

## Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin August 2019

Email: [lfjcomm@gmail.com](mailto:lfjcomm@gmail.com) Website: [www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk)

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

### THE AMAZON NEEDS US NOW

Mary Colwell 23/08/2019:

The Amazon is burning. The images sear into our hearts as we watch millions of years of wondrous forest succumb to flames, fanned by greed and political ambition. Within the inferno countless millions of unique life forms are being destroyed - monkeys, birds, reptiles, insects and plant life are no more, and the flames surge ever onwards. This great forest, 55 million square kilometres, regulates the world's climate, produces one third of the fresh water entering the oceans and is a living, breathing temple to diversity and beauty. Many have already fought and died to protect the trees, the creatures of the rainforest and the peoples who live there.



The Amazon needs us now, starting today, to kneel and pray for its protection and then to stand up and protest at its destruction. The forest relies on us to demand that justice is done. Now is the time for the Catholic Church, which has an immense influence over the whole Amazonian basin, to extend a hand to politicians, local peoples and conservationists and together square up to the powers that are destroying our planet. It must be done with urgency because the actual survival of the Amazon is at stake. It depends more than ever on a formidable alliance between people with a passion to save the earth and a worldwide, powerful and compassionate religion.

"The sky is angry and is crying because we are destroying the planet," said Pope Francis when he visited the Amazon last year. We are all weeping with anger, fear and helplessness. Forces are acting today that see nothing but financial gain from this sparkling blue planet we are privileged to call home. Every single one of us has a moral duty to act and hold truth to power, to project the image of a destroyed rainforest to every corner of the earth and decry the forces that have brought us to this.

Pope Francis called the Amazon rainforest, 'the heart of the church.' Within the smoking ruins of a once holy temple to God's grandeur, let our prayers rise up with the smoke and mingle with the ash. Hope is found in the deepest, darkest hours and we are living through that right now.

**BBC Newsnight report** - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWLVs\\_6\\_MY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWLVs_6_MY) **Curlew Media** - [www.curlewmedia.com](http://www.curlewmedia.com)  
<http://prensacelam.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/WE-RAISE-OUR-VOICE-FOR-THE-AMAZON.pdf>

**We can do something** - Local leaders in Brazil know the best way forward, and they are asking for help. Suggestions here from the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) with links to resources

**Organize a [Season of Creation](#) event** to educate your community about the threats facing the Amazon in line with this year's theme "web of life."

**Pray [this prayer](#)** for the Amazon or these prayers of the faithful [here](#). Or use this small-group [discussion guide](#) to reflect on the upcoming Synod on the Amazon, when bishops from around the world will gather in Rome to discuss protecting this precious land and its people.

**Protest** write to the Brazilian embassy. Find the address [here](#) (in the right-hand column, "Brazil representations abroad.") You may want to time your protest for the global climate strikes on September 20 and use a banner [here](#).

**Share [GCCM's statement](#)** on the fires in Brazil on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Laudato Si' message that "everything is connected" resonates loud and clear. When indigenous communities are treated cruelly, creation suffers.

Sign the petition to the Westminster Parliament to "*demand the EU & UN sanction Brazil to halt increased deforestation of the Amazon*"  
100,000 signatures needed to "*be considered for debate in Parliament*"  
: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/266638>

Forgotten People, Forgotten Places: Being Church on the Margins NJPN Conference 2019  
**Conference told: “Xenophobia is mainstream and Christianity has to resist that”**

*Extract from the report from Ellen Teague*

The great tragedy of our time is that xenophobia is mainstream and Christianity has to resist that”, a leading black theologian told the annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) in July. Professor Anthony Reddie, a Birmingham-based scholar in the practice of Black Theology in grassroots communities, suggested, “we need to tell a new story about ourselves as British people, and not one focused on the imagined glories of the past”. His talk to more than 200 participants, wearing a tee-shirt, ‘Black History is British History’, highlighted issues of identity, history and culture.



It prompted discussion about how we live together in a manner which recognises the needs of those at the bottom and on the margins of British society, and how the Christian Churches help that to happen. Professor Reddie warned about the narrow factional nationalism of Brexit – his latest book is: *Theologising Brexit: A Liberationist and Postcolonial Critique* – and felt Churches have a role to play in transcending boundaries and borders that are being put in place. “The people who are likely to suffer most after 31<sup>st</sup> October will be the poor” he warned.

The conference theme was, ‘Forgotten People, Forgotten Places: Being Church on the Margins’, and former MP John Battle, Chair of Leeds Justice and Peace Commission, chaired the weekend in Derbyshire. He highlighted beacon churches that are inclusive with a lively panel discussion involving a church community at Hodge Hill in Birmingham and another at Sunderland Minster. Participants were delighted to hear of Hodge Hill’s outreach to the local community as “street connectors”, accompanying isolated and vulnerable people and holding open events outside the church and in green spaces, sharing food and friendship. Sunderland Minster has a mission of hospitality to welcome refugees and Revd Chris Howson, an Anglican priest who works closely with the sanctuary-seeking community in Sunderland and is also a university chaplain, urged us to “build kingdom communities” locally as well as support justice and peace internationally. His book, ‘A Just Church: 21st century Liberation Theology in Action’ aims to help Christians evolve their own way of demonstrating the relevance of Church in today’s contexts, such as widespread poverty, militarism and the climate crisis.

