" and asked oil CEOs for a "radical energy transition."

The Pope noted that a significant development in this past year was the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which warns that effects on climate will be catastrophic, if the threshold of 1.5°C outlined in the Paris Agreement goal is crossed. "The Report warns, moreover, that only one decade or so remains in order to achieve this confinement of global warming," he stressed.

Faced with a climate emergency, the Pope said: "we must take action accordingly, in order to avoid perpetrating a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations." He went on to say, "it is the poor who suffer the worst impacts of the climate crisis." What was required, he said, was courage in responding to "the increasingly desperate cries of the earth and its poor."

During his address, the Pope focused on the three points that were being discussed during the meeting, which are, a just transition; carbon pricing; and transparency in reporting climate risk.

Pope Francis said that a just transition to cleaner energy, which is called for in the Preamble to the Paris Agreement, can, if managed well, generate new jobs, reduce inequality and improve the quality of life for those affected by climate change. On the issue of carbon pricing, the Pope said, this was "essential if humanity is to use the resources of creation wisely." Speaking on the third point, transparency in reporting climate risk, Pope Francis said that, "open, transparent, science-based and standardised reporting is in the common interests of all."

In conclusion, the Pope warned that "time is running out! Deliberations must go beyond mere exploration of what can be done, and concentrate on what needs to be done."

Pope Francis said that in their meeting last year, "I expressed the concern that 'civilisation requires energy, but energy use must not destroy civilisation.' Today a radical energy transition is needed to save our common home." He continued: "the climate crisis requires our decisive action, here and now and the Church is fully committed to playing her part." However, the Pope did strike a note of optimism, "there is still hope and there remains time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change", he said, "provided there is prompt and resolute action..."

The summit was organised by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

**Read the full text** (using the link below), of Pope Francis' prepared address to participants at the meeting promoted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, on the theme: *'The Energy Transition and Care of Our Common Home'* <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37289>

## CHURCH AID AGENCIES COMMENT ON UK ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET

**Source: CAFOD/Christian Aid** 12 June 2019

The UK is to set a legally binding target to end its contribution to climate change by 2050, Prime Minister Theresa May has announced. CAFOD and Christian Aid have both welcomed the news - with reservations.

Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy at CAFOD, said: "This commitment is one of the most important any government could make. In the face of some dark clouds internationally, putting this target in law shows our government acting as a good global citizen." But he said: "This must be undertaken honestly, transparently and without caveats - especially if the UK is seeking to show leadership credentials ahead of its bid to host the climate talks next year. We need everyone in government to get behind delivering on the target urgently and put in place the policies we need to turn the target from a goal to a reality."

Christian Aid's Global Climate Lead, Dr Alison Doig, said: "It's an historic day when the country that introduced carbon-based industrialisation to the world announces that it will no longer contribute to climate change. The world is facing a climate emergency and the only way we will solve it is by countries going net zero.

"But today's announcement does not go far enough. We urge Parliament to push the government towards a target of 2045 at the very latest. Christian Aid firmly believes 2045 is the latest point at which we can safely reach net zero greenhouse-gas emissions. The poorest people on the front lines of climate breakdown cannot wait while we drag our heels - despite being least to blame, they are suffering the consequences now.

"As well as a long term target we need to ensure that we move right away to a greener and fairer economic model. It's vital that we bring an end to the fossil fuel era, including oil and gas, while promoting energy efficiency, renewables and under-addressed emissions from transport and industry. We need real investment and cross-government action to make that a reality" Dr Doig added: "Global emissions continue to rise. Currently we're trying to tackle a house fire by dousing it with petrol. Only when we stop pumping out greenhouse gas emissions can we start to bring the fire under control."

"The Climate Change Committee advised the Government not to include any international offsets in their net zero calculations, so it is very disappointing to see the Government keeping this option open. Allowing for carbon offsetting slows the rate of decarbonisation while allowing the UK to get the glory of making a commitment. It is vital that the Government ensures real emissions reductions are made within the UK and not merely outsourced internationally through dodgy loopholes. Otherwise this target will end up as state-sponsored greenwashing."

CAFOD/Christian Aid supporters will be taking part in the Time is Now mass lobby of Parliament which will see 10,000 people descending on Westminster to speak to their MP about the need for action on climate change on 26 June.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37271>

## CAMPAIGNERS URGE UK TO STOP TURNING A BLIND EYE TO TAX AVOIDANCE

29 May 2019: The UK must stop turning 'a blind eye' to its shameful role in tax avoidance, Christian Aid has warned, after a trio of UK Overseas Territories topped a new index ranking countries by their complicity in global corporate tax havens.

Launched today, the 'Corporate Tax Haven Index' - a new country ranking developed by the Tax Justice Network - is the first-ever study of its size and scope. The three top ranking jurisdictions on the list are all UK Overseas Territories: British Virgin Islands, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. The UK itself ranks 13th.

Christian Aid's Global Lead on Economic Justice, Toby Quantrill, said: "The Corporate Tax Haven Index is a critical piece of work that deepens our understanding of just how broken the global economic system really is. It highlights the role of the UK and its network of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in undermining the ability of other countries, including some of the poorest in the world, to provide for the most basic rights of their citizens.

"By deliberately enabling tax avoidance, and accelerating the race to the bottom, the jurisdictions topping this list of shame are contributing to a lack of vital services across the globe. This is a problem that Christian Aid first highlighted more than 10 years ago, and which has been widely acknowledged, yet remains fundamentally unsolved."

Mr Quantrill continued: "The UK has helped to set up the system of tax havens identified by the Tax Justice Network and now needs to take a global lead in transforming the system and transforming the way in which corporations are taxed. We have to ensure that global corporations are no longer in a position to choose how much, and where, they pay their taxes. Failing to tackle this problem makes a nonsense of any claims by the UK to be leaders in global development. We cannot continue to provide aid while turning a blind eye to the problems created in our own back garden. If we want to help tackle extreme poverty, then we must get our own house in order first."

The Corporate Tax Haven Index scores each country's tax system based on the degree to which it enables corporate tax avoidance. Each country's corporate tax haven score is then combined with the scale of corporate activity in the country, to determine the share of global corporate activity put at risk of tax avoidance by the country. The greater the share of global corporate activity jeopardized by the country's tax system, the higher it ranks on the index.

The Tax Justice Network was responsible for turning the concept of global corruption on its head when it developed the 'Financial Secrecy Index', [www.financialsecrecyindex.com](http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com) which showed how global criminality and tax dodging was actually being facilitated by countries that appear, on the surface, to be beacons of respectability.

**Corporate Tax Haven Index** <https://corporatetaxhavenindex.org>

**Tax Justice Network** [www.taxjustice.net](http://www.taxjustice.net)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37189>

## CELEBRATING WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

**Clare Shanley:** On Saturday 9 March a group of women peacemakers from across the UK met in Birmingham to celebrate International Women's Day. One of the first discussions of the day surrounded the idea of intergenerational peace work.

