Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin April 2018

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There will be a live broadcast of the Episcopal Ordination of Canon Paul Swarbrick on Monday 9th April at 11:30 am to which you are all invited. To take part simply visit

www.lancastercathedral.org.uk or https://youtu.be/b3Pwcl0JIVc In this issue the two winners of the Columban Young Journalist award, please read. P.2-4 both very inspiring; JRS on report about detention of torture victims p.5; IN CHURCHES TOO: Report on domestic abuse P.6; Reflection from Womens World day of Prayer P.7; Former CARJ chair asks why the Catholic Church in England and Wales is turning its back on racial justice P.8; Fairshare -NJPN Day P.9; Debt in the UK and Jubilee Debt Campaign update P.10 and information of some great events and conferences in the north west.

No Faith in Fracking Week Monday 23rd – Saturday 28th April

The "No Faith in Fracking" gathering on the last Friday of every month has blossomed into a week of peaceful protest and shared witness to the sacredness of all of life and our shared resistance to fracking and our care for Earth. People are welcome to join these peaceful, life-affirming gatherings at any time during the week, for as little or as long as they can.

During the *No Faith in Fracking* week each day the procession will leave Maple Farm at 10am to walk the mile to the gates of the Cuadrilla fracking site where the programme will begin. At 5.30pm all there will again gather to return to Maple Farm for food and companionship before departing. The outline Programme

Monday Buddhist chanting and guided meditation, Christian Celtic care of Creation and Earth care ritual

Tuesday A quiet day, with walking and guided meditation by the gates, a silent vigil and Earth care ritual in the afternoon **Wednesday** Women's call and interfaith day with Catholic liturgy, a talk about the effects of climate change and walking meditation led by the Community of Interbeing.

Thursday Earth Day, with walking and guided meditations, readings and silent vigil in the afternoon. Evening workshop with Christian Climate Action.

Friday A morning of meditative activities led by the Dharma Network, Christian Climate Action liturgy, Quaker-led vigil, Earth and spirit poetry and readings, Songs of Hope **Saturday** Beltane Eve Wiccan Festival

People of all faiths and spiritualities and none are welcome to all activities throughout the week.

<u>https://www.facebook.com/NoFaithInFracks/</u> For more details of the programme and practicalities email nofaithinfracksgroup@protonmail.com scarves with quotes from Laudato Si outside the gates of fracking site on feast day of Saint Francis

Brothers and sisters: creation is not a property, which we can dispose of at will; much less so is it the property of some, of a few: creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude"

Pope Francis speaking on creation



Cuadrilla Fracking Site Preston is on New Road Blackpool PR4 3P and on the 61 bus route. There is parking at Maple Farm and food for all is provided there



Winner of the Columban Young Journalists Competition was Ahlaam Moledina (16); and Francesca Bruno (18) and Mary Gurdin (17), all from Bishop Challoner Catholic College in Birmingham have won the Columban 'Migrants are our neighbours' <u>video competition</u> in Britain Find out about all the other winners at http://www.columbans.co.uk/



I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU MADE ME WELCOME - AHLAAM MOLEDINA'S WINNING ESSAY:

We are living in an age of mobility. To some degree, we always have - anthropological studies have shown that for at least 90% of our history, modern humans have lived as nomads. (The Independent, 2014.) In today's West, we view a society that is quick to defend the value of mobility, with the resurgence of populist politics across Europe seemingly holding up the banner of the "little man", and advocating for the promise of the capitalist dream for ordinary people. And yet, the same politics that attempts to endorse social movement is working overtime to keep people in place.

The Home Office has been criticised for its countless layers of bureaucracy and evaluation as part of the immigration process. In 2016, the UNHCR reported that there are 23.5 million refugees and asylum -seekers globally. By this point in 2018, these statistics have only increased.

The refugee crisis and the influx of migration into Europe is no longer the problem solely of politicians. It is, as former Foreign Secretary David Miliband so pertinently put, a "crisis of humanity". Today, an increasing number of ordinary people do more for the crisis than those in positions of influence. In the face of this humanitarian dilemma, we see the true reaches of human empathy, taught to us by religion, upbringing, everyday life. The 65.5 million displaced people around the world show us that we are not simply witnessing a breakdown of peace, but a breakdown of connectivity.

In July 2010, a mere few months before civil war broke out in the Arab Spring, my parents, five siblings and myself migrated to Birmingham, UK from the United Arab Emirates. As the anti-immigration and anti-Muslim sentiment grew, spurred on by right-wing groups such as Britain First and UKIP, we saw ourselves in the face of the fire. I was nine, my younger brothers seven and three, with limited academic ability in a country unlike any we had ever seen. Amidst the sense of antipathy that seemed to surround us, we took consolation in the kindness of our Catholic primary school.

A fifteen-minute walk away from home in one of Birmingham's most multiethnic areas, classes saw a balanced mix of Catholic, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu children, as well as children from other religious backgrounds (or none at all), put their hands together and recite the Hail Mary in perfect synchronisation. The Catholic ethos that permeated that very building, the teachings to "love thy neighbour as thyself" and the message to follow the example of the Good Samaritan imprinted onto every child that came through the green gates. In the whirlwind of political disillusionment and cultural isolation, and in the confusion of being young and uneducated and foreign, we were comforted by the repeated mantra of "migrants are our neighbours" that seeped out of every RE lesson.

Seven years and a Catholic secondary education later, I am now a passionate activist fighting for the rights of refugees and migrants in whatever way I can. Not least because I am a migrant, but because during a period where I believed my presence in this country to be invalid, I received every opportunity that my British-born peers were offered alongside me. After every class service and whole school Mass, Pope Francis' words echo through my mind: "for us Christians, hospitality offered to the weary traveller is offered to Jesus Christ himself."

I am not a Christian, but I was welcomed into the Church as though my headscarf strengthened our connections rather than weakened them.

In 2016, as a member of my school's Chaplaincy Team, I visited St. Chad's Sanctuary, a centre that welcomes and hosts asylum-seekers and refugees during their respective journeys. An average of 150 people per week come to the centre to receive food, clothing and hygiene products, as well as Beginner English lessons to aid their transition into British society.