Pope Francis is a huge inspiration for positive action, having called for “a Church which is poor and for the poor”, said John Battle. And it is a Church which tackles structural injustice as well as offering charity. He quoted St Oscar Romero at the end of the Conference: “We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.” The NJPN Conference was organised in collaboration with Church Action on Poverty (CAP). CAP has a new set of resources ‘Poverty and Justice’ for churches to explore the relationship between faith and action for justice.

The resources are based on the pastoral cycle and take people through the process of experience, analysis, reflection, action and evaluation. Contact Sarah Purcell at Church Action on Poverty for more information.

E-mail: [Sarahd@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:Sarahd@church-poverty.org.uk) Website: [www.church-poverty.org.uk/poorchurch](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/poorchurch)

For full article <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/conference-news-release-26-july-2019/>

*Next NJPN Networking Day will be on Saturday 14 September 2019 10.30am – 400pm  
At All Saints Lower School, Nunnery Lane, York YO23 1JG*

**‘Journeys on the Margins’**



Speakers will share their experience of working with migrants/asylum seekers and with European Roma migrants. There will be a facilitated discussion time during the afternoon led by our speakers as well as opportunity to hear about justice and peace activities from groups around the country. Representatives of Catholic/Christian Agencies will report on their work and suggest practical ways of becoming involved in campaigning for social justice. Everyone is welcome just bring yourself, your lunch, your ideas and enthusiasm.

More info: Tel 02079014864 [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)



## A View From The Pax Christi Stall at NJPN Conference

From Joan Sharples

Helping on the Pax Christi stall was a very gentle induction for me: my first opportunity to serve the organisation since I was elected on to its Executive in May. In addition to offering the Christmas cards, books and pamphlets, we encouraged people to make A5 mini-banners to be used in the Stop the Arms Fair protest being held 2 – 9 September (more details <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/>)

Messages on the banners included: *The Arms Trade sells Death*      *We should be protecting - not profiting!*  
*Stop selling Arms now.*      *Peace is precious: war is wrong*      *every life is precious*  
*Join us to stop selling arms to killer states*

At first sight all this might seem far away from the theme of the conference: Forgotten People, Forgotten Places, but the more I reflect on the weekend, the more I can see connections.

I was particularly moved by Professor Anthony Reddie's talk 'Theologising Brexit'. He drew on his own life experience, describing the journey he took three days after the European Referendum vote, from comfortable Remain-voting Moseley in Birmingham where he is an academic, to the poor area of Brexit-voting Bradford in which he was brought up. He refuted simple narratives which can lead to stereotypes and demonisation, maintaining that we all live complex lives.

He urged us to leave our silos and become community.

The speakers all shared stories from disadvantaged parts of Britain where people are marginalised and struggling: locations where the seeds of conflict might easily take root. However, the speakers also shared positive stories of community-building through shared meals, listening, knowing neighbours by name, seeing the person without giving them a label.

Through such small activities we recognise each other's common humanity: live each other into the Body of Christ, and bring God's peace to the world.

Latest developments since our landmark victory this Summer – when the Court of Appeal found that the Government acted unlawfully in licensing arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

The **bad news** first: as we feared, our fight must go on. The Government doesn't want to accept the verdict and it has been granted permission to take the case to the Supreme Court.

The **good news** is that the Government's request for 'a stay', which would have allowed it to carry on with business as usual until any Appeal is heard, was denied.

Previous decisions on arms sales must still be retaken, 'on a lawful basis'.

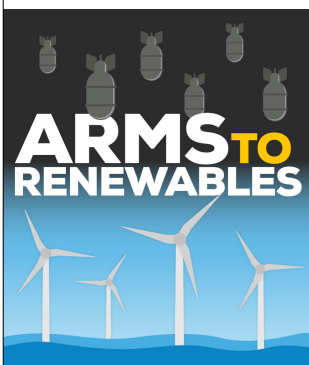
Until this is done, it must also stop issuing new arms exports licences to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners for use in Yemen.

This is huge! With 57 applications for export licences under consideration at the time of the ruling, **it is likely that many hundreds of millions of pounds of arms sales remain on hold** as a result of our action together - thank you.



<http://caat.org.uk>

**CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE**



Imagine a world where instead of fuelling conflict and repression, the UK took real action to tackle the biggest threat we face: climate change. That world is possible – if we [shift priorities from arms to renewables](#). Offshore wind and marine energy have amazing potential for the UK. [CAAT's research](#) shows that they **could support more jobs than the entire arms industry** using the skills of arms trade workers. These would be better jobs for the workers and for all of us: jobs in an industry which is growing not declining, which create a safer, rather than a more dangerous, world.