As the youngest member of the group, I emphasised the importance of young people feeling welcome at the table of peace and justice work. It is common for us to be dismissed as idealistic or naïve. However, the older women in the group stressed that they saw value in the opinions and voices of the young, in the same way that the young see value in the experience and knowledge of the older generation. Having such an open and honest conversation with these women, highlighted that age does not influence our passion to work towards a more peaceful future. None of the older women in the group were any less motivated and eager to seek change than the younger peace workers and this illustrated to me the great value in intergenerational collaboration.

This discussion was particularly interesting as it challenged one of my preconceived ideas about the day. I was originally quite apprehensive that the women involved would be strongly religious and this was a concern, as despite being brought up Catholic, there are several teachings that I question. After meeting the women, I was comforted by the realisation that while most of us shared belief in God, we all had our own grievances towards Catholicism and organised religion in general. My own preconceived idea highlighted that many people may be put off from getting involved in religious peace-making groups, because of their attitudes towards religion. This may be something that we could address in the future, to get more people involved.

We went on to discuss further barriers that women in peacemaking experience. One of these surrounds the idea of 'not doing enough'. Several women expressed that they didn't consider themselves as peacemakers, as they did not feel their contribution was sufficient. The fact that some women do not place value on their work, may put them off from further commitment. However, many women are naturally peacemakers and their contributions to peace work in their daily lives, however small, are valuable.

It is important that peacemaking organisations emphasise that it is okay to flow in and out of this type of work. Doing as much as we can is enough. Organisations need to be more mindful of the many demands on working women and mothers, to facilitate for their involvement. Women individually need to be more forgiving of themselves, as we cannot do everything.

The day as a whole was enriched with inspiring women peacemakers and stimulating discussions. The main thing I took from the discussions was the importance of inclusion. There needs to be more emphasis on the fact that everyone is welcome in peace and justice work, no matter who they are, where they are from, and how much they can offer.

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Justpeace-June-2019-Final-Draft.pdf> <http://paxchristi.org.uk>

## RISK-TAKING AND VISIONING

**Ellen Teague:** I learnt a new word recently – **Financialisation**. This is the phenomenon by which finance and its way of thinking have come to dominate every corner of business, and inflict damage on the entire economic system and the world's natural life systems. The world we want will be marked by Equity, Inclusion, Liberation, Justice, Solidarity, and Interdependency. Earth's natural gifts will be used sustainably. We play different roles in pursuit of these ideals.

Some of us are **frontline responders** who quickly transition into rapid-response mode and organise communications. Some are **healers** who tend to the intergenerational trauma of capitalism, patriarchy, and the breakdown of ecosystems. Some are **storytellers** and **artists**, binding the past and the present, channelling the histories and experiences of our ancestors to shed light on what is possible today. Some are **bridge builders** who can work across divisions with patience and compassion. Some are **disruptors** who speak up and take action even when it is uncomfortable and risky. Some are **visionaries**, with the ability to articulate, and reconnect us to our values and visions.

Let us consider: What are the injustices that outrage us, and push us to act?  
Where can we take bolder risks, especially if we hold different forms of privilege?

Columban missionaries build bridges between Christians and people of other faiths to tackle climate change, take action to protect the Amazon rainforest, and support refugees. And we highlight visionaries – some are environmental martyrs - who say the world needs 'System Change' not climate change. <https://columbans.co.uk/publications/vocation-for-justice>

## WCC PENTECOST MESSAGE "TO PROPHECY IS TO TELL THE TRUTH"

23 May 2019: The regional presidents of the World Council of Churches sent special greetings to churches around the world celebrating Pentecost. "To prophesy is to tell the truth," reads the message. "No rank or class, no race or club, no gender, nor even any religion, has a monopoly on the truth." Even humble fisherman can rise to tell the truth, the message notes. "And no falsehood or lie can withstand the sturdy witness to the all-inclusive, healing, indeed transformative love of God revealed to us in Jesus. These days, we need such prophetic witness to the truth - in our societies and politics, in ourselves and our churches."

There are no guarantees of objectivity in science or politics or journalism, the message continues. "We must always search out the truth amid competing probabilities and uncertainties and even self-deception," the text reads. "Yet the deepest truths of our lives - the goodness of being, the dignity of all persons, the integrity of creation, the need for justice and peace - can be tested not only by the integrity of the quest but also by the authenticity of their proponents and, in the end, by the criteria of love."

At Pentecost, we witness the birth of the church amid a world of many languages and cultures, continues the message. "God's truth, enflamed by the action of the Spirit, creates a loving community of truth to counter self-serving deceits of the powerful," the message reads. "No religious claim that incites extremism or terror can be true." God's vision of justice and peace is the nonviolent alternative to empire, the message concludes. "Its all-embracing kinship prizes yet transcends differences, rebukes self-serving falsehoods, shames demagoguery, and battles oppression," the message reads. "It heals trauma and reaches out to the stranger and the marginalised."

**Read the full Pentecost Message** <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-presidents/pentecost-message-from-the-wcc-presidents/>

## BRUCE KENT AT 90 - "ENDLESS ENERGY, CREATIVITY AND DEDICATION"

**Ellen Teague** 23 June 2019

I have admired Bruce Kent for many, many years. There was his rousing speech at the million-strong march and rally in London against the Iraq War on 15 February 2003 which made me feel very proud there was a Catholic speaker there. "Wave your banners" he said, "what a beautiful sight you are" and the vast crowd in Hyde Park cheered. There was his public letter to Pope Francis in 2013 calling on him to "speak to the world about the elimination of war and all weapons of mass destruction." Bruce felt there had been "consistent Catholic opposition to nuclear weapons that goes back to Pope John's *Pacem in Terris* but which needs restating." That same year I worked with him to produce a DVD, *Conflict and Climate Change*, which made links between militarism and human-induced global warming. He has endless positive energy, creativity and dedication to peacebuilding.

Perhaps the most prominent Catholic peace activist in Britain, Bruce Kent has served in management of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), the International Peace Bureau, the Movement for the Abolition of War, as well as Pax Christi, the Catholic Movement for Peace. Now entering his nineties, he is still giving talks, nurturing peace initiatives and writing regularly in the Catholic press in Britain about peacemaking. He is currently vice president of both CND and Pax Christi UK. For most of his life Bruce has been London-based. His favourite quote from Catholic Social Teaching is from Pope Paul VI's 1967 encyclical *Populorum Progressio*: 'Peace is the fruit of anxious daily care to see that each person lives in justice as God intends'.

His compassion for people facing hardship or trouble, and victims of conflict, goes back to his youth. His mother was a strong influence with her Catholic faith, and she was also "very generous and outgoing". Whilst being educated at Stonyhurst College "where I became an orthodox, right wing young Catholic" he remembers making a fuss to the Jesuits about the situation of a cleaner who had a two mile walk to work and he thought they should provide transport. After a period of national service in the British Army, where he served in Northern Ireland, and reading law at Oxford University, he entered a seminary to train as a Catholic priest. The seminary encouraged outreach and he paid weekly visits to a TB sanatorium. "Being a Catholic was more than reciting prayers and saying Mass," he says.

