

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin March 2019

Telephone: 01524 383081 Email: lfjc@talktalk.net Website: www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk

St Bernadette's Parish House, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 4HT

Lord, forgive our silence.
Forgive our reluctance to speak up for others.
Forgive our reliance on goods which have been produced unfairly at the expense of the poor.
Forgive our lack of awareness of how our clothes are manufactured, our food produced and our mistaking unneeded goods for essentials.
Lord enter the silence of our hearts and lift them up with fresh understanding derived from the Wisdom contained in your Word.
May we be ambassadors for Christ in bringing reconciliation between producer and consumer, those exploited and those who benefit from their exploitation.
May all our labour be valued and rewarded justly.
May our lifestyles reflect a care for creation and humanity.
May we appreciate the gift of life and in so doing respect the lives of all God's children

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Plus resources, events and campaigning opportunities

Lord, you reconciled the world to God through your suffering on the cross.
May your reconciling power make us one with all who need fairness in their trading and systems which promote justice. Amen

Fairtrade Foundation Material 2016 from Rev. Vaughan Jones



Fairtrade Fortnight is a good opportunity to remind ourselves why we buy fairtrade products when we can and encourage others. Small-scale farmers and producers in the developing world often bear the costs and risks of trade, while global companies make the profits. Fairtrade products such as tea, cocoa, bananas and thousands of other top quality goods have been bought by companies for sustainable prices. Fairtrade ensures the world's poorest growers and producers are able to earn a decent living and earn a premium they can put back into their communities.

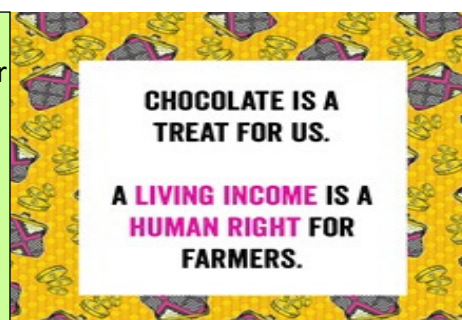
Fairtrade Facts

- More than 1.65 million farmers and workers in 74 countries now get a better deal from Fairtrade
- Over 500 Catholic parishes across England and Wales are certified Fairtrade
- One in every three bananas sold in the UK is Fairtrade

CAFOD founded the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992 along with Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft, the World Development Movement and the National Federation of Women's Institutes. We believe we are all part of the global food system - which means we have the power to change it. Changing the food we buy and choosing products from Fairtrade companies is one of the ways we can help tackle poverty.

CAFOD
Just one world

We're still keeping an eye on the Sainsbury's Fairly Traded pilot. Last year they decided to abandon Fairtrade certification on some of their own-brand tea products and pilot their own scheme instead, known as 'Fairly Traded'. Sainsbury's remains the world's largest Fairtrade retailer and haven't rolled out their Fairly Traded programme to other products. Good news! We look forward to an update on the performance of the pilot for farmers in 2019. Please ask Sainsbury's to support Fairtrade. [Download this letter](#) and hand it into your local store manager



To build peace in Yemen the arming of Saudi Arabia must stop

The Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, is touring the Middle East over the next few days (beginning March) with visits to Saudi Arabia, Oman and United Arab Emirates. It is likely that the war in Yemen will be at the top of the agenda. The ongoing bombardment has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.



Since the bombing of Yemen began in March 2015, the UK has licensed £4.6 billion worth of arms to the Saudi regime, including:

- £2.7 billion worth of ML10 licences (Aircraft, helicopters, drones)
- £1.9 billion worth of ML4 licences (Grenades, bombs, missiles, countermeasures)

In reality the figures could be a great deal higher, with most bombs and missiles being licensed via the opaque and secretive Open Licence system.

Saudi Arabia continues to lead air-strikes on Yemen, devastating civilian lives. In August, it bombed a school bus, killing dozens of children. UK arms are playing a central role in the bombardment.

Now the UN has warned that if the war does not end, 13 million people in Yemen face starvation.

The regime has also intensified its crackdown on human rights at home and is yet to account for its role in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia's repression at home and aggression abroad is propped up and supported by UK arms sales. Now is the time to write to our MPs (suggestions below) or email MP with request to take a stand and sign EDM 1726 <https://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/act-now/petition/stop-arming-saudi-petition>

Suggestions to include in letter to MP

Dear

The ongoing tragedy in Yemen continues to shock the world and the UK must bear at least part of the blame. This country is selling arms to the Saudi led coalition which is fighting the war.