To **add your voice to the campaign today**. [https://arms-to-renewables.org.uk/#page\\_0](https://arms-to-renewables.org.uk/#page_0)



## In and around Calais today?

Extract from recent report from Ben and Phil at Seeking Sanctuary

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

People are pretty much cleared out of the town centre, and there is no stable settlement like the old jungle. People are scattered and hidden in very precarious camps on the fringe of the town. A “jungle” has become just a few tents hidden in the bushes. These camps are clustered around three main sites along the highway: the two roundabouts by the hospital and by the stadium, and the turn-off close to the old “jungle” (which, coincidentally, was cleared by police as we were writing this Update). After long legal struggles, the state has eventually set up official amenities at these spots – water points, toilet cubicles and a few showers. These official spots are also the distribution points where the associations come at set times to give out food, clothes and so on.

In Calais itself, the number of displaced people is probably around 500, but that fluctuates a lot. There are many hundreds more along the Channel coast, especially near Dunkirk. The nationalities follow the same patterns – people from war zones and dictatorships with a historical connection to British colonialism. People may speak English, or have family connections, or may have grown up with some idea of the UK as a safe haven and a beacon of democracy.

There are many Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians, Kurds,

Eritreans, Sudanese, and a few others now from as far afield as Nigeria, Chad and other African countries.

There are not so many children and women now, they are often sheltered by charities. There are more families in Dunkirk, where the mayor is more sympathetic and provides a gym where vulnerable people are allowed to stay in the winter. There have been around 300 people living inside, including at least 30 families and some 100 unaccompanied minors. Around another 300 people live in tents nearby, more or less tolerated by the authorities. A lot of these are Kurdish people from both Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. There are also more informal Pakistani and Afghani settlements in the woods outside Dunkirk, which are more badly treated and attacked on a daily basis by the police, as in Calais.

It has always been the case that the vast majority of people on the French coast are there because they expect to get fair treatment over here and be able to make a living. A report from Caen suggests that most of the exiles there have been “Dublined” in Italy, and have later applied for asylum in France. Once the authorities discover they have been fingerprinted in Italy they are told to return, or are forcibly taken there. In Italy, some may get “accommodation”, while most live on the streets – in both cases with no financial assistance or food. They come to believe that their asylum claims are not being processed. Being brutalised by the police they drift back to France to end up in towns where there are concentrations of their fellows, usually ferry ports. Here, they are again intimidated and brutalised by the French police and the whole process starts again. Consequently, they have a new reason to try to get to the UK: to escape violence in continental Europe, and obtain some kind of “normality”.

### Amnesty International

At the start of June, Amnesty published a new [report](#) into police harassment of volunteers helping the displaced people in northern France. This reveals that acts of intimidation, threats of arrest and abuse have become part and parcel of daily work for many of them. Tom Ciotkowski, a British volunteer used his phone to film French riot police preventing volunteers from distributing food in Calais. He was charged with contempt and assault after he challenged the violent actions of a policeman against another volunteer and faced up to five years in prison. Remarkably, he was found guilty and it took two appeals to get that verdict overturned.

The prosecution of people providing humanitarian aid has given birth to a new oxymoron, “crimes of solidarity”, which has been the subject of much legal wrangling. A 2018 ruling by France’s Constitutional Council acknowledged that the “crime of solidarity” was not in line with the French Constitution and declared that the principle of “fraternité” protects the freedom to help others for humanitarian purposes, regardless of their immigration status. Despite this, the authorities have continued to target activists. *Cont. P.6*

One of the few world leaders to consistently speak up for displaced people is Pope Francis. He stated on 8 July – the sixth anniversary of his visit to Lampedusa – that, *They are persons. These are not mere social or migrant issues! 'This is not just about migrants,' in the twofold sense that migrants are, first of all, human persons. They are the symbol of all those rejected by today's globalized society.*

## Marking World Refugee Day in Dover ...

Those of us involved in this work must keep ever vigilant as the criminalisation of solidarity is likely to get much worse in our “hostile environment” and touch the lives of all those of our brothers and sisters eking out a precarious existence while their claims are heard or while they are in detention. It was with this in mind that the new Anglo-French initiative 'People not Walls' was launched on the 20th of June. On a lovely summer's day we gathered near the sea in both Dover and Calais to demonstrate our solidarity and launched our initiative.

Here in Dover we had a series of moving events starting at lunchtime with a service near the newly inaugurated migrants' memorial off Marine Parade, followed by a silent witness at the busy entrance to the ferry terminal, concluding in the evening by a beautiful service in the ancient church of St Margaret of Antioch at St-Margaret's-at-Cliffe, the part of the Dover District nearest to France, followed by a walk of witness to the cliff top above the bay, where we unfolded our new banner proclaiming Love Knows No Borders.

The UK event was a collaboration between the Justice and Peace commissions of the Westminster and Southwark dioceses, the London Catholic Worker, Seeking Sanctuary, the Sapphire Project and the diocese of Canterbury. It was particularly encouraging to see the ecumenical work and preparation as well as the cooperation between all the various organisations involved to make the event such a success. You can find a video about the day [here](#).

## ... and in Calais

Several hundred participants gathered to enjoy a picnic with music and dance on the Plage Blériot, with many exiles among them. Our joint declaration was read simultaneously on both coasts, and you can find a copy of it [here](#) – please distribute this further in your organisations, churches and networks.