In 1969 he visited Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War, and saw the victims of the embargo imposed there. He was "very impressed with the Irish missionaries" serving the people. He points out that one and a half million people starved to death and the blockade was made possible by British weapons. "Biafra taught me the importance of fighting injustice's causes - not just its symptoms" he says, and he has felt the same about the many wars since that time. To ignore the causes of injustice and war "is to short-change the poor of this world." He feels that war and militarism cannot be treated as separate issues by any aid agency dealing seriously with poverty. He has supported Campaign Against Arms Trade since the 1970s, and welcomed their recent legal victory highlighting the cost to civilian lives - particularly in Yemen - caused by British bombs and fighter jets sold to the Saudis.

Bruce was first introduced to the Catholic peace movement in the 1960s when he learnt about Pax Christi's international summer routes for young people. Then he met Archbishop Thomas Roberts SJ, who played a significant role in promoting recognition of conscientious objection to war, using the example of Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian anti-Nazi farmer and also church sexton who was beheaded in 1943 for his refusal to serve in Hitler's army. People like Jägerstätter, Roberts argued, should know they have the clear support of Church teaching. He also took the view that nuclear weapons involve immoral actions: the destruction of innocent people and a willingness to perform such acts in given circumstances. Bruce had witnessed 'Ban the Bomb' demonstrations in London and developed an affinity with peace campaigners and conscientious objectors. It was a decade that saw him working for Cardinal John Heenan in Archbishop's House, being made a 'Monsignor', and clearly being earmarked as a rising star in the Church. He heard remarks about damaging his career if he remained active with CND, but peacemaking had become his primary vocation.

In the 1970s Bruce was juggling chaplaincy work, parish work and peace commitments, including working in the CND office. He was inspired by the great encyclical *Peace on Earth* in 1963 and in 1971 by the "remarkable" document on the Church and Justice produced by the Bishops' Synod in Rome. Called *Our World and You* it focused on poverty, peace, education for justice and the Church's duty to practice what it preaches. In 1980 he became the General Secretary of CND, at a time when Britain announced it would be hosting American cruise missiles and building new Trident nuclear submarines with American missiles and British warheads. Membership of CND mushroomed throughout the 1980s. It saw Bruce - a gifted orator - speak at huge rallies, write articles, do interviews, debates, and visit local groups. He often returned on a late-night train from meetings round the country and rose to say early Mass in his parish before heading to the office for another hectic day. There was also a growth in heated attacks on himself and on CND. On 6 August 1986, for example, as he completed a long walk from the nuclear submarine base at Faslane in Scotland to Burghfield, the nuclear bomb factory in Berkshire, the minutes' silence for the dead of Hiroshima and all wars was drowned out by the loud music of opponents. The regard CND has for Bruce is shown by the short video interview that they put up as a 90th birthday tribute this weekend.

His greatest sadness has been that the Catholic Church "kept the peace movement at arm's length", although a CND survey in the early 1980s found that 25 percent of members were also Christians active in their churches. He is full of praise today for the late Bishop Victor Guazzelli, former President of Pax Christi, and Bishop Thomas McMahon of Brentwood who broke ranks to call for Britain to take first steps to de-escalate nuclear build up. Bruce praises Cardinal Basil Hume "who gave me generous support" despite mounting personal criticism of Bruce's role in CND by prominent Catholics. For Bruce, things came to a head with the prospect of a 1987 general election promising another bitter contest over the nuclear issue, and further personal attacks on his leadership role in CND.

He felt he was in an impossible position. "Many of my fellow Catholics, and other Christians, told me that what I was doing as a priest gave them hope", he says, "though I knew that most of my bishops did not think my work was priestly". In December 1986 he resigned from the priesthood to which he had belonged for 30 years, saying "I no longer find it possible to cope with the strain resulting from the tension between my pastoral role which means so much to me and what is thought to be an unacceptable political role." In the 30 years since that time Bruce has continued focusing on his peace activism. Since 1988 he has had his wife and fellow peace campaigner, Valerie Flessati, alongside him. And he is enthusiastically affirming of the women who have been inspirational in Pax Christi, such as Pat Gaffney and Marie Dennis.



What are today's challenges? Bruce is an outspoken opponent of the British Government planning to spend more than £200 million on building and maintaining another generation of nuclear weapons to replace Britain's current Trident system. This massive sum is, to use the phrase of President Eisenhower in 1953, 'a theft from those who hunger and are not fed'. Bruce feels it makes nonsense of any British commitment to rid ourselves and the world of nuclear weapons. "If you have these weapons, you intend to use them" he says, "and that is immoral". He cannot reconcile that if an individual threatens to attack or actually does attack a neighbour it is an illegal action, and yet nations - particularly powerful ones - often get away with it if they behave this way. I agree with him. Bruce educates young people about citizenship and the work of the United Nations. "I go into schools of all sorts" he says, "and ignorance of the good work of United Nations and of its sub agencies, of the International Court of Justice, or the International Criminal Court is massive". He adds that, "it grieves me that the miracle which brought the UN to life in on 26 June 1945 remains so small a priority in the Church, and in public life generally".

Bruce is an admirer of Pope Francis, and is happy to support his work on any action related to peace, justice, equality and the global trusteeship of our world. "My heart has been lifted by the breath of fresh air which he has brought with him" says Bruce. He feels peace on Earth is going to depend on joined up education and campaigning on overcoming poverty, militarism and climate chaos, and Pope Francis understands these connections. "I believe in nonviolent solutions to problems" he says and is delighted that Pope Francis chose to focus on nonviolence as a political choice for his World Peace Day message for 1 January 2017 and has since then launched an international nonviolence initiative. In addition to his peace work, Bruce engages with refugees, visits prisoners and campaigns for prison reform. He encourages religious orders to support Justice, Peace and Ecology issues with finance and use of premises.

Bruce says: "I have always been a glass half full not half empty person and in terms of peace and social justice the Catholic glass is very much half full". He says it is amongst groups of visionary people such as Justice and Peace groups and Pax Christi "that I find my own sources of life and inspiration." He adds, "I am a comfortable member of my own parish but it is with its Justice and Peace Group that I am really at home and of one mind." Will he ever retire from Justice and Peace work? "I don't think so, it is a part of my faith."

In Bruce's 90th year he has attended and spoken at many peace events. The month of May alone saw him at the annual International Conscientious Objectors Day event in Tavistock Square, the protest outside Westminster Abbey's service to celebrate 50 years of Britain's nuclear weapons, the quarterly meeting of the National Justice and Peace Network, and Pax Christi's AGM, which he never fails to support. Here he was delighted to acknowledge the presence of two bishops, valuing links with a structural Church which remains very dear to his heart. Next weekend he will be attending the 'Save the Earth, Abolish War' conference, organised by the Movement for the Abolition of War, examining militarism and the environment. And these are just the events I know about! He is particularly sharp on how military activities contribute to climate change. Whenever he reads notes from the National Justice and Peace Environment Group meetings, he contacts immediately to gently remind about the links between militarism and environmental crises! But any challenges he presents are always done with graciousness and respect.