Despite continued protestations that these sales are subject to checks, the recent all-party Lords International Relations Select Committee found that Ministers are not making independent checks to see if arms supplied by the UK are in breach of the law. Indeed, the Committee has found that UK arms sales to the Saudi government are unlawful.

I quote from the report: "Although conclusive evidence is not available, we assess that it [the Government] is narrowly on the wrong side [of the law]". I call on you to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia and its allies immediately.

A prayer for Yemen

Giver of Life,

Who hears the cries from Yemen;
of mothers choosing between medicine or food,
of parents grieving children lost to starvation,
of those who have given up everything in hunger.
Hear our cries for hope, for change, for peace.

In your mercy,
break political deadlocks,
soften hardened hearts,
change closed minds,
open unhearing ears.
Let people come before power.

Let life be holy again.
Let your justice and peace
shape the nation of Yemen
and the lives of all people.
Amen.

Modern Slavery Handbook

Tackling modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation in the homelessness sector.

This handbook explains what slavery looks like in the homeless community, what to watch out for and what you can do about it. It is hoped that it will help provide better support by preventing the crime and by supporting victims.

Use this handbook to help understand the types of exploitation that homeless people are exposed to. By knowing what to look for, and how to get support, frontline workers can save lives.

<http://passage.org.uk/publications/the-passage-anti-slavery-handbook/>

THE PASSAGE
to ending homelessness



Modern slavery handbook
www.passage.org.uk



Unaffordable and unachievable: the continuing problems of Trident renewal

*Dr Philip Webber and Dr Stuart Parkinson,
examine the growing financial and technical
problems of renewing the UK's nuclear
weapons system.*

SGR has published a range of reports and articles about the huge risks caused by continued deployment of the UK's nuclear weapons.¹ But in this article we want to focus on the rapidly rising costs and technical difficulties involved in the renewal of the Trident system.

The main element of this programme is the construction of four new nuclear-armed 'Dreadnought class' submarines. The budget allocated to this project by the government in 2015 was £31bn, together with an unprecedented £10bn Treasury-guaranteed contingency fund.²

Other elements of the renewal programme include:

- a new design of nuclear reactor to power the submarines;
- maintenance of 180 nuclear warheads, which may themselves be replaced by a new design in the 2020s;
- missile-related work, although the missiles themselves will still be manufactured and maintained by the USA, and leased to the UK under long-standing 'nuclear-sharing' agreements.

It is also important to note that Trident renewal is only part of what the government calls the Defence Nuclear Enterprise (DNE), which also includes other nuclear-powered, but conventionally-armed, submarines (Astute class and Trafalgar class) and the various supporting organisations. Overall, the ten-year budget for this enterprise is a whopping £51bn, over a quarter of Britain's planned spend on military equipment.³

"Unaffordable" says NAO

In May 2018, the National Audit Office (NAO) – the parliamentary watchdog which assesses the delivery of government programmes – published a review of the DNE.⁴ It highlighted an "affordability gap" of £2.9bn over the period 2018–28, as well as the decision by the government to use £0.6bn of the contingency fund to help manage budgetary problems this financial year. In November, the NAO published a review of the whole military equipment plan.⁵ It described the plan as "unaffordable" pointing to an expected shortfall of £7bn over the next ten years and the distinct possibility that this could rise to £15bn under unfavourable circumstances. The projected overspend on the nuclear programmes was high among the NAO's concerns. A recent report from the British American Security Information Council (BASIC)⁶ has drawn together the latest information about the cost increases, and estimated that capital cost of Trident renewal has now grown to £47.3bn. The largest cost increases over and above the budget for the nuclear programme arise from a two-year delay – leading to an extra £2bn required for life extension work for the existing Vanguard class submarines – and the post-Brexit referendum depreciation of the pound against the dollar which is estimated to add a further £2bn to components being made in the USA, such as missile tubes.⁷

Once running costs – of approximately £2.2bn a year from 2030 to 2060 – are added, the lifetime costs of the programme grows to over £110bn. Decommissioning costs are an additional burden.

So, even if you support the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, the costs are staggering – but there is even worse news...

"Unachievable" says IPA

In July, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) – a highlevel watchdog which reports to HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office – published its annual report⁸ which included a damning assessment, especially of the Dreadnought submarine project. The project was "in doubt, with major risks or issues apparent in a number of key areas. Urgent action is needed to address these problems and/or assess whether resolution is feasible." On the project to build the new nuclear reactors for the submarines, the IPA was even more critical. "Successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable. There are major issues with project definition, schedule, budget, quality and/or benefits delivery, which at this stage do not appear to be manageable or resolvable." You'd think it couldn't be any worse for a programme than being well over-budget, delayed, and labelled "unachievable".