In Calais, thirty people from Sudan, Iran and Ethiopia met with a media trainer from London to learn how to deal with reporters, and marked World Refugee Day by organising their own press conference. They pointed out that they have not left Calais, having fled their homes for the same reasons as in the past: wars, violence, injustices, poverty. The journeys have become more and more dangerous due to mafia action, sometimes slavery, the dramas of desert crossings, shipwrecks in the Mediterranean and life on the streets in Europe. And now there are the added enormous risks of Channel crossings in tiny boats. They arrive expecting to find equality, dignity, justice, liberty and peace; but in fact they find fear, disrespect, an absence of both justice and safety, and death.

## Going Forward

The events on the 20th of June have given us a firm basis to go forward together and find ways of addressing the hostile environment which is getting worse in both the UK and France.

In addition to the banner we have also produced t-shirts marked 'Love Knows No Borders'. A photo of one of these is attached: if you are interested in buying any please let us know. They come in M, L and XL sizes and the cost including postage and packing is £8.50.

Meantime, our renewed thanks for your messages of support and for all the work that you do to provide assistance and to spread the word about what is happening. If you want to volunteer with one of the support groups working in Calais, or to collect and deliver donations, you can find a list of the current [needs](#) on our website. Copy of “People Not Walls” Declaration at [www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter)

*Ben + Phil.*

'Seeking Sanctuary' aims to raise awareness about people displaced from their homes and to channel basic humanitarian assistance from Faith Communities and Community Organisations via partnerships with experienced aid workers. Our special concern is for the 1000 or more exiles who are stuck north-western France, mistakenly expecting a welcome in the UK. They need food, water, good counsel and clothes, which are accepted, sorted and distributed by several organisations, including two Calais warehouses which also supply needs further afield.

Further info Ben Bano on 07887 651117 or Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 See our latest news at [www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com](http://www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com)

## World Day of Migrants and Refugees 29th September 2019

Pope Francis has chosen the theme “**It is not just about migrants**” to show up our blind-spots and make sure no one remains excluded from society, whether a long-time resident or someone newly-arrived.

Download Pope Francis Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019

## Humanity and equality in God's creation.

WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL 15 - 22 September 2019

A week of education, prayer and action for peace in Palestine & Israel, initiated by the World Council of Churches. During this week which includes the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September, church organisations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of support in favour of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/world-week-of-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

The ongoing conflict and injustice in Palestine and Israel has created victims from all communities. This situation affects the future for everyone in the region, denies the equal human dignity of all people, and in all aspects of God's creation. Though we are all created equally in God's image, the military occupation and its discriminatory practices and impacts on entire Palestinian communities is an obstacle to the fullness of life for all in God's creation.

*"Just as we affirm the right of the State of Israel to exist and Jewish people's right to self-determination, so do we assert the equal right of Palestinian people to the realisation of their rights to self-determination in a viable state on the territories occupied since 1967, and with Jerusalem as a shared city for two peoples and three faiths. Just as we categorically denounce anti-semitism as sin against God and humanity, so do we reject discrimination, marginalisation, collective punishment and violence against Palestinian people on the basis of ethnicity, race or religion also as sin against God and humanity."*

— WCC Executive Committee public statement on Ecumenical Accompaniment for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, May 2019.

It is the ecumenical movement's calling and appeal to seek peace in the land of Christ's birth – a peace that is founded on justice, rather than on violence, bloodshed and exclusion by one against the other, or the perpetual imposition of military occupation and control of an entire people. This theme should concern all Christians and people of good will in every part of the world, in a time of increasing racism, xenophobia, stigmatisation and exclusion driven by populist politics. Indeed, through this theme, the aim is to inspire and revive concern for the human dignity of all people equally, regardless of ethnic, religious or political differences, and the struggle for the realisation of the equal and inalienable human rights of all.

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the unfulfilled search for sustainable peace based on the recognition of the inalienable human rights of all people in the region, this theme has a special immediacy.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/public-witness/peace-building-cf/concept-note-for-2019-world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel-wwppi/>

**See also:** <http://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/world-week-for-peace-in-pi/>

Download the Pax Christi leaflet : [Working in solidarity with peacemakers in Palestine & Israel](#)

God, loving parent of all humankind, you are our Peace.  
In Jesus Christ you embodied peace with justice  
– and you still do – peace at its most down to earth,  
peace, which can still prevail in the face of all the walls  
we build.

We confess our helpless anger, confronted by concrete  
cutting across the daily lives of your children:  
limits imposed on travel, study, healthcare, work,  
worship, family connections, celebrations.

We confess our complicity in maintaining barriers of  
ignorance, fear, privilege, prejudice, 'us' and 'them'.  
Our world is crossed by razor wire that tears at flesh  
and draws blood.

But you are our peace, with power to cut this wire for  
good, to break down all our walls.

Help us to share in this work.

*Jan Sutch Pickard, 2016 from Pax Christi Card*

### "A Taste of Palestine",

at the **Friends Meeting House** in Lancaster,  
on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, from 3-5pm.**

This family friendly event is an opportunity to  
celebrate the richness of Palestinian culture, and  
hear directly from Palestinians, including those  
living in Lancaster. There will be a range of  
activities, and the chance to sample  
some Palestinian snacks. Do join us  
for games, music, dancing,  
puppets, food and lots of fun!