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In their effort to live as the Papal Message instructs them to, and to welcome strangers and comfort travellers, St Chad's has become one of the most important places for migrants and asylum-seekers in Birmingham. It is a place of community and comfort. Volunteers at St Chad's are now well acquainted with the Arabic word "inshallah" - meaning "if God wills." In an increasingly divisive world where religion, language and even postcode causes strained relationships, St Chad's Sanctuary remains an example of uniting in humanity, in compassion, and in God.

Britain is often viewed by the world as being the epitome of societal tolerance, but in a refugee crisis that bears a chilling resemblance to one which plagues our past, we must examine a history which shows the hidden truth behind the British response to the Holocaust. We see, as The Guardian states, that "current bigotry against asylum-seekers... closely mimics pre-war anti-Jewish sentiments, and in both instances has been legitimised by British immigration policy." The British government rejected ten times as many applications for asylum during the Second World War than they accepted.

Hebrews 13:2 tells us to "remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it." We have been here before. We must not repeat our mistakes. We must not push away these angels seeking the aid they are wholly deserving of.

In this crisis of connectivity, we celebrate our differences and rejoice in our similarities. It is not one's religion, race or nationality that makes them who they are, but the strength of their character and their benevolence for their fellow human. Whether granted by Church, Mosque, parent or life experience, we have a duty to use this intrinsic concern for good to ensure that we make strangers welcome, no matter who they may be.

Ahlaam Moledina



'Migrants are our Neighbours' was Esther Watson, 17, of Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College in Cheshire with ideas for positive action by young people.

Second in the Columban Young People's Competition

There's a coaster on my desk. Grey. Square shaped. Great for holding a good cup of tea. Pretty average really... except it's not. The words printed on it are more relevant than it's round edges or it's wooden-like frame. They express hope, warmth and freedom:

We are all children of migrants.

Think where you are today. The ancestors who got you here. We have all come from migrants, everyone one of us. Whether it be your great-grandparents who escaped the Irish Potato Famine of 1845; your Viking ancestor across in Norway; or even the Neanderthal who gave you red hair, we are never truly Anglo-Saxon (and even the Anglo-Saxons came from Germany!).

A recent study by AncestryDNA showed that the average British person was 36.94% British with the other 63.06% as either Irish, European, Scandinavian, Russian or further afield. This evidence suggests that humanity is not so different. We are all interconnected in some way and are neighbours to each other, regardless of our ethnic background.

The Oxford Dictionary defines 'compassion fatigue' as 'an indifference to charitable appeals on behalf of suffering people, experienced as a result of the frequency or number of such appeals. What can be done to overcome this indifference? To show our interconnectedness?

In 2016, Lord Dubs, who arrived in Britain on the Kindertransport in World War 2, launched the Dubs campaign. He called for 3000 (of the estimated 90,000) unaccompanied child refugees, who had arrived in Europe in 2015, to be welcomed into Britain. *Continue on next page*

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In the midst of the biggest refugee crisis seen since the Second World War, this was an opportunity for Britain to show compassion to vulnerable children, just as Lord Dubs had experienced. So far, the target of 3000 children has in no way been met. The government seems reluctant to allow them entry into the UK.

In Syria, 13.1 million people are in need. There are 6.1 million internally displaced persons and 2.98 million in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. These figures are beyond comprehension. By simply thinking of 1 person out of that 13.1 million, we can recognise a neighbour of ours.

By welcoming and providing a home to migrants, perhaps Britain will see that they're not different to us. They are our neighbours. They represent our ancestors who were migrants themselves. Migrants are real people with hopes, dreams and worries like the rest of us. Swamped in this fog of news bulletins and YouTube videos, it becomes easier to forget the people behind the screen.

So, what positive action can young people take to help our migrant neighbours? One suggestion is to join your local YCW (Young Christian Workers) Impact! group and work together to campaign for refugees. If there isn't one, why not start you own? YCW is an international Catholic youth movement whose aim is to make a difference in the local and wider community. Impact! is a section of YCW dedicated for teenagers aged 12-18.

I am President of my parish YCW Impact! Group. Currently we are working with Caritas on a project to house a Syrian refugee family. Inspired by the words of Pope Francis ("May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe host a family"), we aim to make a difference.

Another option may be to help out at your local refugee centre or charity shop. Charities like the British Red Cross are active in supporting vulnerable migrants – and you can be too! There's a local refugee support centre where I help to load lorries with donations of clothes and food.

Just like that grey coaster is more than it seems, so are migrants.

They are more than the battle zones they escape from, the fear of death or the shocking images emblazoned by the media. They are more than "that foreigner who's stolen my job", the dirty looks at customs, or the neverending cloud of uncertainty.

Migrants are our neighbours; they sit next to us on the sofa not, on the other side of the telly, in a mystical land that can be put on standby.

Let's remember the Golden Rule: love thy neighbour as thyself.

Esther Watson



Share the Journey walk within your parish, or to simply encourage people to take part in a 'Walk to Church Sunday.' You can do this at any point throughout the year, but many are choosing to do theirs to coincide with the Share the Journey 'Week of Action', which runs from 18-24 June.

Although the distance of your parish walk may be small, others across England and Wales are walking too. Together, we hope to walk 24,900 miles – the distance around the whole world. This walk is a gesture of solidarity, a chance to reflect and an opportunity to send a powerful message that world leaders need to step up to support people forced to flee.

Share the Journey resources at <u>https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey</u>



Cruel detention of torture victims at Harmondsworth shows need for end to indefinite detention, says Jesuit Refugee Service

Jesuit Refugee Service UK has called on the government to end indefinite detention, in response to the latest damning inspection of Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, which highlighted the continuing detention of highly vulnerable men, sometimes for long periods of time. JRS UK described the report's findings as "deeply troubling, but sadly not surprising".



Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons published their report in March of an unannounced inspection into Harmondsworth IRC. The report highlights "considerable failings" in safety and respect for detainees. Inspectors raised concerns that vulnerable detainees are not being adequately safeguarded, with mental health needs remaining largely unmet in the prison-like conditions. Worryingly, in nearly all cases examined, detention was maintained despite clear evidence that detainees had been tortured. Nearly one third of the population was identified as being at risk under the Home Office policy, yet was not released. Potential trafficking victims were not referred to the appropriate channels and unable to receive necessary assistance, as many staff members were unfamiliar with the referral mechanism.

The report recommended the introduction of a time limit on the length of detention. The continuing absence of a time limit on immigration detention led to several individuals being detained for excessively long periods of time: 23 men had been detained for over a year and one man had been held for over 4.5 years. The UK is the only country in Europe which detains migrants indefinitely without a time limit and practices routine detention of migrants for administrative reasons.

JRS UK is one of a number of organisations providing regular pastoral support to men held in Harmondsworth IRC. Such services provided by voluntary groups were one of the few areas highlighted for praise in the inspection report. The availability of advice surgeries and social visits carried out by these groups, including JRS UK, was deeply appreciated by detainees and contributed to easing some of the negative effects of detention.

Commenting on the outcome of this inspection, JRS UK Director Sarah Teather said:

"This report once again reveals the cruelty of the detention system, a system which incarcerates many already acknowledged to be vulnerable. The widespread detention of torture victims is unacceptable, and it is only the tip of the iceberg. People displaying mental health needs, victims of human trafficking and individuals suffering from severe physical conditions and disabilities are all routinely detained despite evidence that this detention is damaging to their health. What makes this situation even more outrageous is the fact that detention can last for an indefinite period of time. 23 men in Harmondsworth have been detained for over a year: that is a year of someone's life lived in limbo, in prison-like conditions without having committed any crime.

"Our experience of supporting detainees corroborates the report's findings that detention has a crippling effect on individual well-being. Our volunteers routinely come across extremely vulnerable individuals whose conditions are made significantly worse by the uncertainty and despair that surround them. In light of this report, we can only renew our commitment to stand in solidarity with those held in immigration detention and to continue to accompany them through this dark time in their lives.

"Once more, we call on the government to recognise the devastating effects of detention. It is life-destroying. It is time to end indefinite detention."

Harmondsworth IRC, which has an operational capacity of 676 male detainees, is built to Category B prison standards and is currently Europe's largest detention facility. It is one of the eight long-term residential immigration detention centres in the UK. In 2017, a total of 27,331 people entered detention. 53% of people leaving detention were released back into the community.

JRS UK has an outreach service to the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centres where it undertakes pastoral and befriending work with all those held in detention, including asylum seekers, and others struggling to regularise their immigration status. It has previously expressed concern that many of those seeking its help appear to be victims of trafficking, and reacted with alarm at the rising numbers of EU citizens in detention also seeking its help. JRS UK is joining others in arguing for an end to indefinite detention.

To find out more about how you can support those in immigration detention, either by raising awareness of the situation or by volunteering to visit someone through the JRS volunteer scheme contact detentionuk@jrs.net

IN CHURCHES TOO: DOMESTIC ABUSE HAPPENS TO CHURCHGOERS

One in four Cumbria churchgoers who took part in recent research say they have experienced abuse in their current relationship.

Churches in Cumbria were invited to participate in a ground-breaking study of domestic abuse, published on 21st March. According to Dr Kristin Aune of Coventry University, who led the research, the findings were compelling:

"Domestic abuse happens in churches too," she said. "A quarter of the people we heard from told us they had, for example, been physically hurt by their partners, sexually assaulted, emotionally manipulated, or had money withheld from them. This includes twelve women who have experienced between ten and twenty abusive behaviours and six women who are currently in relationships where they fear for their lives.

Co-author Dr Rebecca Barnes, of the University of Leicester, added: "More broadly, 42% of the people we heard from had experienced in a current or previous relationship at least one of the abusive behaviours we asked about."

438 churchgoers from a range of churches completed the survey, and 109 of them said they had experienced abusive behaviours in their current relationship. People aged over 60 were less likely to say they had experienced domestic abuse than younger adults were, and women more likely to say they had experienced serious forms of abuse than men.

Only 2 in 7 churchgoers felt their church was adequately equipped to deal with a disclosure of abuse.

"We clearly have a lot of work to do," says Bishop of Carlisle The Right Revd James Newcome. "Churches in Cumbria have been taking this very seriously for many years, which is why we wanted to take part in the research. Many churches have taken part in training, promote helplines and liaise with local support services and we have come a long way in understanding that this is a vital part of our ministry to the community. It's time to recognise that we must also examine ourselves."

Some clergy in Cumbria have themselves survived domestic abuse. Before meeting the man who is now her husband, Anglican parish priest Rev Eleanor Hancock was in an abusive relationship for ten years:

"We lived on a farm, so I blamed my bruises and injuries on slipping in the yard or being kicked by a sheep," she says. "He was emotionally abusive too, calling me fat and ugly and blaming me for everything. I kept making excuses for him because I loved him, but eventually I knew I had to leave."

Eleanor went with a friend to church, which was an important part of her healing, and was later ordained. In parish ministry, she found that her experience helped her advise couples preparing to marry and to listen to people who were being manipulated and abused.

"The church is a vital resource for any community and, at its best, is both a refuge and a place where deep transformation happens," says Mandy Marshall, Co-Director of Restored, the organisation founded to help churches around the world to tackle violence against women.

"Talking in church about domestic abuse is the most important first step, whether that's mentioning it in sermons or being open in pastoral conversations to respond to disclosures. This vital research is the wake-up call we need to help us understand that this happens in churches too."

You can download the report here.

For resources to help churches address domestic abuse go to <u>www.restoredrelationships.org/churchpack</u>

21 March 2018 — Carolina Kuzaks-Cardenas

Churches Together in Cumbria have worked in partnership with **LET GO** on an awareness programme for the churches of Cumbria. 21 successful training days have been held for clergy and pastoral carers.





Resources from Churches Together in Cumbria Download : <u>Charter for Churches</u>

 HURCHES
 Leaflets:
 What can Christian communities do about domestic violence?