Continue on page: 4

But there is worse. There are also the often-forgotten costs of the Defence Nuclear Enterprise: liability for the decommissioning and disposal of 30 submarines. These costs are currently estimated at £10.3bn – a figure which has nearly trebled since 2015.⁹

The skills gap: The NAO has highlighted a factor central to all these ongoing problems. “Having insufficient skilled staff,” it says, “remains a risk across the Department... sustaining sufficient civilian and military nuclear staff remains one of the Enterprise’s top strategic issues”.¹⁰

This raises another issue, which has been highlighted by researchers at Sussex University.¹¹ They argue that a key reason why the government decided to go ahead with astonishingly expensive subsidies for the new Hinkley C nuclear power plant was related to maintaining UK nuclear skills which could also help underpin the Trident renewal programme.

Time to quit: SGR has long argued that the UK should stop using science and technology to support aggressive military postures and that there are clear benefits both in terms of security and cost of moving to genuinely defensive approaches based on the concept of ‘sustainable security’.¹² Nuclear weapons are the epitome of an unsustainable security strategy and create enormous risks for humanity and the global environment.

It is now also abundantly clear that technical and cost management problems are a major issue for Trident renewal. The case for abandoning this grandiose project – and committing the UK to a future without weapons of mass destruction – is becoming stronger by the day, especially as the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons approaches ‘entry into force’. Now is the time to take this bold but crucial step.

Dr Philip Webber is Chair of SGR. Dr Stuart Parkinson is Executive Director of SGR.

References 1 SGR (2018). The nuclear weapons threat: main outputs. <http://www.sgr.org>. 2 HM Government (2015). National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478933/52309_Cm_9161_NSS_SD_Review_web_only.pdf 3 NAO (2018a). The Defence Nuclear Enterprise: A landscape review. <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/The-Defence-Nuclear-Enterprise-a-landscape-review.pdf> 4 NAO (2018a) – as note 3. 5 NAO (2018b). Ministry of Defence: The Equipment Plan 2018 to 2028. <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/The-Equipment-Plan-2018-2028-.pdf> 6 BASIC (2018). Blowing up the Budget. <http://www.basicint.org/report-blowing-up-the-budget/> 7 BASIC (2018) – as note 6 8 IPA (2018). Annual Report on Major Projects, 2017-18. Annex D https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721978/IPA_Annual_Report_2018__2_.pdf 9 NAO (2018a) – as note 3. pp.38-39. The total of 30 includes 20 which have left service and 10 currently in service. 10 NAO (2018a) – as note 3. p.42. 11 Stirling A, Johnstone P (2017). <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/public-accounts-committee/hinkley-point-c/written/70983.pdf> 12 SGR (2013). Offensive Insecurity. <http://www.sgr.org.uk/publications/offensive-insecurity>

Scrap Trident Petition at:

<https://cnduk.org/actions/time-stop-trident/>

Find more about the campaign at

<https://cnduk.org/campaigns/no-to-trident/>



The Domsday Clock pictured at its most recent setting of "two minutes to midnight"

A new abnormal: it is still 2 minutes to midnight

The Domsday Clock is a symbol which represents the likelihood of a man-made global catastrophe. Maintained since 1947 by the members of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, The Clock is a metaphor for threats to humanity from unchecked scientific and technical advances. The Clock represents the hypothetical global catastrophe as "midnight" and the Bulletin's opinion on how close the world is to a global catastrophe as a number of "minutes" to midnight. The factors influencing the Clock are nuclear risk and climate change.

<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock>



World Water Day 22nd March 2019

What is World Water Day?

Sustainable Development Goal 6 is crystal clear: **water for all by 2030.** By definition, this means leaving no one behind. But today, billions of people are still living without safe water – their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive.

Marginalized groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others – are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need. This World Water Day, 22nd March, is about tackling the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left behind.

Download resources at: <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

“I speak on behalf of Climate Justice”

Greta Thunberg

This is the transcript of a speech given by a young Swedish environmental activist at December's UN climate conference in Poland. Greta, who has Asperger's Syndrome, is continuing her school strike every Friday to ask Sweden's government and other countries to act against climate change. In her speech at COP24 she pointed out how no solutions adequate to the gravity of the situation have been adopted so far.