All welcome.

The venue is wheelchair accessible.

[Poster to download](#)

This free event is organised by  
Lancaster Palestine Solidarity Campaign.



In advance of a massive arms fair, diverse faith groups will gather at the ExCel Centre, London, on Tuesday 3rd September to declare with a united voice that they have “No Faith in War”. Between 10-13 September, the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair will take place at the Excel centre, East London. This is Europe’s largest Arms Fair and people representing a huge range of faith communities will come together to strongly declare their objection to the weapons trade. Members of Pax Christi, the Catholic movement for peace, will be there in numbers.

Most world faiths share in common a deep sense of the value of peace in the world: a peace which is achieved not by the use of weapons or threats of violence but by dialogue, respect for universal human dignity and human rights, and just social structures.

Pope Francis says that Christians must ask “why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.”

The arms trade represents business interests being given greater status than the lives of human beings.

Our government has continued to support the sale of weapons for profit despite the certain knowledge that these weapons will be used for example by the Saudi Arabian government to kill Yemeni civilians.

This structure of violence is challenged by people of faith who do not accept that violent means truly resolve conflicts.

Organising for the “No Faith in War” day began over a year ago and will be bigger than previous years.

The creative, active plans build on the experience of previous years. Expect testimony from people whose communities have been destroyed by conflict fuelled by arms deals. Expect processions, rituals and symbols drawn from a variety of traditions. Pax Christi members are organising a procession using an adapted Stations of the Cross liturgy. There will be life and energy as participants model what it is to work together to make the world a better place.

A woman who attended her first No Faith in War day last time commented, ‘I felt apprehensive. I wasn’t sure what to expect. But everyone was so welcoming. The atmosphere of being with like-minded people who want peace was really wonderful and affirming.’

The UK government invites official delegations to attend DSEI. The list will not be published until closer to the time. In 2017, 56 official delegations were invited. These included Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, Turkey, UAE and Colombia. Other countries will have been invited by the event organisers. Despite a recent ban in arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the country has been invited to DSEI 2019.

Public polling taken at the time of DSEI 2017 found that 76% of the UK opposes arms exports to human rights abusing regimes. It also found that 63% oppose government promotion of arms to countries that are not democracies. More polling will be done ahead of DSEI 2019.

DSEI moves on to Japan in November. Faced with the arrival of arms dealers in the Asia-Pacific region, Caesar D’Mello of the Pax Christi Asia-Pacific Facilitation Committee said, ‘Tensions and hostility in this region have kept on deepening, ...the vicious cycle that is the Arms Race, played out in the 'domains' of land, sea, air, space and cyberspace, keeps on fuelling the bellicosity between states. A world that is desperately hungry for peace and dignity will not achieve this by arms and warfare, by militarising a region, by asserting "might is right", but by consistent and persistent efforts, hand in hand with organisations such as the United Nations and other bodies, to seek peaceful ways to consider the roots of conflict to resolve it ... and through confidence building initiatives increase trust in one another...’

Website: <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/join-in/> Email: [faith@stopthearmsfair.org.uk](mailto:faith@stopthearmsfair.org.uk)

Facebook page: No Faith in War 2019 Twitter accounts: @CAATuk @StopTheArmsFair





## Lancaster Diocese at the CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY London 26th June 2019 *Fr Hugh Pollock*



Seven of us met up at Oxenholme Station and set off to lobby MPs in London about climate change.

We were going to join the Cafod delegation of the Climate Change Coalition and see if we could keep climate change at the forefront of MPs minds even with Brexit and Party leadership battles going on. To remind them that this is far more important than any of that.

The target is to get greenhouse gas emissions down to net zero by 2045, though some hope to reduce it faster. Mrs. May has of course promised much, which was wonderful, but the next leader has to be as keen as she seemed to be.

We met up with three more at Lancaster and then finally in London with the coach loads that had come from all over the country, including two from Preston. Young people have already been leading much of the campaign after the stirring words of Greta Thunberg and many were there.

We arrived a little late but tubed down to Trafalgar Square and were there in time to join the Walk of Witness as it set off to Parliament Square, down Whitehall and past Downing Street. Plenty of banners and chanting, especially from the younger members, all enthusiastic.

Just beyond Parliament Square is Church House and there we joined the Interfaith Forum that they had held for us. Rowan Williams spoke about the irrationality of not changing our way of life to save the planet we live on. The Muslim speaker spoke about how the Quran calls on us to live justly and in harmony with God's gift of creation, there was a Buddhist often on Radio Four, a rabbi who told an ancient story about how we are attacking the planet as some scripture characters attacked God's animals in the scriptures. Most movingly a young Quaker, who gave examples of how she is trying to change her life in the face of climate change.

We were late by then and raced off to Parliament Green to meet Tim Farron, our MP, who was already in full flow when we got there and answering questions from a variety of groups from the constituency, and very well indeed. He is very much on side. He had already been to the children's section to greet the impressive children from Grasmere School.