This weekend, family and friends - many of them in the peace movement - gathered at the Assumption Sisters' Milleret House in Kensington to celebrate Bruce's long life and his positive influence on them and on society. He looked far younger than his 90 years, and displayed his witty and engaging personality. A niece made a special cake decorated with CND symbols, which he greatly appreciated, and a second cake was decorated with 90 candles, which he had sufficient puff to blow out. All laughed and clapped when, in his review of his life, with Valerie at his side, he said that marrying Valerie was the best decision he ever made! Happy 90th birthday to Bruce Kent! <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37339>

**WATCH: Tablet video - Interview with Bruce Kent during the 2019 Ash Wednesday Witness**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWZkXCJA2Fo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWZkXCJA2Fo)

## LONDON: BRUCE KENT VISITS RICHARD RATCLIFFE ON HUNGER STRIKE AT IRANIAN EMBASSY

**Jo Siedlecka** 22 June 2019: On Thursday, peace campaigner Bruce Kent made a solidarity visit to Richard Ratcliffe who is on hunger strike outside the Iranian Embassy, protesting at the detention of his wife in Iran. Richard's wife, dual British-Iranian charity worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, has been imprisoned by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard for more than three years now. She was arrested at Tehran airport on 3rd April 2016 as she was due to return to the UK from a family holiday with their 22 month old child Gabriella who lives with her grandparents in Tehran and is only allowed very short visits to her mother.

During her incarceration Nazanin has spent many months in solitary confinement, forced to walk blindfolded, and not allowed to see a lawyer or a doctor. The Iranian authorities have accused her of spying, and asked her to sign a confession with 'contents unknown' - but there have been no charges. Her family have been informed that the investigation relates to an issue of 'national security'. Richard said: "It is hard to understand how a young mother and her small child on holiday could be considered an issue of national security. She has been to Iran to visit her family regularly since making Britain her home. Nazanin currently works as a project manager for the Thomson-Reuters Foundation which delivers charitable projects around the world. It has no work in Iran."

Last week Nazanin began her third hunger strike. In support of his wife, Richard set up camp in front of the Iranian Embassy a week ago. He has pledged to fast, drinking only mint tea and water, until Nazanin ends her strike. Family and friends are taking turns to stay with him and he is receiving hundreds of visitors each day, from supporters including politicians, actors and musicians. A wall of flowers and messages is growing around his tent. On Thursday, Bruce Kent, vice chair of Pax Christi and CND went to see Richard. Bruce Kent told ICN: "Richard's courage and faithful support for his imprisoned wife Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe is so impressive. I will be writing to the Iranian Ambassador today to urge him to press his Government, as an act of clemency, to let her go home to her family. United States belligerency under Trump can only make things worse and very dangerous for us all."

If you would like to visit Richard, the Iranian Embassy is at 16 Princes Gate, SW7 1PT. The Post Office is now delivering mail to him at 'The Tent' Iranian Embassy is at 16 Princes Gate, SW7 1PT. A petition appealing for the Prime Minister to use her power to intervene has already received more than two million signatures. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37333>

**If you haven't already - please sign the petition here:** [www.change.org/p/free-nazanin-ratcliffe](http://www.change.org/p/free-nazanin-ratcliffe)

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY: LAUNCH OF CROSS-CHANNEL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE FOR REFUGEES AT FRENCH-BRITISH BORDER

20 June 2019: Today - **World Refugee Day** - a new and innovative cross-channel human rights initiative is being launched by French and British civil society, making a forceful statement against the extremely dire conditions, inhumane and degrading treatment, and excessive police violence facing refugees in Northern France. The initiative, which operates under the name **People Not Walls**, is made up of French and British civil society, faith groups and NGOs - including Help Refugees, Secours Catholique, L'Auberge des Migrants, the Diocese of Canterbury and Refugee Rights Europe with a number of other community-based groups - supporting displaced people living a perilous existence in Northern France.

To mark the launch of this first-ever cross-channel human rights partnership, the group is staging simultaneous public awareness events on both sides of the Channel: on the British side, taking the shape of a 6pm vigil and walk in solidarity in St-Margaret's-at-Cliffe near Dover, and a peaceful evening gathering of locals, refugees and support workers on the beach in Calais.

People Not Walls are uniting in a joint call for action to the French and UK governments, demanding that the current heavy-handed and security-focused approach is replaced by a humanitarian alternative which respects the fundamental rights of exiled individuals trapped at the border.

The event marks the beginning of a first-ever cross-channel campaign aimed at promoting policy change through targeted advocacy at the French, British and European levels. A Declaration summarising the group's concerns and demands for change will be launched during the day - a copy is attached to our covering email.

Barbara Kentish, interim coordinator of People Not Walls, said: "We've come together in an act of solidarity across the Channel, calling on the French and British governments to bring about meaningful change. It's time to show that love knows no borders."

Hisham Aly, Coordinator of Secours Catholique in Calais, commented: "We're calling for unequivocal respect for the human rights and dignity for all those seeking a better future or sanctuary from oppression, persecution and conflict. We're convinced that a different reality is possible, and call on the two Governments to start investing in people, not walls."

Maddy Allen, Field Coordinator at Help Refugees, said: "It's abhorrent that the British and French Governments continue to treat vulnerable people with such disdain. We've decided enough is enough. We're joining forces to make sure our respective Governments act within the law, and in line with their international obligations."

### Refugees in Northern France: The Wider Context

For decades, displaced individuals who are seeking to reach Britain through Northern France have been finding themselves in situations of extreme vulnerability, exposed to inhumane and degrading treatment and facing excessive police violence. Refugees and displaced people report arbitrary arrests and placement in administrative detention centres, where they often experience further violence and are left without access to food or water, sometimes for long periods of time.

The use of tear gas, pepper spray and other agents and intimidation tactics, including sleep deprivation, appears to be part of a conscious strategy to create an extremely hostile environment for refugees and displaced people in Northern France. Pushed deeper into hedges and sand dunes, living in ditches and on rubbish tips, refugees are being forced further into the margins of society - out of sight, out of mind. Meanwhile, volunteers and humanitarian workers who relentlessly provide much needed aid to the people in displacement regularly face intimidation and obstruction to their work by the authorities.

Behind the heavy-handed and inhumane approach implemented in Northern France, are vast amounts of British funding. Press reports<sup>2</sup> indicate that measures along the Channel between 2015 and 2017 cost about £100 million (€114 million), plus £44.5 million (€51 million) added in the 2018 Sandhurst agreement to "strengthen the security infrastructure".