 SETHER
 Help and support for victims of domestic violence and abuse.

inCUMBRIA http://www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk/domestic-violence.html

"And God Saw that it was very Good'

Reflection from Sr Anthony Macdonald for Women's World Day of Prayer

This year's theme is so relevant given that we have reached a crisis point in our care for planet earth. In the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical 'Laudato Si,' 'Our planet is in danger of becoming a heap of filth'

How has this come about? We have acted as if the earth has infinite resources to be exploited at will whereas the opposite is true. Wealthier nations today live in a' throw away culture' whilst the poor do not even have recourse to clean water. With modern means of communication at our disposal we can no longer claim ignorance!

As Christians, we must be at the forefront of attempts to heal the damage and reverse injustice remembering the words of God to Adam 'till and keep the earth'. In other words to act as stewards responsible to God for the care of this beautiful world. Listen to these words written by the astronaut Edgar Wallace.

'Suddenly from the rim of the moon in long slow motion, moments of immense majesty, there emerged a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate, sky blue sphere, laced with snowy, swirling veils of white moving gradually in a thick sea of black mystery. It took me more than a moment to realise - this is the earth- My Home'

We shall never have such an experience but I am sure those of you who watched the series, 'The Blue Planet' were filled with the same awe and wonder as that astronaut. The series ended with graphic images of the horrific damage done to our seas by plastic waste. Sea creatures dying painful deaths and in danger of extinction, beautiful beaches in the Pacific covered with plastic rubbish from hundreds of miles away.

I could further list the pollution of air, land and rivers causing illness to so many and destruction of species but let's focus on what each of us can do to remedy the situation.

Firstly let's listen to the psalmist's words of praise for creation. They tell us

'Lord our God How majestic is thy name in all the earth Ps. 8 The trees of the Lord drink their fill ', Ps. 103

Sing praise to Him and exult Him forever, Bless the Lord all birds of the air Sing praise to Him and exult Him forever' Dan: 3

'Bless the Lord sun and moon

These wonderful poets saw themselves not as separate from creation but as part of it. They reverenced the earth and had a sense of responsibility for its welfare. They saw everything as interconnected. The Bible mentions times of rest not only for men but also for animals and for the land. We have lost that vital connection but it is not too late to do something about it. Judi Dench in a recent programme, 'My Passion for Trees' was amazed to discover that trees communicate with each other. Maybe talking to trees and plants isn't so crazy after all! Why is our blood red? Because it contains iron a mineral from the earth. Why are our teeth white? Because they contain calcium, also a mineral. I heard a speaker recently exclaim.' We are made of stardust' Amazing but true! Everything is interconnected and should be treated with reverence. We rush through life blindly and how often we say. 'I haven't enough time'

The Welsh poet WH Davies wrote,

'What is this life if full of care We have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows.

Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass. No time to see in broad daylight Streams full of stars like skies at night. A poor life this if full of care

No time to see when woods we pass

We have no time to stand and stare'.

We miss the beauty right under our noses. I read this letter in a Glasgow newspaper and was so impressed by its comments. Father Donald had the right attitude of gratitude and appreciation.

'Most days I am fortunate to walk through Cowan Park. It is always beautifully kept and the trees are lovely in every season. Further down the road, the trees, planted some 40 years ago outside St John's, offer cascades of blossom every year. Across the road, beside the flats, flower beds edge the lawns. They are so small, yet the colour, contrast and individual character of the flowers are attractive. I planted none of these trees or plants, but, because other people did, I can enjoy their beauty as a free gift. I am happily in debt to so many people. If I believe that life is better, where, for example, love, justice, peace, gentleness and self control flower I should try to plant them. Such seeds do grow. Everyone can respond to a word of encouragement, sympathy or appreciation. 'The Kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, the smallest of the seeds. Yet, when it is sown it grows....and birds can rest in its branches'. I should not be afraid to plant the seed of the Gospel, if only to thank so many who did it before me.' Father Donald Macdonald

Pass on a love of flowers, trees and birds to your children and grandchildren. Plant seeds, walk in the park, gaze at the sunset, marvel at the motion of the waves. There are miracles happening outside your door!

Turn to our Lord Jesus who so often prayed in the mountains ,spoke of the cycle of the seasons and of the beauty of nature. Ask Him to help you share in His insights so beautifully expressed in these words from Matthew's gospel,

'Consider the lilies of the field They labour not nor do they spin

Yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these.'

Jesus was referring to a wild flower.

Finally, let's close our eyes for a minute and resolve to take one action from today on to heal our beautiful universe.

Sr Anthony Macdonald, member of Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission

Former Catholic Association for Racial Justice chair asks why the Catholic Church in England and Wales is turning its back on racial justice

Paul Donovan

The former chair of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) Margaret Ann Fisken has questioned why the Church is turning its back on racial justice at such a crucial time. The former CARJ chair reacted angrily to the news that the Bishops Conference of England and Wales (BCEW) are now cutting the funding, having taken agency status away from CARJ last autumn.

"Racism is still a fundamental issue in public life. It is alive and well and in direct conflict with Catholic Social Teaching. To me, and I'm sure to many others, CARJ's loss of agency status is a disturbing development. Who will now be the official voice of the Church on these issues?" said Mrs Fisken. "The sin of racism is something that the Church must not only continue to speak out against, it must also seek to set an example by engaging with the issues in practical ways."

The comments came after it was revealed that CARJ has now been reduced from the main recipient of the proceeds from the annual Racial Justice Sunday collection to being one of a number of "external organisations," which can apply for funds from a grant drawn from the proceeds of that collection.

The latest move follows the decision of the BCEW back in the autumn to take away agency status from CARJ. At that time, the bishops agreed that CARJ would receive some of the money from the Racial Justice Sunday collection.

CARJ has largely been funded from the proceeds of the collection, which has topped £100,000 some years, since it was first instituted in 1995.

A spokesperson for the Bishops Conference confirmed that: "a proportion of the funds raised by Racial Justice Sunday will be used to set up a grant system, which would allow external partners to apply for funding for specific projects pursuing the mission of the Church to support those affected by and to fight racial injustice." The BCEW then confirmed that CARJ would be one of the "external partners" who could apply for these funds.