“My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 15 years old. I am from Sweden. I speak on behalf of Climate Justice Now. Many people say that Sweden is just a small country and it doesn't matter what we do. BUT I'VE LEARNED YOU ARE NEVER TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. And if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school, then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to. But to do that, we have to speak clearly, no matter how uncomfortable that may be. You only speak of green eternal economic growth because you are too scared of being unpopular. You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake. You are not mature enough to tell it like it is. Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the living planet. Our civilisation is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money. OUR BIOSPHERE IS BEING SACRIFICED SO THAT RICH PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES LIKE MINE CAN LIVE IN LUXURY. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few.

The year 2078 I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. MAYBE THEY WILL ASK WHY YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WHILE THERE STILL WAS TIME TO ACT. You say you love your children above all else, and yet YOU ARE STEALING THEIR FUTURE IN FRONT OF THEIR VERY EYES.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. WE CAN'T SOLVE A CRISIS WITHOUT TREATING IT AS A CRISIS. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself.

We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. You have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again. We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time. We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people.

Thank you”.

Greta Thunberg

Greta's input has been shared around the world—more young people are now challenging us to act now.



Fasting from meat during the Lenten season is part of our Catholic tradition. It's a way to live in the humble simplicity that Christ offers us.

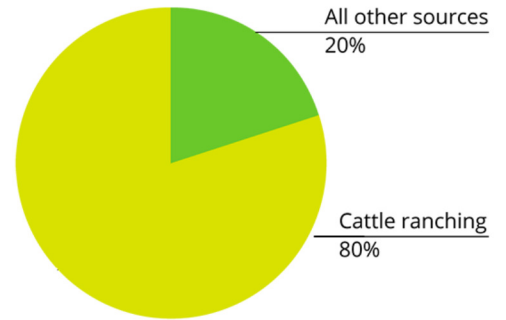
We now know that fasting from meat is also a way to sustainably inhabit our place in God's creation.

This Lent, we invite you to go beyond fasting from meat on Fridays. Add one more day of plant-based meals to your table or strive to eat plant-based meals throughout the Lenten season. Together, our acts of solidarity add up to better protection for our vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Many of us enjoy meat, and we're grateful for the farmers who make our meals possible. Focusing our diets on plant-based meals and enjoying meat as an occasional treat is a sustainable way of living in our common home.

Many people are surprised to discover that cattle farming is a leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon.

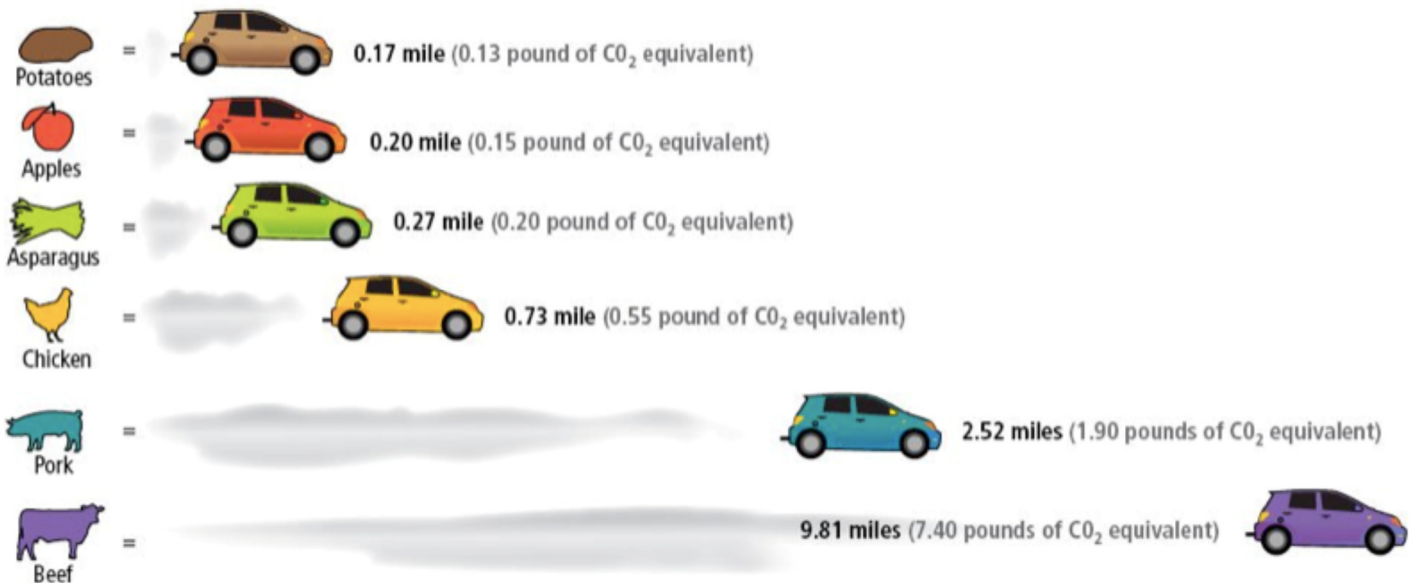
This land is often taken illegally from indigenous people.