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37323>

**LINK:** [www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com](http://www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com)

## WCC JOINS CALL FOR GLOBAL SOLIDARITY FOR REFUGEES

20 June 2019: The World Council of Churches was among 25 signatories on a statement released by the UN Refugee Agency entitled "Faith Actors call for Global Solidarity." The statement was released on World Refugee Day, observed on 20 June. "The diversity of origins and traditions which make humanity unique are being targeted by intolerance, sometimes by brutal violence, and refugees are often on the front line of this assault," reads the statement. "Based on their religious teachings, as well as on the experience that some of their communities have of being targeted themselves, faith-based actors seek to address xenophobia as one of their special responsibilities."

The number of displaced people in the world has eclipsed 70 million. Social media campaigns, including [#RefugeeForum](#) and [#StepWithRefugees](#) also supported solidarity with refugees.

**READ: Joint statement - Faith actors call for global solidarity**

<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/conferences/5d0a2c444/faith-actors-call-for-global-solidarity.html>

## THE 'QUIET REVOLUTION' SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES

The Bishop of Salford has congratulated Samir Hamwyeh, who has opened a Middle Eastern restaurant in Stretford, Greater Manchester. The Hamwyeh family were the first Syrian family to be welcomed into the UK by a Catholic parish under the Community Sponsorship Project. Samir said, "The Community Sponsorship Scheme is amazing - all the people here have welcomed us with love. We feel part of a big family. The community has given us hope when there was no hope, and given us love when we couldn't support our family". Today, there are 52 families being welcomed into Catholic parishes nationally.

The National Caritas Community Sponsorship Scheme Coordinator, Sean Ryan, was recently interviewed for a Catholic News Podcast. He described the Community Sponsorship scheme as a "quiet revolution in the way that people welcome refugees to the United Kingdom." To find out more about the scheme, visit the introductory page on the CSAN website.

[http://www.csan.org.uk/community-sponsorship/?mc\\_cid=9b65c2b470&mc\\_eid=880d4deb19](http://www.csan.org.uk/community-sponsorship/?mc_cid=9b65c2b470&mc_eid=880d4deb19)

## COURT OF APPEAL FINDS GOVERNMENT BROKE LAW OVER SAUDI ARABIA ARMS SALES

Source: CAAT 20 June 2019

Campaigners have welcomed a Court of Appeal decision to overturn a 2017 High Court judgment which allowed the UK government to continue licensing the export of arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. The appeal hearing took place in April 2019. The judgment comes amidst global concern over the use of these weapons against civilians.

The legal action was brought by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), represented by solicitors Leigh Day, against the Secretary of State for International Trade. The legal action was based on reports from numerous reputable sources that Saudi forces had violated International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in their ongoing bombardment of Yemen. Criterion 2c of the Consolidated EU and National Arm Export Licensing criteria says that export licences should not be granted if there is a clear risk the equipment to be exported might be used in a serious violation of IHL.

In their judgment, the Master of the Rolls, Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton; Lord Justice Irwin; and Lord Justice Singh concluded that it was 'irrational and therefore unlawful' for the Secretary of State for International Trade to have made the export licensing decisions without making at least some assessment as to whether or not past incidents amounted to breaches of IHL and, if they did, whether measures subsequently taken meant there was no longer a "clear risk" that future exports might do so. The judges said: "The question whether there was an historic pattern of breaches of IHL ... was a question which required to be faced." The Secretary of State for International Trade must now reconsider the export licences in accordance with the correct legal approach.

Andrew Smith of Campaign Against Arms Trade said: "We welcome this verdict, but it should never have taken a court case brought by campaigners to force the Government to follow its own rules. The Saudi Arabian regime is one of the most brutal and repressive in the world, yet, for decades, it has been the largest buyer of UK-made arms. No matter what atrocities it has inflicted, the Saudi regime has been able to count on the uncritical political and military support of the UK. The bombing has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. UK arms companies have profited every step of the way. The arms sales must stop immediately."

Rosa Curling of Leigh Day said: "Our client is delighted with the judgment handed down today. The court has ruled the government's procedure for granting licences to export arms to Saudi Arabia is unlawful. The Government has been forced to accept it must now stop granting new licences for arms exports to Saudi Arabia, for possible use in the conflict in Yemen pending any application to the Court of Appeal for a stay.

"The horrors that the world has witnessed in Yemen can no longer be ignored by the UK government. When considering whether to grant licences, the court has confirmed the Secretary of State must assess whether the KSA has breached international humanitarian law previously. The pattern of serious violations do not simply need to be "taken into account" as the Divisional Court found; the Court of Appeal has ruled that the pattern has to be properly assessed and considered. An answer to the question of whether KSA has breached IHL has to be answered.

"The government will now have to reconsider whether to suspend existing export licenses and reconsider its decision to continue to grant licences. Our client hopes the government will reconsider quickly and will decide that no further licences should be granted."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37324>

## WE WON! SAUDI ARMS SALES RULED UNLAWFUL

**Sarah Waldron, Campaign Against Arms Trade** Thu 20/06/2019 09:41

Amazing news! In the last few minutes the Court of Appeal has ruled that UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen are UNLAWFUL. The Court found that the government had failed to properly assess whether there have been breaches of International Humanitarian Law. This historic judgment means that the government must now stop issuing new arms exports licences and suspend existing licences to export arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen, and retake all decisions in accordance with the law. These sales should never have been licensed in the first place. Even as schools, hospitals, weddings, and funerals have been bombed, the government has licensed the sale of billions of pounds of weapons for use in the conflict.

We have now shown that these arms sales were not just immoral, but also unlawful. But even now the government is likely to resist. Every step of the way it has done all it can to keep the weapons flowing. We need MPs to know about this ruling, to keep building the pressure to stop these sales once and for all. Please email your MP today and help us make this count:

[caat.org.uk/unlawful](http://caat.org.uk/unlawful)

## HOUSING JUSTICE NEWS

**The Trussell Trust**, which supports a nationwide network of food banks that provide emergency food and help to people locked in poverty, and **Housing Justice** are currently working together, along with other charities, in a joint campaign called **#5WeeksTooLong** to show how damaging the wait for Universal Credit payments is and demand change from the Government.

Tom Say, Campaigns Manager at The Trussell Trust, explains "we're a country that prides itself on making sure proper support is in place for each other when help is most needed – that's why we created our fire service, our health service, and our benefits system. But Universal Credit – our new benefits system – isn't the poverty-fighting reform that was promised. As a result, people are being forced to food banks, prevented from moving on with their lives in to settled accommodation or being put at risk of homelessness. This is not right.

Everyone who applies for Universal Credit has to wait at least five weeks for a first payment – and some people wait longer. Either that or you can get an 'advance payment' – a loan from the Government to see you through that five week period. But once your Universal Credit payments start, you pay that loan back automatically through deductions from your monthly payments. This is leaving many without enough money to cover the basics. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) tell us that these repayments are affordable, but we know that's not true – food banks and the people they support tell us they can leave people stuck between a rock and a hard place: hardship now or hardship later? Debt is not the solution to poverty.