The BCEW had previously indicated that its priorities now lie with work on refugees and human trafficking. Racial Justice Sunday has also been moved from its traditional date on the second Sunday in September to the 28 January this year.

CARJ activities, which have included confronting racism in the Church and beyond, doing outreach work with schools and parishes, running the Travellers Support Network and the Urban Network, are now being put at risk. CARJ works in dioceses and parishes to support people from diverse backgrounds. CARJ aims to empower black and minority ethnic Catholics to give them an effective voice in the Church and in the wider society. <u>PAUL DONOVAN http://paulfdonovan.blogspot.co.uk/</u>



https://www.carj.org.uk/



Earth Day is Sunday, April 22

Pope Francis says, "Bring the whole human family together . . . for we know that things can change." (Laudato Si', 13)

As Catholics, we're called to preserve the good gift of creation and to protect the vulnerable people who share it. We have the power to <u>answer the call</u>.

There are 1.2 billion of us Catholics. We can make a big impact if we act together. Protect creation

http://catholicclimatemovement.global/

FareShare East Midlands



input from Peter and Shirley Yates at the NJPN Open Networking Day

FareShare redistribute surplus food to charities and community groups that distribute food to vulnerable people. They launched 10 years ago in the diocese of Leicester (CofE); addressing homelessness and destitution in the area.

They started out as a group of 20 people in groups and using borrowed vans to distribute food. The main problem they experienced was that too much of the same type of food was being donated. They presently have 1 full time member of staff and two warehouses supplying 240 community groups.

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates of 1,900,000 tonnes of food are wasted in the U.K. annually. FareShare manages 4% of edible surplus food available, equating to 13,552 tonnes. One of the reasons for the waste is due to consumer demand / choice; different people have different tastes and retailers, due to incorrect forecasting, can oversupply certain lines. Other reasons include, packaging errors, short date coding, seasonal stocks, deleted lines retail rejections and manufacturing mistakes.

End Hunger U.K. estimate that 1 in 4 skip a meal due to funds, 1 in 4 worry about not having enough to eat and 1 in 8 have gone a whole day with no food. There are more children and adults struggling to feed themselves compared to 4 years ago, (source, Joseph Rowntree Foundation).

Nationally, there are 21 FareShare depots in England and Northern Ireland. Overheads are expensive taking into account the rental of vans and warehouses. Running costs are covered partly by grants and membership fees from community members. They work with many of the major food retailers including Tesco, Asda, Co-operative, Lidl, Sainsbury's, M&S and Waitrose. Locally in Derbyshire, Public Health has funded a number of programmes to kick start a sustainable food poverty strategy working in conjunction with the local authority.

Without FareShare some homelessness charities would not be able to meet daily demand for meals, FareShares's work also allows charities to better utilise their own resources. Rose Hill Junior Youth Club reported that they are making a saving of about £9000 per annum.

Peter advised in his opinion that ultimately, local government remain responsible for addressing food waste. There is a need to challenge the structures and systems; the political arm of our society's infrastructure. However, a distinction needs to be made between 'politics' & 'party politics'.

Peter recommended that the Church Urban Fund (<u>www.cuf.org.uk</u>)was the best resource to use to find information on local statistics; the CUF being a Church of England commission.

WRAP: <u>www.wrap.org.uk</u>

FareShare: <u>www.fareshare.org.uk</u>



As protesters poured along the streets of London, on Easter Monday, 1959, hot-foot from the Aldermaston nuclear bomb factory, they passed the church of then-priest Bruce Kent.

Bruce was horrified - every one of the five weddings he was conducting that day was disrupted! But the marchers gave Bruce food for thought and led to his lifelong dedication to campaigning against nuclear weapons. Six decades on, the threat that nuclear weapons pose - to humanity, to the planet - is even greater Bruce has changed the hearts and minds of many during that time, and he still campaigns today. But he can't do it alone. Change requires mass action and mobilisation – people united to bring about the world they wish to see. CND is part of that process - an organisation committed to that change.

Are you are part of that too, like Bruce, with the resolve to bring about a world without nuclear weapons? **Find out more at <u>www.cnduk.org</u>** On 6th March Anti-poverty campaigners called on the Government, the Bank of England and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to instigate a Household Debt Jubilee in order to release low income households from billions of 'unjust' consumer credit debt.

The call for action is being made the Jubilee Debt Campaign and the Centre for Responsible Credit. It comes as <u>new analysis</u> indicates that the burden of repaying Britain's £239 billion mountain of consumer credit debt is weighing heavily on poorer households.



• 3 million households (containing approximately 7 million people) are now severely indebted – paying more than a quarter of their income to their creditors. Of these, over three quarters (77 percent) are living in households with incomes below £38,000 per year.

• The overall amount of debt owed by the poorest fifth households has doubled in the past two years, as falling real wages and welfare cuts, for those in and out of work, have hit hard.

• The poorest households now owe an average of £9,800 to consumer credit lenders, and are paying at least 10 percent of their incomes on debt interest and 35 percent on debt repayments overall.

• These households owe more, relative to their income, than better-off households, and in many cases will take as long as 10 years to clear their debts.

The campaigners have proposed measures to identify the households hardest hit by unjust debt and implement a partial write-off to bring their debts down to a level that can be repaid within a maximum 3-year period and with payments not exceeding 10% of their income.

They also propose an extension of the 100 percent total cost cap which currently applies to payday lenders to all areas of the consumer credit market, so that no-one should have to pay back more than twice the amount that they originally borrowed.

Briefing paper available to download

The case for a household debt jubilee *How to tackle the burden of unjust debt on* low income households <u>https://jubileedebt.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Case-For-A-Household-Debt-Jubilee.pdf</u>

Since the global financial crisis of 2008, there has been a boom in irresponsible lending to impoverished countries. This lending boom is threatening to set a new debt trap for people in poverty around the world, where governments are unable to afford to pay their debts and provide basic services like healthcare and education to their people.