Around us MPs were meeting with people from all over the country. Some met their MPs inside Parliament instead. Different MPs passed us including Rory Stewart.

About 16,000 people gathered and a good number of MPs but sadly not all by any means.

Having achieved our aim for that day, we wandered back to Euston after a picnic lunch, on a glorious day passing through St. James's Park, by Buckingham Palace, through Green Park, and once more onto the tube.



St Wilfrid's Preston at the Lobby



Tim Farron speaking at ecumenical service

### The National Trust announced that it will divest its £1 billion portfolio from all fossil fuels.

Hilary McGrady, Director General of the National Trust said: 'The impacts of climate change pose the biggest long-term threat to the land and properties we care for and tackling this is a huge challenge for the whole nation.' The National Trust is the biggest conservation charity in Europe





CAFOD group from Our Lady & St Edwards

## Parish celebrates Creation

Our Lady and St Edward Parish in Preston had a weekend celebrating God's wonderful creation in May. They were the first "Creation Masses" in the Diocese and launched "Our Common Home", CAFOD's new campaign on climate change. To mark the occasion we were joined by Sarah Croft, CAFOD Campaigns Manager and Winston Berrios, CAFOD Programme Manager in Central America.

All three masses had a creation theme but, equally important, it was a time for social gathering. In sharing time together we reflected on how we share our common home with the rest of humanity and with all God's wonderful creatures and plants. It was an opportunity to think about what we need to change in ourselves and to take action. We began Mass by bringing to the altar four reminders of God's amazing generosity to us: a globe to celebrate our Common Home; a bowl of earth to give thanks for the soil in which we grow our food; a jug of the life-giving water that sustains us and a bowl of seeds to praise God for the constant renewal of life in all its forms.

In his homily, Fr Horn reminded us of the beauty of the earth "God saw all that he had made and indeed it was very good". He continued by saying that God provided the essential resources to sustain us, but never said anything that entitled us to be greedy in our use. He reminded us that creation is not yet finished and for the benefit of future generations we must be its stewards, not its ransackers. If we work for the wholeness of the existing creation he can call us his collaborators when he says "I am making the whole of creation new". Speaking at the end of Mass, Sarah from CAFOD told us: "climate change is undoing all our hard work to end poverty. Out of love for our sisters and brothers worldwide, we are called to respond."

She called on us to do three things

- \* to sign the CAFOD petition after Mass calling for a commitment to make the UK carbon-neutral by 2045
- \* to tell our MPs that we care about climate change & to join the mass lobby of Parliament( on 26 June.)
- \* to make changes in our own lives to better care for creation.

Winston, who has many years' experience of fighting poverty in Central America then thanked us for our support and told us of his people's appreciation of those in the West who speak up for climate justice on behalf of people with no other voice. "We are so grateful for the work that you do. It is so important for us" We had a great weekend coming together as a parish community to celebrate God's wonderful gift of creation. Fr Horn also took the creation theme to our sister church, St Mary Newhouse. There was a real buzz as people left Mass and they were even queuing up to sign the CAFOD petition with 175 signing at Our Lady's and 50 at St Mary's.

Pope Francis makes clear that caring for Our Common Home is not about doom and gloom but about coming together in love, joy and hope. He says *'Let us sing as we go'*. This weekend we took his words to heart.

## Creation Time

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world unite to pray and care for creation beginning on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. In 2016, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew 1 released their special messages for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Both leaders used strong language to stress the urgency of the ecological crisis and the need to take action on climate change. The Season of Creation is facilitated by the World Council of Churches, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, ACT Alliance, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Anglican Communion Environmental Network.



In 2019, the Season of Creation will be focused on biodiversity. Some of the many resources available:

[www.cafod.org](http://www.cafod.org) <https://seasonofcreation.org/> Global Healing: <https://ourcommonhome.co.uk>

<https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/series-c-the-wisdom-series/>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation>

[www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-\(year-c\)](http://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-(year-c))



## END HUNGER IN UK WEEK OF ACTION 11-18 OCTOBER 2019

Help raise awareness of hunger in the UK and tell the government that they must take action to ensure that everyone has enough money to afford good food, and that no-one goes to bed hungry.

### Could you **DO SOMETHING LOCALLY DURING THE WEEK?**

Arrange to meet your MP. You could invite them to your foodbank/project, or take a group of people to go and see them in their constituency office. Or perhaps invite all the MPs in your town / city to an event that you organise.

Put on an event to raise awareness of food poverty. For example : Make a film about people's experiences of food poverty in your area. Work with local school children to make art and then put on an exhibition.

Get some media coverage. Put out a press release, or try to get on your local radio to talk about what is happening in your area

### **TAKE PART IN THE DAY OF ACTION IN LONDON ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER?**

People on the frontline of food poverty - those with lived experience, volunteers providing food aid, those involved in campaigning - will be coming together at the Abbey Centre near the Houses of Parliament to share stories, learn new skills, watch (and maybe sing with!) the End Hunger UK Foodbank Choir and meet and chat with people from around the country. Also go to the Houses of Parliament to meet our MPs. The idea is that, before you come to London on the 16th, you will have contacted your MP to arrange a time for a meeting. We will provide guidance as to how to do this. On the day itself, people will have meetings with MPs at different times. If you aren't able to arrange a meeting with your MP in advance you can still go into the Central Lobby, and the staff there will contact them for you. If this doesn't work you can leave a 'Green Card' that lets them know you were there! We will all come together however, from 12:00 to 12:30 pm, as all MPs will be in the House of Commons Chamber for Prime Minister's Questions. To make sure our MPs remember us, we want to leave each MP with a little gift – a knitted (or crocheted) foodstuff!