Sources of deforestation in Brazil

It also surprises many people to learn that meat production is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions. **In fact, the average serving of meat represents many times the greenhouse gas emissions of the average serving of fruits, vegetables, and grains.**

Approximate emissions per half pound serving (approx 250gms)



We're called to embrace the humility and love that Christ offers. Here at GCCM, our staff team is adding plant-based meals to our tables this Lenten season.

We'll be sharing our stories and recipes. Please [make your commitment now](#) to join us and learn more.

For more information at www.catholicclimatemovement.global

HEARING POSTPONED (yet again!) for proposed coal mine at Whitehaven

Cumbria County Council (CCC) have postponed the hearing for the proposed coal mine at Whitehaven from Friday 22 February to **Tuesday 19 March** – but we cannot yet be certain that even the new date is definite. Please [click here for online updates of the date of the hearing and any associated protests](#) or type bit.ly/SLACcttNOtoCOAL into your browser. The carbon emissions from the proposed coal mining would be large enough to prevent the aim for Cumbria to become carbon neutral by 2030 as part of a hoped-for declaration of a Climate Emergency by Cumbria County Council, and even to meet current climate commitments.



awakening to a new economics

Green Christian Joy in Enough Confession for Lent

Our climate is changing, and we are changing it. We confess our carbon footprints, our failure to consider the consequences of our actions, our slowness to react. We are sorry for all the times we knew the right thing to do, but chose convenience.

Your earth is exploited, and we are complicit in its exploitation. Species are lost, soil erodes, fish stocks decline, resources dwindle. We confess that many of us have taken too much, and not considered the needs of future generations.

We have become consumers. We have turned a blind eye to greed. We confess our hunger for more, and our failure to appreciate what we already have. We live in a time of unparalleled luxury, and we are sorry that we have not been more grateful.

The poor are left behind, even in this age of plenty. Human rights are pushed aside for profit. Wealth accumulates for the rich while the poorest still do not have what they need. We confess our apathy to injustice, and our haste in judging others.

This is not who you made us to be. We have not been good caretakers of your garden Earth. We have not loved our neighbours. Forgive us, creator God.

Forgive us. Renew us. Inspire us.

And in your strength, God, we declare:

Enough climate change: help us to take responsibility. Give us the wisdom to live appropriately, the urgency to act, and the courage to make changes. Give us the voice to call for change from our leaders, and the perseverance to keep asking.

Enough consumerism: give us what we need, God our provider. Then help us to find satisfaction and contentment. Help us to be grateful and generous.

Enough inequality: nobody should be left behind. You care for the poor, and we want to follow your example. Make your church a living example of equity and inclusion, and a powerful advocate for justice and sharing.

We thank you for your kindness and your mercy. We look to your promise of restoration, and we move forward. Give us the strength to speak and to act – not out of guilt or duty, for we are forgiven and we are loved. Instead, we speak and act out of joy:

- joy in the living hope of knowing you
- joy in serving each other
- joy in the beauty and diversity of creation, your gift to us
- joy in your provision and your care – joy in enough

This year Green Christian is encouraging the church in Britain to take a moment to consider our role in the destruction of the environment, our complicity in consumerism, and in an economy that serves profit over people. Instead, we are invited to embrace the sufficiency and the joy of enough. [The Confession is available online](https://greenchristian.org.uk/the-joy-in-enough-confession-how-to-use-it-for-lent/), with ideas for using it. <https://greenchristian.org.uk/the-joy-in-enough-confession-how-to-use-it-for-lent/>

Give People Seeking Asylum The Right to Work

On the 21st February in Parliament, Catherine West MP shared the story of one of her constituents, a man who has been **waiting 12 years** for a decision on his asylum claim. She described his utter despair at a system which has forced him out of employment, and into poverty. The story was shared as the Labour MP tabled a bill, with strong cross-party support, on the right to work for people seeking asylum.