The UK is responsible for regulating much of this lending, with 90% of publicly traded loans to African governments being given using UK law. Yet these loans can be given in secret, and vulture funds can use UK courts to ignore agreed debt restructurings and sue for huge profits. We are campaigning to change UK law to ensure that loans given under UK law, or by British-based banks, are transparent, and so that vulture funds cannot seek large profits out of debt crises through UK courts.

There are lots of ways to get involved in the campaign against debt as a weapon of control, starting now:

Take our latest action against debt injustice Together our voices are powerful! Add yours to our <u>latest campaign action</u>.
 Keep in touch with us via our e-news list and supporter magazine Join our <u>email list</u> for the most important campaign news and action alerts, and <u>sign-up to receive our free Drop It!</u> magazine through the post (twice a year).

ur work by donating



The Jubilee Debt Campaign is a UK charity working to end poverty caused by unjust debt through education, research and campaigning: The Jubilee campaign has helped secure \$130 billion of debt cancellation for 36 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. https://jubileedebt.org.uk/

Individual donations keep us fighting for debt justice.

4. Affiliate your local group, faith congregation or trade union <u>Affiliated groups</u> are a key part of our campaign.

5. Find out what is going on in your area

Check out our <u>events and workshops</u> or your <u>local group</u>. This year we are focusing on organising events which provide our supporters with opportunities to lean, connect and skill-up. Find out what is taking place near you

The Plastics Solutions Investor Alliance

ECCR has joined this alliance and will lead on some of its UK activities.

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) is a church-based investor coalition and membership organisation working for economic justice and human rights

The Plastic Solutions Investor Alliance is a group of investors and allied investor-focused groups committed to engaging publicly traded companies on plastic pollution. By educating and involving substantial numbers of concerned investors, this group will elevate the priority of the issue and serve as a catalyst for corporate change.

The challenge: While plastic has many beneficial uses, its production has grown exponentially for many years without sufficient regard to its environmental fate or ability to be recycled. At a time of intense interest in transition to a circular economy, only 14% of plastic is recycled. There are special concerns about its impact on oceans, which contain an estimated 150 million tons of degraded plastic, with 8 million tons added annually—equivalent to a garbage truck load every minute. In the marine environment, plastics break down into indigestible particles posing a threat to marine life. Plastic production is projected to triple by 2050. Scientists predict oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050 if no actions are taken.

Focus on packaging: The initial focus will be on plastic packaging, the largest overall application of plastic. 25% of all plastic produced is made into packaging (59% in the EU), most of it for single use applications where materials are used briefly and then discarded. These materials then persist in the environment, partially degraded, for hundreds of years. Most plastics are burned, buried or littered onto land or oceans. Companies that place plastic packaging on the market need to redesign it to be fully recyclable, and then take financial responsibility to ensure it is recycled at high rates.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies are already required in EU member states and many other countries, but not in the U.S. (EPR laws are considered insufficient in some areas, prompting discussions like the current one in the UK for container deposit laws.)

Climate link: Many investors are already focused on climate change issues. The alliance can help educate investors about the growing links between climate change and plastic throughout its life cycle. Nearly all plastics are derived from fossil fuels. Greenhouse gas emissions by the plastics sector are expected to grow to 15% of the total global annual carbon budget by 2050. Plastics comprise an increasing portion of profits for oil companies like ExxonMobil (27%).

Activities: Through shareholder engagement, the alliance will initially engage a range of consumer goods companies to redesign packaging to be recyclable or compostable to the extent possible, to evaluate when plastics use is absolutely necessary for single use applications, to set goals for reduced use of plastics, and to take more responsibility to ensure that recyclable materials get recycled. A bottom line assumption is that single use plastics need to be reduced, given projected growth rates of plastic and the huge challenges associated with just processing the current volume of plastics. Alliance members, as possible, will:

- · Lead or participate in corporate dialogues
- · Promote corporate disclosure on plastics use and reduction goals
- \cdot Where dialogue is not successful, file shareholder proposals as practicable
- · Contribute to research on plastic production, use, and pollution
- \cdot Publicise plastic pollution as an emerging crisis in their communities of influence
- \cdot Elevate the issue at ESG/SRI industry forums
- (Environmental, Social Governance and Socially Responsible Investing)
- \cdot Develop sustainable packaging criteria for ESG investing guidelines
- \cdot Encourage peer investors to participate and/or sign letters to companies on plastic pollution
- \cdot Seek to involve Asian ESG investors given the high levels of plastic deposition in Asian markets

Find out more: www.eccr.org.uk

The Bishops of England and Wales will hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool from Friday the 7th until Sunday the 9th of September

Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. Over the three days, there will be speakers, seminars, and workshops, Bishop Robert Barron from Los Angeles will be the Keynote speaker on Saturday. Bishop Barron is the founder of Word on Fire, which evangelises through the media. He is the presenter of the acclaimed series Catholicism – Pope Francis says: *'When Bishop Barron speaks, the airwaves tremble'*

DIOCESAN TALKS IN PREPARATION FOR THE EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE

"Eucharist, Reverence or Intimacy" Thursday 26 April, 7.00pm:

Father Paul Johnstone St Mary's Parish Room, Cleator

"Ecclesia de Eucharistia" Saturday 5 May, 10.00am Father Manny Gribben Our Lady of Furness Parish Centre, Barrow.

"Eucharist - the new heavens and the new earth" Tuesday 26 June, 7.00pm:

Father Philip Conner University Catholic Chaplaincy, Lancaster.

"Sacrament of Charity" Tuesday 3 July, 7.30pm: Father Andrew Allman St Clare's Hall, Preston.

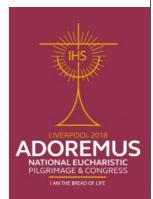
Light refreshments available at all these events.

Congress Programme

Friday 7th – talks & workshops £40 per person. More information will come from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) about the content of the Friday talks and workshops. Catechists, clergy, chaplains, school staff and musicians are the audience for these talks.

Saturday 8th – all day event at the Liverpool Echo Arena. £40 per person with keynote speaker Bishop Robert Barron (Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles).