**Find out more here:** [www.housingjustice.org.uk/blog/housing-justice-me](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/blog/housing-justice-me)

## NEW ZEALAND 'WELLBEING' BUDGET PROMISES BILLIONS TO CARE FOR MOST VULNERABLE

**Eleanor Ainge Roy** 30 May 2019: New Zealand's Labour coalition government has unveiled its "world-first" wellbeing budget, to widespread praise from social agencies charged with looking after the country's most vulnerable people. The finance minister, Grant Robertson, promised billions for mental health services and child poverty as well as record investment in measures to tackle family violence. "Success is making New Zealand both a great place to make a living, and a great place to make a life," Robertson told parliament. He said many New Zealanders were not benefiting from a growing economy in their daily lives, and this year's budget had been designed to address the growing disparity between the haves and have-nots. According to predictions by the International Monetary Fund, the economy is expected to grow at about 2.5 % in 2019 and 2.9% in 2020.

Although comparable countries such as the UK have begun to measure the national rate of wellbeing, New Zealand is the first western country to design its entire budget based on wellbeing priorities and instruct its ministries to design policies to improve wellbeing. As expected, mental health received the biggest funding and investment boost on record, receiving NZ\$1.9bn (£980m). Half a billion was earmarked for the "missing middle" particularly – New Zealanders suffering from mild to moderate anxiety and depressive disorders that did not require hospitalisation but significantly affected their quality of life. Close to half a billion would be spent on new frontline mental health workers stationed in doctor's surgeries and Indigenous clinics, with the government aiming to help 325,000 people with "mild to moderate" mental health and addiction needs by 2023-24.

Mental Health experts described the government's focus on mental health as "ambitious", and expressed excitement and relief that improving the mental health of New Zealanders across the board was finally becoming a priority, as year on year the New Zealand suicide rate continued to climb. "Mental health is no longer on the periphery of our health system. It is front and centre of all of our wellbeing," said Robertson.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said for her, the issue of mental health was "deeply personal". "Almost all of us have lost friends or family members. Ensuring that New Zealanders can now just show up to their GP or health centre and get expert mental health support is a critical first step." Measures to combat family violence also received a record investment of \$320m, in a bid to tackle the country's entrenched family and sexual violence statistics, which see the police respond to a domestic violence incident every four minutes.

Ang Jury, director of Women's Refuge said the increased spending was urgently needed and her sector was "over the moon", despite Women's Refuge itself not receiving a boost. New Zealand is among the worst for family and sexual violence in the OECD<sup>1</sup>. "We are really over the moon about the overall package, it's great. This is the most spending by far, there's not even anything to compare it to. The foundation they're setting up to truly tackle this is absolutely fantastic."

Child wellbeing, long a passionate focus for Ardern, who is in charge of the portfolio, will receive more than \$1bn. According to Unicef 27% of New Zealand children live in income poverty, defined as going without necessities such as nutritious food, healthcare, and a warm, dry home. "As the minister of child poverty, there is no ignoring the stress and strain that material deprivation causes our families," Ardern said. "When our children do better, we all do better."

<https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/30/new-zealand-wellbeing-budget-jacinda-ardern-unveils-billions-to-care-for-most-vulnerable>

<sup>1</sup>. OECD = The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, an intergovernmental economic organisation formed in 1948 and reformed in 1961 with 34 member countries <https://www.oecd.org>

## ECONOMIC GROWTH IS AN UNNECESSARY EVIL, JACINDA ARDERN IS RIGHT TO DEPRIORITISE IT

**Jack Peat** 31 May 2019: In 2012, writing as a lone economics blogger, I put forward a case for why countries should ditch economic growth as a political priority. Long revered as a stalwart of a capitalist society the need to grow has come to overshadow everything else. We prioritise it over our personal health, we prioritise it over the health of the planet and we prioritise it over our happiness. But given that the function of any economy is to provide an environment of subsistence, that could be little short-sighted.

Economist Kenneth Boulding once said that we eat in order to achieve the state of being well-fed, and moving our jaws is simply the 'cost' of getting there. We would therefore be mistaken to focus our attention on the act of chewing as the desired end-state when it is simply the price we pay to become fed.

But as long as growth is the target of our economic systems people will continue to focus on chewing, which is neither a sustainable nor desirable trait of an economy. Which is why I welcomed news that New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has put out a national budget where spending is dictated by what best encourages the "well-being" of citizens, rather than focusing on traditional bottom-line measures like productivity and economic growth. The government will put an emphasis on goals like community and cultural connection and equity in well-being across generations in what has been described as a "game-changing event" by LSE professor Richard Layard. As part of the framework Ardern has set aside more than \$200 million to bolster services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and included a promise to provide housing for the homeless population.

New guidance on policy suggests all new spending must advance one of five government priorities: improving mental health, reducing child poverty, addressing the inequalities faced by indigenous Maori and Pacific islands people, thriving in a digital age, and transitioning to a low-emission, sustainable economy.

Take a look at the biggest problems faced world-wide and you would be hard pushed to find examples that are more grave than the ones set out in Ardern's provisional proposals. Rising inequality, a mental health crisis and climate change are all significant threats, but as long as other major economies prioritise economic growth over wellbeing New Zealand may become a lone wolf trapped in an increasingly hungry bear pit.

<https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/opinion/economic-growth-is-an-unnecessary-evil-jacinda-ardern-is-right-to-deprioritise-it/31/05/>

**Jack Peat** is a business and economics journalist and the founder of *The London Economic* (TLE). He has contributed articles to *The Independent*, *The Big Issue*, *VICE* and *Huffington Post*.

## FAIRTRADE NEWS

It's 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK. Powered by people and community action, it's grown from an idea about justice and fairness among a few like-minded groups, into a household name. It has completely changed how we think about the people who produce the food, drink and clothing we enjoy every day. There are now more than 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally.

Twenty-five years on, we know that the need for Fairtrade, and the fair deal this small but powerful Mark represents, is as acute as ever. So whilst the Mark remains at the core of our movement, and continues to evolve, we'll keep on building on top of certification in our campaigning. This will be essential to meet today's challenges and for the farmers and workers who we'll continue to rely on for the next 25 years to achieve living incomes and living wages. And so as we celebrate the past and look to the future, it's time to recognise the contributions of everyone who has battled to get Fairtrade products into the mainstream and onto supermarket shelves. To recognise this landmark, this autumn we will be taking a moment to reflect on the successes and contributions of everyone who has helped to make Fairtrade a national conversation, rooted in local action. While we're celebrating all that has been achieved so far, there is still much to do, so this will be a great opportunity for Fairtrade campaigners to come together and hear what other Fairtrade supporters have been up to as well as discuss new campaigning ideas as we look to the future and what we need to achieved in the next 25 years to make trade truly fair.