### **KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS WANTED BEFOREHAND**

Not everyone has the skills to make their own foodstuff so we need the yarn-talented to make as many carrots and Cornish pasties and anything else you can think of and send them to by Friday 27th September to Annie at: End Hunger UK, c/o Church Action on Poverty, 28 Sandpiper Court, Water's Edge Business Park, Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ. We will send them on to campaigners who need them. Please could you leave a strand of wool so that we can tie on a label or attach it to a ribbon to make bunting.

You can find lots of free patterns online – details at <http://endhungeruk.org/weekofaction2019/knitfood/>

Please email Annie ( see below) to let us know if you are going to make some foods so we can get an idea of how many will be coming our way! It would be fantastic if we got lots extra so that we could make some bunting to take with us when we go to Westminster

Sign up here if you are joining in <http://endhungeruk.org/weekofaction2019/>

If you have any questions, contact Annie at [annie@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:annie@church-poverty.org.uk)

**Put your faith into action** : pick up practical ideas and resources to engage your church in practical action and prayer

**Saturday 2nd November** at the Lighthouse Project, Oldham Road Middleton M24 1AZ

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/speaking-truth-to-power-putting-faith-into-action-north-west-regional-gathering-tickets-65524404257>



### Let the Children go to School Petition

[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/community\\_petitions/Cameroon\\_government\\_LET\\_THE\\_CHILDREN\\_GO\\_TO\\_SCHOOL/](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/community_petitions/Cameroon_government_LET_THE_CHILDREN_GO_TO_SCHOOL/)



In Cameroon, Africa, 600,000 children have been unable to attend school for 3 years. A violent conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone regions has pitted government security forces against armed separatist militias. Militias have banned schooling and the government has not kept schools safe.

**Find out more:** [https://secure.avaaz.org/en/community\\_petitions/Cameroon\\_government\\_LET\\_THE\\_CHILDREN\\_GO\\_TO\\_SCHOOL/](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/community_petitions/Cameroon_government_LET_THE_CHILDREN_GO_TO_SCHOOL/)

## ACTA National Conference 2019

Diarmuid O'Murchu

### *Imagining the Church of the future* Saturday 12 October 2019

King's House Conference Centre,  
King's Church, Sidney Street, Manchester M1 7HB

Registration 10.15 for 11.00 start. Finish 4.00pm  
Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch

Cost £20 Early Bird £18 Under 25's Free

To book please go to [www.acalltoaction.org.uk](http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk)



**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.



The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Churches Together in Cumbria

## Dementia Conference

Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 9.30-3.30

Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth St.

Penrith CA11 7QY

**Keynote Speaker: Wendy Mitchell**

*author of 'Somebody I used to know'*

*and daily blog 'whichmeamitoday'*

**Booking is via Emma Brown: [ebctic@outlook.com](mailto:ebctic@outlook.com)**

*Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own lunch*

## MODERN SLAVERY IN RURAL AREAS: A GUIDE TO SPOTTING THE SIGNS

If you think you have spotted the signs of modern slavery call the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121 700, or for labour exploitation concerns call the Gangmasters' and Labour Abuse Authority on 0800 432 0804. In an emergency situation always call 999.



**GROUPS OF TENTS**

Victims of modern slavery may be housed in tents in fields or in makeshift shelters at all times of the year. Homeless or vulnerably housed people are at high risk of modern slavery.



**CARAVANS ON SITES**

Victims of modern slavery may be housed in caravans close to their place of work or on wastelands. The caravans are likely to host several people, be dirty, and in disrepair.



**GROUPS OF PEOPLE WAITING**

Victims may be picked up and dropped off at their workplace by their trafficker. They will wait by the side of the road and often be picked up by a minibus or in a van.



**HAND CAR WASHES**

Hand car washes are a risk area for modern slavery. Look for cash-only payments, an overbearing manager and fearful workers wearing no protective clothing.



**DOMESTIC SERVITUDE**

Victims of domestic servitude will work cleaning the home and looking after children. They will not be able to leave the house unsupervised and their ID will be confiscated by their exploiter.



**PDP-UP BROTHELS**

Temporary brothels may take over holiday cottages in rural areas, particularly during off-season. Look for lots of men coming in and out of the property at odd hours.



**LABOUR EXPLOITATION**

Labour exploitation has been found in farms producing meat, eggs, flowers, and vegetables. Migrant labourers who do not speak English are at risk of being exploited.



**COUNTY LINES**

Young people from cities are groomed to sell drugs in county towns. Look for teenagers travelling alone by train during school hours.

Modern slavery in rural areas – a guide to spotting the signs  
Poster available to download at:

**UK Anti-Slavery Day is on  
Friday 18th October.**

Could your church or community use the day to raise awareness?

**The Pan Lancashire  
Anti Slavery Partnership**  
Preston on 24<sup>th</sup> November. 2019  
Exhibition on the Flag Market;  
stalls around the town;  
and the Bus venturing to Deepdale  
for the match

**25th September 2019**

**Liverpool Romero Lecture**

**Prophetic Trajectories of Hope  
from San Salvador to Liverpool:**

*a celebration of the ministries of Oscar Romero,  
Austin Smith, Kevin Kelly and Tom Cullinan*

**by David McLoughlin of Newman University, Birmingham**

– 6.30 for 6.45pm 001 Theatre in the Cornerstone,  
Hope University (Everton Campus) Liverpool L3 8DR and  
afterwards drinks to toast the Mersey Prophets!

**Preceded by Memorial Mass**

celebrated by Bishop John Rawsthorne 5.45pm in nearby  
St Francis Xavier's Church, Salisbury Street.



Aid to the  
Church in Need

**ACN UNITED KINGDOM**

**Lancaster Cathedral LA1 3BT**

on 5th October 10:00am – 4:00pm

**A day-long retreat** to reflect upon and pray for suffering and persecuted Christians around the world, with Mass and illustrated talks, as well as private and guided prayer. There will also be the opportunity to write our own personal message to persecuted Christians in Iraq.  
£15 per person; spaces are limited, so please book in advance. Please bring a packed lunch.  
Telephone: 01524 388739

<https://acnuk.org/contact/acn-north-west/>



## Palm Oil

More and more of us are trying to be as sustainable as possible but simply don't have the time to research all the products we might buy from the range of different brands and manufacturers.

Unsustainable palm oil is having a devastating effect on the environment such as large-scale deforestation.

As shoppers, it's best to make sure we're buying products with only sustainable palm oil, but when palm oil is in almost half of all packaged products in supermarkets, this is a real challenge!

There are a number of apps that can be downloaded to your mobile that can read the bar code of products and tell you both whether there is palm oil in the product and if it is whether this is from 100% sustainable source.

If the palm oil is not from a sustainable plantation it gives you the opportunity to write to the manufacture and ask why not.

<https://www.laudatosi.cz/en/palm-oil-scanner2/>



## Community Pantry Opens in Preston to Help Tackle Food Poverty

The Intact Centre in Whitby Avenue, Ingol, Preston has converted its food project into a community pantry, to be run and used by local people and called Whitby's Pantry.

<https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/find-a-pantry/whitbys-pantry/>

The project is the latest in the growing Your Local Pantry network <https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk>

## Events & Opportunities for Awareness Raising

1st September	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
1st Sept –4th October	Creation Time
3rd September	No Faith in War see p. 7
14th September	NJPN Networking meeting York see p.2
15 – 22 September	WORLD WEEK OF PEACE FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL <a href="http://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/world-week-for-peace-in-pi/">http://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/world-week-for-peace-in-pi/</a>
20—27 September	GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE <a href="http://www.campaigncc.org/climate_strike_20_september">www.campaigncc.org/climate_strike_20_september</a> <a href="https://globalclimatestrike.net/">https://globalclimatestrike.net/</a>
21st September	WORLD PEACE DAY <a href="http://www.peaceoneday.org">www.peaceoneday.org</a> 020 7456 9180
25th September	LIVERPOOL ROMERO LECTURE see p.11
4th October	CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY <a href="http://www.cafod.org.uk">www.cafod.org.uk</a>
5th October	ACN retreat Lancaster see p.11
6-27th October	The Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region is scheduled to meet in Rome Pope Francis document for Synod of the Amazon in October 2019 <a href="http://www.synod.va/content/synod/it/attualita/synod-for-the-amazon--preparatory-document--amazonia--new-paths-.pdf">http://www.synod.va/content/synod/it/attualita/synod-for-the-amazon--preparatory-document--amazonia--new-paths-.pdf</a>
10th October	WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY <a href="https://wfmh.global/world-mental-health-day-2019">https://wfmh.global/world-mental-health-day-2019</a>
11-18 October	END HUNGER WEEK OF ACTION See p. 10
12th October	ACTA CONFERENCE Manchester see p.11
13th October	HOMELESS SUNDAY <a href="http://www.housingjustice.org.uk">www.housingjustice.org.uk</a>
13 – 19 October	PRISONS WEEK <a href="http://www.prisonsworldweek.org">www.prisonsworldweek.org</a> <a href="http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk">www.prisonadvice.org.uk</a>
13 -20 October	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE. <a href="http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com">www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com</a>
18th October	UK Anti-Slavery Day
19th October	A taste of Palestine in Lancaster see p.
21-28 October	ONE WORLD WEEK <a href="http://oneworldweek.org">oneworldweek.org</a>
24 –30 October	UN DISARMAMENT WEEK <a href="http://un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek">un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek</a>
16th November	CT in Cumbre Dementia Conference see p.12
24th November	Pan Lancashire Anti-slavery event Preston see p.11
Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission	
Email: <a href="mailto:lfjcm@gmail.com">lfjcm@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk">www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk</a>	