Sunday 9th – 9:30 & 11am Masses at the Metropolitan Cathedral with a Eucharistic Procession at 12:30pm. These Masses require tickets because of delegate numbers.



How Holy this Feast

Group resource for Reflection and Prayer Each session begins with a time of reflection and

discussion and ends with a time of prayer before

More details about the resource including notes

There are six sessions. After the first session,

Introduction, the material can be done in any

The Eucharist and the Environment 82.83 kB

The Eucharist and Evangelisation 80.35 kB

The Eucharist and the Family 82.64 kB

The Eucharist and the Parish 78.37 kB

The Eucharist and Social Action 81.46 kB

order and a parish may choose just to use some of

Resources available for download at:

Events/Adoremus-National-Eucharistic-Pilgrimage/

http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-

for leaders. How Holy this Feast: Notes

the Blessed Sacrament.

them rather than all. Introduction 81.61 kB

Preparatory-Material

Not everybody will be able to have seats for the Arena

there will be many great events which are free and open to all

These will take place in all the churches and venues around the city centre. There will be exhibitions on archived history of church in this country during penal and more recent times and another on eucharistic miracles, a chance to hear Jimmy McGovern explain how he came to write the series 'Broken' and what he based the script on, a 'Nightfever' drop in for young adults , and lots of workshops talks and events as well as opportunities for prayer and adoration. All of these would run throughout the weekend and will provide opportunities for all ages to be involved in what will be the most significant gathering of the church in this country to celebrate and reflect and pray together in recent times.

Programme will be available soon

Working for a Better Future

The world of work has changed substantially in the last 20 years. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, digitalisation, outsourcing, "gig" working and precarious employment mean that trade unions must find new ways to protect their members.

Catholic Social Teaching has been influential in the past, for example Cardinal Manning's intervention in the Dockers' Strike of 1889, and more widely in Catholic majority countries. Marking the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Trade Union Congress, a meeting has been organised to gain insights from Catholic Social Teaching into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, bringing together expertise from trade unions, the Labour Party and the academic world to explore the contribution that this teaching brings. The event will be held in the historic Mechanics' Institute, where the TUC held its first meeting 150 years ago.

Caritas Social Action Network and Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice

Working for a Better Future

May 1st 2018, the Mechanics' Institute, Manchester

Speakers

Dr Mary Bousted Joint General Secretary of the National Education Union,2017, President of the TUC Bishop William Kenny Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Rob Flello Political consultant, former Labour Member of Parliament and former shadow Justice Minister

Panel discussion with Dr Anna Rowlands St Hilda Associate Professor of Catholic Social Thought & Practice Clifford Longley Author, broadcaster and journalist

Chair Kevin Flanagan National President GMB Commercial Services Section

The meeting will start with a buffet lunch at 1pm for 2pm start, to conclude at 4.30pm.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-for-a-better-future-tickets-43315246067

Middlesbrough Diocese Justice and Peace Commission Mission Earth 2.

An event to share creative ways to care for our Common Home and to launch Middlesborough Diocesan Environment Policy

Saturday April 21st 10.00a.m.- 2.00p.m. All Saints Lower School Nunnery Lane York YO231JG

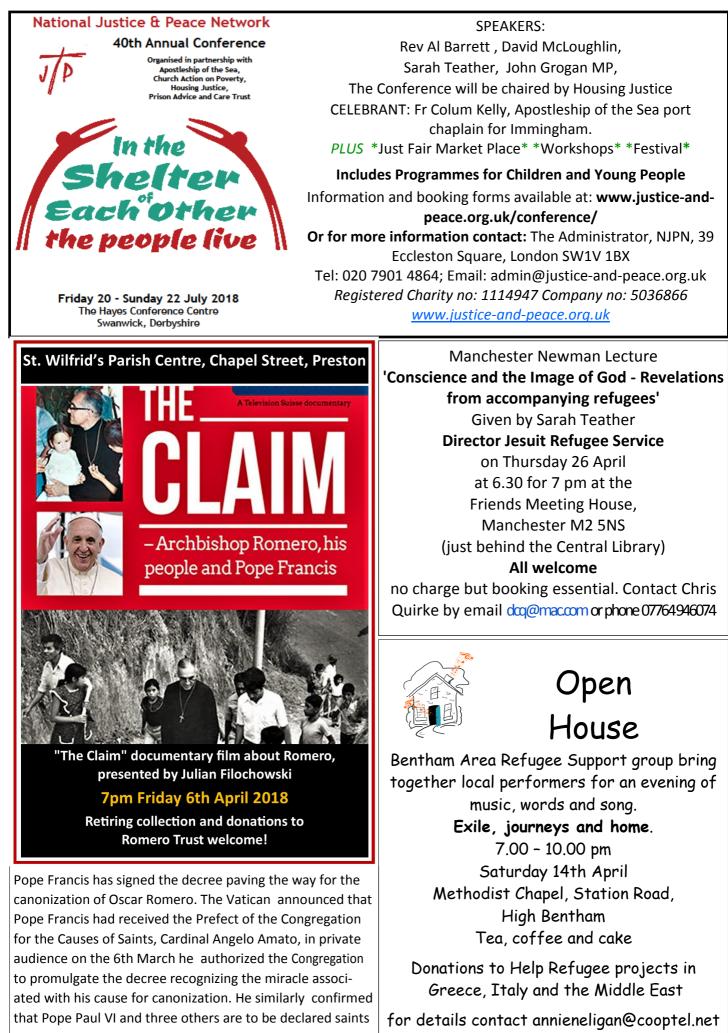
Keynote speaker: Ellen Teague, Columban Justice and Peace Team. A variety of stalls on display will help us to look at ways to take action. Tea & Coffee available Please bring a packed lunch ALL VERY WELCOME