But, as well as celebrating how far we've come together, we also want to encourage local communities to stick with us as we head into the next 25 years and continue to bring change for farmers and workers. We are inviting local authorities to renew their commitment to creating a fairer global trade system and tackling poverty in supply chains. We have created a simple template motion that you can share with your local authority. You can personalise it to recognise particular local achievements or resolutions in your community. **SEE: A model local authority motion on Fairtrade – Fairtrade Foundation:** <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/~media/FairtradeUK/Get%20Involved/Documents/Current%20Campaigns/25th%20anniversary/Local%20authority%20Fairtrade%20motion.docx>

**Get in touch with any questions**, or update us on your motion or other commitments, by contacting Chrysi Dimaki at [volunteer.towns@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.towns@fairtrade.org.uk)

### REGIONAL SUPPORTER CONFERENCES

This autumn also sees plenty of opportunities to celebrate with like-minded campaigners at one of our three Regional Fairtrade Supporter Conferences. They will be in Middlesbrough, Exeter and Nottingham and packed with interesting speakers and workshops. We would love to see you at one of them!

[https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//In-your-community/Regional-Supporter-Conferences?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\\_campaign=June+Fairtrade+News&utm\\_content=June+Fairtrade+Towns+e-news](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//In-your-community/Regional-Supporter-Conferences?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=June+Fairtrade+News&utm_content=June+Fairtrade+Towns+e-news)

### NORTH FAIRTRADE SUPPORTER CONFERENCE

We would love you to join us at the North Fairtrade Supporter Conference. Taking place in Teeside University Students' Union, Middlesbrough, 10:30am - 3.30pm on Saturday 21 September. Registration is free and essential to confirm your place.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//In-your-community/Regional-Supporter-Conferences/North-Fairtrade-Supporter-Conference>

### CELEBRATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

We want to see people from all communities recreating the Fairtrade Mark in inventive ways. From flower beds to aerial photos and cake baking – we're on the look out for the best recreations of the FAIRTRADE Mark to show just how important Fairtrade is to people in the UK. Check out some ideas in our 25th anniversary party leaflet to help you get started.

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Download.ashx?id=%7B8865144B-0B40-4CA1-AD8E-D3DF881F7D25%7D>

## TRAIDCRAFT CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

18 June 2019 (Updated 19 June 2019): Traidcraft celebrate their 40 anniversary this week. Set up as a faith organisation in August 1979. It was launched in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne by Richard Adams with six members of staff. Its first catalogue was hand-drawn featuring a small selection of jute products from Bangladesh. Within two years tea, coffee and subsequently a wide range of other foods were introduced. Today Traidcraft sells fair trade food, clothes/accessories, paper and crafts and works with more than 100 producers in over 30 countries around the world including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, Kenya, Malawi, Chile and Cuba. Products include coffee, tea, fruit juice, sugar, wine, clothing, jewellery, paper and craft items. Among their food products is Fairtrade chocolate, dried fruit, honey, pasta, rice and muesli.

Traidcraft is a founder member of the European Fair Trade Association (EFTA) and also helped establish the Fairtrade Foundation with CAFOD, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam and World Development Movement in 1992. It was also instrumental in the establishment of Newcastle-based company Shared Interest in 1990. Shared Interest is a co-operative lending society that aims to reduce poverty in the world, by providing fair and just financial services.

**TRAIDCRAFT PLC** [www.traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk) aims to tackle poverty by creating a market for fair trade producers and to show the commercial viability of the fair trade model.

**TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE** [www.traidcraft.org.uk/](http://www.traidcraft.org.uk/) is the charitable arm of the Traidcraft organisation. Established in 1986, Traidcraft Exchange aims to enable poor producers in Africa and Asia to grow their businesses, find markets, and engage effectively in trade. Traidcraft Exchange also lobbies and advises governments and organisations with the aim of improving trade rules and market access for small organisations in the developing world.

A special service to celebrate the anniversary will take place at Newcastle Cathedral on 14th September - more details to follow. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37309>

## BOOK: WORDS OUT OF SILENCE

Bernadette Meaden 25 June 2019

### *Words out of Silence* by Jill Segger - Published by Ekklesia

In these turbulent times, as the President of the United States frequently demonstrates, anyone with access to the internet can comment on events as they happen. But as the speed and ease of communication has increased, so the space and time for careful consideration seems to have diminished. Instant opinions become ever more polarised, views get more entrenched and divisive.

In such a context, this collection of comment pieces and poetry is both timely and countercultural. It demonstrates a radically different way of responding to the world, a way which is intellectually rigorous, emotionally connected, spiritually humble, and rooted in silence.

For author Jill Segger, an active member of the Religious Society of Friends, this silence is the silence of the Quaker meeting, which has formed the bedrock of her life and values. As she says in the dedication, her parents gave her both a love of words and a love of silence, and it is from a deep well of this silence that her prose and poetry is drawn.

Unlike many of our current politicians and commentators, who seem to equate dogmatic certainty with validity, Segger always starts from the Quaker position, "Think it possible that you may be wrong." This unfashionable starting point means that her commentary always seeks to be fair and civil, whilst searching for the truth at the heart of an issue. But that is not to say it is timid or lacking in conviction. Far from it. An unwavering belief in the core Quaker values of equality, justice, peace, truth and simplicity mean speaking truth to power, and being unafraid of expressing an opinion which may prove unpopular. This is perhaps most evident in Segger's writing on war and peace, and society's relationship with the military, where she questions our acts of remembrance and what lies behind them.

The comment in the book is very wide-ranging, from social and political issues, to personal experiences like the death of a neighbour or recovering from surgery. This combination of the personal, political and spiritual, and how they interact, makes the book engaging on many levels. The author manages to step back from events in a way that gives perspective, but never becomes emotionally detached. There is tenderness and compassion, and a deep appreciation of even life's simplest blessings.

Balancing the prose, and giving the book its own particular rhythm, is the poetry. The poems are short and beautiful in their clarity, often conveying a single vivid image loaded with meaning, or a fleeting but profound emotion. They seem to carry the deeper truths which the author cannot express in prose. Perhaps what they all have in common is that they seem to spring from a deep sense of connectedness, or love. Love of people, love of community, love of music, or a love of the natural world, which began in the author's native Cumbria.

Readers from all backgrounds, religious and non-religious, may find this book thought-provoking and engaging, and ultimately, encouraging, as it tackles the most serious of issues whilst never forgetting to rejoice in what is good and true.

**For more information see:** [www.bookdepository.com/Words-Out-Silence-Jill-Segger/9780993294280](http://www.bookdepository.com/Words-Out-Silence-Jill-Segger/9780993294280)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/37349>

## MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL TO MARK 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETERLOO MASSACRE

Mancunians will mark the 200th anniversary of one of the darkest days in British political history when artists from more than 20 countries gather for this year's Manchester International Festival. The city will host the world premier of a two-part commission to honour the bicentenary of Peterloo – the 1819 massacre that saw 18 people killed when government troops charged into a crowd of pro-democracy protesters.

*The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo* will see a new work by composer Emily Howard and poet Michael Symmons Roberts, performed by 40 musicians the BBC Philharmonic, the BBC Singers and three Hallé choirs. Emily Howard said it has been "such a privilege" to create a work of art to remember Peterloo. "Many people in Manchester know about Peterloo, but most people here and beyond don't know what happened. This was such a landmark in history and to create a work of art that can raise awareness of it is wonderful."