We know that lifting the ban *just makes sense*.

Tens of thousands of people have signed our petition. MPs from across all parties have shown their support. Over 160 businesses, trade unions, charities and faith groups support it. We know it will benefit the UK financially. But most importantly, we know it will allow people who've fled conflict and persecution to start to rebuild their lives in dignity. People who cannot wait any longer.

Yet the Government *still* hasn't committed to changing the rules.

That's why we need to keep the pressure on. The bill she tabled is a welcome step in the right direction, but we need to ensure our voices, and the voices of people seeking asylum, are being heard.

Please help us keep the pressure on by :

[signing and sharing our petition](#) with your friends, family and networks. You can also [follow us on Twitter](#) (@RefugeeAction) to see and share the messages from the people seeking asylum who are working with us on this campaign.

To find out more about the bill put to parliament on 21st February, read [this report from Lib Dem MP Christine Jardine](#), one of the campaign's growing number of supporters inside and outside of Parliament.

www.refugee-action.org.uk



We would like to remember a number of people who have helped us over the years to challenge both ourselves and the structures in which we live, and have helped the Faith & Justice Commission with inputs in the diocese and resources on numerous occasions.

Fr Tom Cullinan and Fr Danial O'Leary both died in January. Pat Gaffney steps down as General Secretary of Pax Christi after nearly 30 years and Ann Kelly retires as Administrator of the National Justice and Peace Network after twelve years.

We all have a debt of gratitude to Pat for her leadership of Pax Christi UK. She brought together peace and justice issues and ecology and in the current issue of JustPeace Pat takes a long view over her 29 years as General Secretary of Pax Christi, I would recommend reading this.

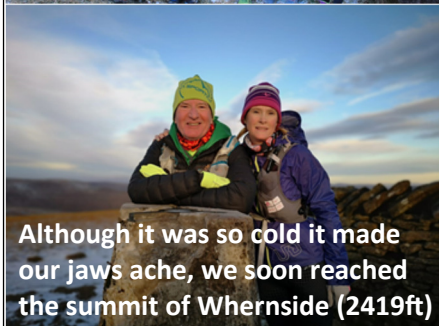
Ann has been a wonderful support for Justice and Peace in the dioceses and a great support for J&P workers. Her clarity, calmness and patience was often much required at meetings and with conference planning. She will be much missed.

Fr Tom's homily given by Fr Nicholas Postlethwaite and the obituary from Steve Atherton are in the NWNJPN newsletter on F&J website (newsletters)

Fr Daniel's homily given by Fr John Nonan and the reflection by Margaret Siberry can be found at: www.djoleary.com . I suggest Fr John's homily should be shared with those in authority in the church.

Run for Community Sponsorship

On his 67th birthday Chris ran the Three Peaks for the Refugee ReSETTLEMENT Community Sponsorship and raised nearly two thousand pounds and here he shares some of the excitement of the day and photos



Although it was so cold it made our jaws ache, we soon reached the summit of Whernside (2419ft)



we were rewarded by the sight of some amazing ice sculpture



On top of the world Ingleborough (2372ft)

Firstly a BIG thank you to everyone who donated –we have done far better than we dared hope: your generosity is amazing. The run itself could not have been better. To my complete surprise, two of my daughters appeared the night before, our Rebecca to run with me and our Rachel to help the support team. Friday morning was cold, bitterly cold, but we met up and drove to the start in good spirits.

Going down to Chapel le dale was warmer and we had our first meeting with our wonderful support crew, who provided hot drinks and biscuits. Then it was up to Ingleborough (2372ft). Normally the last very steep bit is hard work, but rewarded by the sight of some amazing ice sculpture. A short hard pull up to the summit and more photos

We were now well into our stride and the descent to Horton soon passed, helped by the thought of more tea and soup.

And we were off up to Pen y Ghent (2273ft). By this time we were beginning to feel a bit weary and the weather which had been excellent, now turned. As we reached the summit, it began to snow.

But knowing we only had a short distance to go, we didn't care.

All too soon we reached the finish at Dalehead, where it was time for a last photo shoot before heading home for birthday cake and more tea.



In the background our last summit Pen y Ghent (2273ft).

Everyone came home safely and with a smile, we all had a wonderful day out. A big thank you to (from L to R in the above photo) Helen, Fiona, Rebecca. Ruth, Sharon and not forgetting Ruby the dog.

