**NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM**

**On Monday 15th March 2021**

**Meeting 153**

**Present:** Brian and Janice Austin, Jonathan Holden, Wilf Feely, Anne Elson, Lynda Gould and Jenny Armstrong

**Apologies:** Anna Godwin

Jenny hosted this 7th Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 15th February

**We started with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the reading for the 5th Sunday of Lent John 12 (20-33)**

**Matters arising from the last meeting.**

Anne reported that Sylvester from CAFOD had written the **‘I believe’** column in the Leamington Courier recently about the CAFOD ‘Walk for Water’ appeal. There was a long letter in the correspondence last week in response from someone with experience of life an African country where water was hard to access and the appeal resonated with her.

Brian reported that three of them in the **CAFOD** team had raised £450 on their sponsored walk, for the Lenten Appeal, ‘Walk for Water’.

Ann Alison had her own fundraising page which so far had raised £365 (she is attempting 10,000 steps a day during Lent). Family Fast Day had raised £165 so far.

J and P Stations of the Cross is in its 5th week and so far attendance has ranged from 13 to 21. It is also on Youtube for access at any time. The quality of that was said to be excellent.

**Rosary Intention for April**

The most appropriate subjects this month were felt to be either the people of Syria, which has been suffering civil war for 10 years now, or for Iraq, in the light of Pope Francis’ visit recently to the churches in Iraq and his meeting with the spiritual leader of the Shia Muslims there. The first visit by a Pope to Iraq. **We decided on 'We pray that the Pope's visit to Iraq may build trust between Christians and Shia Muslims and give courage to the Iraqi Christians**.'

It was suggested that Father Benedict might like to know of this intention for his Rosary prayers on Friday evenings. Jenny will email him.

**Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project**

Janice reported that Yvonne had requested help with food to give out and the SFG are working out a way to make the funds available for this as there is sufficient funding to do this at the moment. Donations had been made after the death of Christa Maria Cross, which has helped the funding situation.

Jenny reported that there had been one vaccination clinic already at the WAP and another was happening today. 25 of the visitors had been vaccinated on these days in total and as these were quite ‘chaotic’ individuals (in Yvonne’s words) this was extremely encouraging.

**Climate change**

Brian has sent letters/emails to all the local churches where there is a contact asking them to encourage their parishioners to sign the Climate Coalition petitions <https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration> . He has also been with Anne to the Town Council to talk to them and the councillors have been asked to sign.

**Other green issues** – it was noted that Boris Johnson was in Coventry today promoting green buses and that at least one bus to Leamington from Coventry will be ‘green’.

Warwickshire County have written to all households to encourage them to solar panels. Some present have taken this up. Some have switched with the Switch and Save scheme.

Brian has written to Jonathan Chilvers, County Councillor for the Green party and he hopes to be able to come to talk to us about the Council’s Climate change agenda after the May elections.

The J an P Commission at the Birmingham Diocese has adopted an Environmental Policy and has asked for help to move forward with implementing it. They write:

*‘Work has begun in the dioceses of England and Wales to work together on our response to the message of Laudato Si and its implementation to safeguard the future of our planet. Our bishops from all over the country will be discussing this work at their meeting after Easter.*

*We have been asked to collect information about things going on across the diocese that have something to do with ecology or sustainability. Are there things happening in your parish, school or community that you would like to share? It could be things like creating a wildlife garden, tree planning, food growing, starting an environment committee, special prayer, homilies, talks, discussions, screening environmental films, installing renewable energy in your premises. We are looking for examples and case studies to share in the meeting with the Bishops It would be of use in our own diocese too. Your efforts and activities in this regard can inspire and encourage others.’*

It was noted that the ‘Live simply’ team had not met but that articles had been put in Extra to raise awareness of the issues.

**AOB**

Jenny reported that there may be a physical ‘Ecofest’ this year on 4th September in the Pump Room Gardens if conditions allow. If not it will be a virtual event.

Lynda asked that Diana O’Reilly should be thanked for the useful work on Prisoners of Conscience and the publication of the names in ‘Extra’ . Brian said that he had Easter cards which could be used to send if people emailed him at cl.jandp@gmail.com

Jenny and Brian had written to their MP’s regarding the reduction in aid to Yemen, which was condemned by many including UN officials . The UN chief, António Guterres, said reducing aid was a "death sentence". Brian had a response from Jeremy Wright to say he had passed on his letter to the Minister. Jenny has yet to have a reply from Matt Western.

We finished with a prayer for Syria – sent by Tearfund.
*Dear God,Thank you for the people of Syria. Please continue to give them strength and faith to persevere through the difficult days, and to rebuild their country with love, peace and joy. We ask for an end to the conflict and for lasting peace and stability.*

**Next meeting: 19th April by Zoom at 7 p.m. for 7.15p.m. . then .. 17th May. 21st June. 19th July. 20th September. 18th October. 15th November.**