ANU, one of Europe's most daring theatre companies, will also take to the streets for a day-long series of immersive performances inspired by the stories of those who died in the massacre at St Peter's Field. Other works at the festival include *Tree*, which will take audiences on a thrilling journey in search of the soul and spirit of contemporary South Africa. Created by Idris Elba, whose album *Mi Mandela* provides the soundtrack, and Kwame Kwei-Armah, the new Artistic Director of London's Young Vic, this major world-premiere production takes place in the round within Upper Campfield Market Hall, one of Manchester's most atmospheric spaces.

The full line-up for the 18-day biennial festival includes the filmmaker David Lynch, with his largest UK exhibition of visual art to date, and Maxine Peake. Artists previously announced include Yoko Ono, who will open the festival with a message of peace to the world, Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, and Skepta. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the bed protests Ono and John Lennon made in the name of peace.

<https://inews.co.uk/culture/manchester-international-festival-peterloo-yoko-ono-idris-elba-david-lynch-arts-culture/amp/>

• The **Manchester International Festival** runs from Thursday 4 July to Sunday 21 July – more info: <https://mif.co.uk>

## POWERFUL AND PERSONAL PETERLOO NOVEL TO COINCIDE WITH THE 200 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

*The Song of Peterloo* Legend Press by Carolyn O'Brien. Publication 1 August 2019 to coincide with the 200 year anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre on 16 August 2019. "The novel shines a light on this now infamous massacre, which is now alarmingly politically relevant today." - Lauren Parsons, Commissioning Editor, Legend Press.

• Carolyn O'Brien was born in South Manchester, and lives in the nearby market town of Altrincham with her husband and two children. Carolyn works part-time as a consultant lawyer, as well as writing. Follow Carolyn on Twitter [@CarolynManc](https://twitter.com/CarolynManc)

## DIARY DATES

### JULY

**4-21 Manchester International Festival** <https://mif.co.uk>

**6 Liverpool Annual Assembly "Apocalypse Now? Climate Change: What We Must Do."** 10am until 4pm, at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA. All welcome, lunch included, suggested donation £10. Any questions: [j-p@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:j-p@rcaolp.co.uk)

**9 CWDF Forum: Climate Change Apathy?** 6.45-9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street, Chester, CH1 2BN. Our final Forum meeting before the summer break. Talk by Linda & Stewart Shuttleworth on the theme 'The psychology of apathy about climate change...and what to do about it!'

**9 Quiet Day** 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**13 Emerging Church: the challenge of the Gospel and new responses** – prayer, reflection and discussion with Simon Stewart, Chaplain at The Cornerstone, a community hub, part of the Lancaster Methodist Circuit. 10am-3pm Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre, 169 Sharoe Green Lane, Preston PR2 8HE. Please bring packed lunch, tea and coffee provided. To book please email [anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 01722 555483

**20 World Refugee Day** <https://www.unhcr.org>

**22 Campaign Against ArmsTrade #StopDSEI skills day** to stop the biennial DSEI arms fair scheduled for this September in London. 11am-5pm Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St, Manchester, M4 7HR. Register for your free place on Eventbrite now! <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stop-dsei-skills-day-manchester-tickets-62040407529>

**26-28 NJPN Conference 'Forgotten People, Forgotten Places: Being Church At The Margins' \*\*\* BOOK NOW! \*\*\*** Booking forms from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX 020 7901 4864 [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**27 Quiet Day** 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

### AUGUST

**3 Summer Concert for Palestine** St Bride's Church, Percy St, Liverpool L8 7LT in aid of St Bride's Church building fund and Medical Aid for Palestinians – including supporting neo-natal projects in Gaza. 6pm onwards featuring Amy Winehouse tribute band, *Addicted to Amy*, and the Greenwich harpist, Glenda Alloway. Tickets £7 waged / £5 unwaged – pay on the door. Finger buffet and alcohol included – hopefully donations will more than cover the cost. Contact [jamesfleming1973@gmail.com](mailto:jamesfleming1973@gmail.com)

**23-26 Green Christian Stall at Greenbelt** [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

### SEPTEMBER

**10 Quiet Day** 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**14 Green Christian On the Road Together** [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk) Details: [info@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:info@greenchristian.org.uk)

**21 Peace One Day** an annual day of ceasefire and non-violence [campaigns@peaceoneday.org](http://campaigns@peaceoneday.org) For 2019 #CyberNonViolence will be part of Peace One Day working with leading experts in child safety to measure and demonstrate a more peaceful digital world.

**28 Quiet Day** 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

### OCTOBER

**5 Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Retreat Day** 10am-4pm Lancaster Cathedral. Please bring packed lunch, drinks and biscuits provided. Cost £15 per person. Spaces limited, book ACN NW: 01524 388739 [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org)

**26 Quiet Day** 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

## NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FORGOTTEN PEOPLE, FORGOTTEN PLACES

Pope Francis calls us to be 'a Church which is poor and for the poor'. For NJPN this means to be with those on the margins as equal partners, enabling them to find their own solutions to the issues they face. Conference 2019 will work with Church Action on Poverty who are undertaking a three-year project to challenge the Churches about where they put their resources. It will hear from 'communities of praxis' who are already involved on the margins, and engage in social analysis and theological reflection from their perspective.

Join us in 2019 to explore mission, theological reflection and social action with people who have been pushed to the margins of society by poverty.

**Speakers: Revd Deirdre Brower Latz:** has worked as a pastor in urban/marginalised communities in Bristol and Manchester and lectures at the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester.

**Professor Anthony Reddie:** the leading scholar in the practice of Black Theology in grassroots communities of faithful practice.

**Conference Chair:** John Battle, former Labour MP, Chair of Leeds Justice & Peace Commission

**Workshops AND programmes for children and young people. Booking Form:**

[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Forgotten-People-Forgotten-Places-booking-form.pdf](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Forgotten-People-Forgotten-Places-booking-form.pdf)

## **A MESSAGE FROM NJPN:**

Dear Friends, We're sorry that we haven't been able to bring you any E-Bulletins in the past few months. There are discussions taking place about a way to send a monthly bulletin, so we'll try to keep you posted about that. In the meantime we'll be sharing information on our website [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/) and via Facebook and Twitter: [@NJandPNetwork](https://twitter.com/NJandPNetwork), so do follow us there. Below are links for other news sources which you may find helpful.

## **NEWS LINKS**

**NJPN continues to have a weekly column in *The Universe***, and some of these are uploaded onto our website.

**Independent Catholic News** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/justice-peace-environment> Sign up to receive these daily.

**Catholic Communications Network** [www.catholicnews.org.uk](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk)

**Latest Zenit headlines** ("the world seen from Rome") <https://zenith.org/>

**Vatican Radio homepage** <http://en.radiovaticana.va/>

**World Council of Churches** <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/>

**UK Parliament News** <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/>

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.
- Sign up for weekly e-bulletins from NJPN (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues) and resources at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) 020 7901 4864

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*