Social Responsibility Officer for Churches Together in Cumbria

We seek to appoint a Social Responsibility Officer to support the work of the Social Responsibility Forum. Awareness of, and experience in addressing, current social issues from a Christian perspective are essential. There is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010 This post is for 20 hours a week and for 12 months. It is home-based, with some travel to meetings. Salary: £13.25 per hour Job description, person specification and application form can be downloaded from www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk For enquiries about the post email dpitkeathly@churchofscotland.org.uk Closing date 16 April 2018



http://www.romerotrust.org.uk/

North West information evening St Thomas', Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9PL on April 11th at 7:30 pm Building a Refugee Welcoming Church	CT in Settle Justice & Peace Group 7:30 pm on Wed 11th April Friends Meeting House, Settle BD24 9RA 'There but for fortune'
No matter whether your church has lots of experience in welcoming refugees, or would just like to know where to begin, if you're based in the North West of England then this evening is for you! Welcome Churches and R2C2 are seeking to equip and resource the UK Church to welcome, support and in- clude refugees and asylum seekers in our churches and our communities. With years of experience based in local churches and projects, we want to share what we have learnt and connect churches across the UK who share our heart and vision. The evening will include: 1) Steps to building a refugee welcoming church 2) Update on the refugee situation in the North West 3) Information, resources and tools to help you welcome refugees 4) Connecting with others who are working with refugees near you Please register using the link below if you would like to come:	a talk by Maggie Bruno, why she became involved in working with refugees, her work as a Refugee Caseworker with the Red Cross in Bradford, some myth busting, an overview of the asylum process, what's happening locally, and how people can get involved. All welcome refreshments from 7:00pm
	Lancaster Palestine Solidarity Campaign PSC Public Meeting on Tuesday May 22 7:30 pm at Cornerstone Lancaster with Ben Jamal, Director of national PSC. Kendal Amnesty Public Meeting On Thursday May 10 with Robert Cohen on the Nakba - A Jewish Journey to Palestinian Solidarity
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-west- information-evening-building-a-refugee-welcoming- church-tickets-44228990100 Dave Smith R2C2 / Boaz Trust & Karina Martin, Welcome Churches	Boarbank Hall, Grange over Sands Cumbria LA11 7NH Retreats and Reflections
CAFOD has been awarded match-funding by the Government for three months from 13 February to 12th May. So, donations to CAFOD for Lent Fast Day made between 13th February and 12th May will be matched by the UK Government, up to a total value of £5m. Funds raised during this period will need to be sent to CAFOD by 1 July 2018.	27th-29th April Time to Reflect: "Education and Compassion". 18th – 23rd May Two Wings & Some Prayers! <i>Retreat holiday for (potential) birdwatchers</i> For more information <u>www.boarbankhall.org.uk/events</u> or contact Sr Margaret on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

Church Action on Poverty, Centre for Theology and Justice,

Christian Aid, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and Luther King House in Manchester.



Theology for a Learning Church:

Annual David Goodbourn Lecture :



Christian Education, Lay Formation and the Language of 'Discipleship'

3:45pm, Wednesday 9 May 2018 Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool

Lecture by Professor Elaine Graham,

Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology at the University of Chester.

Recent work on 'lay leadership' and 'discipleship' notes the challenge of 'setting God's people free' from clericalism, to exercise a wider ministry as the church in the world. The lecture will examine the tension between Christian education for the 'gathered' and 'scattered' church, and consider what patterns of learning and formation are best suited for the challenges facing the church in the world today. This is an open event so there is no need to apply for a ticket.

Events & Opportunities for Awareness Raising	
1 April	Easter Sunday
6th April	The Claim documentary about Romero St Wilfrids Preston see p.14
9 April	Episcopal Ordination of Canon Paul Swarbrick view <u>www.lancastercathedral.org.uk</u>
	or <u>https://youtu.be/b3PwcI0JIVc</u>
11th April	Building a Refugee Welcoming Church in North West Wigan see p.15
11th April	"There but for fortune" Meeting House Settle see p.15
14th April	Open House Bentham area refugee support event Bentham see p.14
20-22 April	Global Campaign on Military Spending demilitarize.org.uk; paxchristi.org.uk
21st April	Launch Middlesborough Diocese Environmental Policy in York see p.13
22nd April	Earth Day www.catholicclimatemovement.global
23-28th April	No Faith in Fracking Week at gates of Caudrilla site near Blackpool see p1
26th April	"Eucharist, reference or intimacy" 7:00pm Cleator see p.12
26th April	Manchester Newman Lecture given by Sarah Teather JRS see p.14
27-29th April	Education and Compassion Boarbank Hall Cumbria see p.15
1st May	Working for a Better Future Manchester see p.13
5th May	"Ecclesia de Eucharistia" 10:00 am Barrow see p.12
9th May	Theology for a learning Church Liverpool see p.15
10th May	Nakba –a Jewish Journey to Palestinian Solidarity 15
12th May	NJPN AGM & 40th Anniversary Celebration
14-20th May	Christian Aid Week christianaid.org.uk
15th May	Conscientious Objectors Day paxchristi.org.uk
16 May	Is A More Peaceful World Possible? Prof Paul Rogers -7:30pm St Mary & St Michaels Settle
18-23rd May	Two Wings and some prayers –holiday retreat Boarbank Hall Cumbria see p.15
22nd May	Ben Jamal Director of National PSC, 7:30 pm Cornerstones Lancaster p.15
2 June	Pax Christi AGM Leicester paxchristi.org.uk
5 June	World Development Day unep.org.uk/wed
17 June	Day for Life dayforlife.org
19th June	Hope for Justice –talk by Rachel Jobes 7:30 pm Cornerstones Lancaster
18-24 June	Refugee Week refugeeweek.org.uk
26th June	"Eucharist-the new heavens and the new earth" 7pm Lancaster University see p.12
3rd July	"Sacrament of Charity" 7:30pm Preston see p.12
20-22nd July	NJPN 40th Annual Conference see p.14
7-9th Sept.	Eucharistic Congress Liverpool see p.12
	Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission Ifjcmm@gmail.com

Microplastic pollution in oceans is far worse than feared, a study reveals highest microplastic pollution levels ever recorded in a river in Manchester, and shows that billions of particles flooded into the sea from rivers in the area in just one year. **We all have some big changes to make**. Plastic pollution is known to harm marine life and can enter the human food chain via our food and water.