Thanks to our support team and a big thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to sponsor me

Find out more about Refugee ReSETTLEMENT Community Sponsorship at:
settle.refugee@gmail.com

Refugee ReSETTLEMENTGroup on facebook and Twitter

FUND RAISING CONCERT for Refugee ReSETTLEMENT Community Sponsorship

7:30pm on Saturday 30th March 2019

At the Settle Victoria Hall, Kirkgate, Settle BD24 9DZ

AN AMAZING NIGHT OF MUSIC & SONG

With many artists including

THE BROTHERS GILLESPIE -North Tyne troubadours combining great harmonies with multi-instrumentalism and inspired song-writing. FIVE IN A BAR -Five women sing their own a capella harmony arrangements, inspired by songs of meaning and feeling.

TICKETS £10 from Victoria Hall box office Settle or online at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/settlevictoriahall>

doors and Bar open at 6.45pm

All funds raised for Refugee ReSETTLEMENT Community Sponsorship

Many thanks to the artists and Victoria Hall for making this possible

REALITIES ARE GREATER THAN IDEAS

Evangelisation, Catholicism and Community Organising

Dunstan Rodrigues with Angus Ritchie and Anna Rowlands



THE CENTRE FOR
THEOLOGY
& COMMUNITY

To evangelise with a joy that fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus is the central mission given to the People of God.

Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*

This report concentrates on the social dimension of this mission: how Christians can make the kingdom of God present in our world and engage in the public square. It is written to help lay leaders, parish priests, teachers, chaplains, young people and others to discover and engage fruitfully in the craft of broad-based community organising.

The report describes in detail the practice of organising from the perspective of parishes involved; it makes use of Pope Francis' teachings to address the questions of why and how Catholics are called to organise; and it shares stories and lessons from the last twenty years from the perspective of lay leaders, priests, chaplains and teachers. The report is jointly funded by the Caritas Social Action Network and the Diocese of Brentwood.

To download report: <http://www.theology-centre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Realities-are-Greater-than-Ideas.pdf>



Demand more social housing

<https://england.shelter.org.uk/>

There is a chronic shortage of social housing that affects hundreds of thousands of people. It severely impacts homeless people, disabled people, younger families, and older people too. Our report demands massive new investment.

The government must now take action and begin an ambitious project to deliver **3.1 million more social homes over the next 20 years**. If you believe that we need to create **social housing which is affordable, fair, and for everyone who wants it**, please sign our petition.

[Sign now](#)

https://england.shelter.org.uk/support_us/campaigns/build_more_social_housing?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6372

Shortly before Fr Daniel died he published new book "An Astonishing Secret", two themes are interwoven throughout the book – the mystery of Creation and the mystery of Incarnation. He recorded 10 videos to complement the book. Fr Daniel himself commented about this book: "A deeper understanding of this central heart of Christianity will transform our self-understanding and our understanding of our Planet Earth. This is the revolutionary change in Catholic consciousness that is beginning to transform Christianity from within. This is the 'magnanimous' horizon painted by Pope Francis – the re-framing of the story of Christ within our daily experiences, and within the wondrous story of our evolving universe."

An Astonishing Secret

Online course and videos: <https://astonishingsecret.org> Book available from www.columbabooks.com

For comments or queries please contact us at: astonishingsecret@btinternet.com

The Book

The New Online Video Course

by Daniel O'Leary

A commitment to neighbourhood

Prayer, reflection and discussion with

Fr Gerry Proctor MBE

Saturday 9 March 2019

10.00am – 3.00pm

Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre
169 Sharoe Green Lane, Preston, PR2 8HE

The day will explore the biblical relationship with the land and also our experience of living in a neighbourhood. Fr Gerry will draw upon experiences in Latin America, Australia and visits throughout Asia during his MPhil research. Pope Francis has made clear the direction he wants the Catholic Church to take with regard to mission and we will use some of his ideas.

But most of the day will be based around this definition of the Church by Fr Jose Marins from Brazil: The Church is a Missionary Community with a Communitarian Mission.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Tea and coffee are provided.

To book please email anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk.
or phone 01772 555483

Being Church in smaller groups.

Prayer, reflection and discussion with

Rose and Greg McCrave

Saturday 18 May 2019 10.00am – 3.00pm

Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre,
169 Sharoe Green Lane, Preston, PR2 8HE

Greg and Rose are experienced small group facilitators in parish and retreat settings. Rose is a visiting Guest Director at St Beuno's, North Wales and Greg has a particular interest in male spirituality. They will lead us in exploring and experiencing the joy and companionship of being part of the Body of Christ by belonging to smaller groups.

Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided
To book please email anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk
or T: 01772 555483

ACTA - A Call to Action - ACTA aims to encourage dialogue at all levels in the Church we love and to grow in our relationship with Jesus through an exploration of the Sacred Scriptures and the riches of Vatican II.



Christian Meditation in Cumbria The Wayless Way of Meister Eckhart with Anthony Finnerty

29 – 31 March 2019

Monastery of Our Lady of Hyning,

Nr. Carnforth, LA5 9SE

*A Retreat for all who practise
Christian meditation or other forms of
contemplative prayer*

The weekend will include a general introduction to some of the key themes of Eckhart's mystical teaching and opportunity to explore the paradoxical silence he promotes. This will be a time for meditation woven in alongside presentations and discussion. Anthony is a Chairman of the Eckhart Society and regularly leads meditation days and retreats.

Cost: £130 (Low wage/concession rate £100: please just ask if this helps)

For more info about the day and Christian Meditation in Cumbria Contact: Richard Broughton,
T: 01946 862990 E:cmcwccm@fastmail.fm



Engage with God's heart for poverty in your community - new course available now

**[Download the Transforming Poverty course -
click here now](#)**

Using Ken Loach's film *I, Daniel Blake*, our new course *Transforming Poverty* brings church groups together to talk, think and pray about local people's struggles with poverty (including your own). It will help you look at how the Bible and your faith in Jesus guide you to respond.

It's a great resource for Lent, or for house groups and study groups at any time of year.

[Click here to download Transforming Poverty now!](#)

www.church-poverty.org.uk

NJPN Lent Resources

This year's Lenten Journey Prayer Leaflet is now available to download at <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/A-LENTEN-JOURNEY-2019.pdf>

Justice and Peace Stations of the Cross at <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/Justice-and-Peace-Stations-of-the-Cross-2019.pdf>

Stations of the Cross for Young People suitable for Confirmation and Youth Groups at <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Stations-of-the-Cross-for-Young-People-2019.pdf>

Date for your diary: Climate Coalition Lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 26th June 2019

Politicians will only increase their ambitions for action on the climate crisis if they see we care. They will act if their constituents tell them that they want change..

Join CAFOD at Parliament in Westminster on 26th June and ask your MP to support ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Information and resources will be available soon



Events & Opportunities for Awareness Raising

3rd March	Church Action on Poverty Sunday <i>Look at poverty in a different light</i> www.church-poverty.org.uk
6th March	Ash Wednesday annual witness and liturgy against nuclear weapons. London and Liverpool events - More details to follow at www.paxchristi.org.uk
7th March	Looking Well, High Bentham 7pm City of Sanctuary Movement speaker Sarah Trewitt
8th March	International Women's Day www.internationalwomensday.com
9th March	Fr Gerry Proctor MBE Saturday 9 March 2019 10.00am – 3.00pm Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre 169 Sharoe Green Lane, Preston, PR2 8HE
9-17th March	Science4Society Week s4s.org.uk
12th March	Christian CND with Pax Christi will present a petition to Theresa May at 10 Downing St to request that the UK Government participate in the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty process. Sign and share this petition to bring the UK Government to table.
15th March	CAFOD Family Fast Day www.cafod.org.uk
16th March	Archbishop Romero Anniversary: The Prophetic Imagination. at <i>St Martin in the Fields</i> with speaker David McLoughlin. Details here .
17-24th March	Fly Kites not drones week https://dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com/events/fly-kites-not-drones/
22nd March	World Water Day www.worldwaterday.org
6th April	Pax Christi Liverpool film "Of Gods and Men" followed by discussion details here .
27th April	Action: Stop New Nuclear Preston CNDuk.org/events
21st April	Easter Sunday
30th April	Earth Hour www.whh.org.uk/earthhour
11th May	NJPN AGM & Networking Day
15th May	International Conscientious Day
18th May	Pax Christi Annual General Meeting in London NW1 1LY
18th May	Being Church in Smaller Groups Preston see p.11
26th June	Climate Coalition Lobby London
26 –28th July	FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: FORGOTTEN PLACES <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick</i> , NJPN conference will be exploring UK poverty. The major partner to the conference is Church Action on Poverty. Our Chair, John Battle, will chair the conference. For details see the NJPN website https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/ Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission lfjcm@gmail.com www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk