



Justice and Peace at Catholic Leamington

St Peter the Apostle, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2020-2021

Our monthly meetings were all held on Zoom this year (Sep2020- 21) due to ongoing lockdowns, and we had attendances of between 4 and 11 (average 7)

Regular topics of discussion were local issues around poverty and homelessness, Climate change, CAFOD's agenda, fair trade and 'living Simply', awareness raising on peace issues, liaison with local and Diocesan Justice and Peace and other action groups and promoting prayer and actions to the Parish via the liturgies, newsletters, Rosary intention and stations of the cross. Information is regularly put in the Parish newsletters, 'Extra' newsletter, Parish website www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace and via the Google group email cl.jandp@gmail.com

Many thanks to all who contributed through the year

Poverty and Homelessness

We followed developments at the Way Ahead Project at the Salvation Army, Helping Hands and the Night Shelter. - Our Saturday Friendship Group has continued to support the Way Ahead Project at the Salvation Army with finance (£6600pa) and several volunteers. We obtained £2000 grant from Leamington Town Council to help with this and SPAN gives £200 per month and Christ Maria's funeral donations gave £435 for food. The WAP maintained their services throughout the pandemic under very difficult circumstances.

Climate Change

Brian Austin has signed up to be local Community Champion for the Climate Coalition and has promoted the petition <https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration> to show politicians that there is a mandate for protecting the environment. We found out about local Council plans and policies on Climate Change, and participated in the Diocesan environmental policy development. Brian has written to all local Churches and been to the Town Council with Anne Elson to promote the petition.

We held a Question and Answer session during a meeting, with Councillor Jonathan Chilvers to hear the perspective of the Green Party on Warwickshire CC plans about the climate emergency. He recommended lobbying our own Councillors regarding our suggestions and thoughts on green issues.

We attended the **Climate Hustings** run before the elections in May with several councillors taking questions on Climate change and green issues.

We attended **Laudato Si'** week in May by Zoom organised by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, with awareness of global issues to the fore.

'**Laudato Si'** animators course. Brian has signed up to this and also is part of a writing group of Laudato Si' animators in the Diocese.

Jonathan Holden attended the Diocesan J and P meeting which formulated their environmental policy and informed the group about it and about the meeting with Archbishop Longley regarding the Church's response to the Climate Emergency.

CAFOD

Ann Allison, CAFOD schools rep gave us a report following the 'Walk for Water' Lent appeal. The **CAFOD** team locally raised £2992, via sponsored walks, Family Fast Day and on line appeal. She also reported on the effect of COVID on fundraising.

CAFOD has a petition 'Reclaim our common home' to encompass the climate crisis, unjust debts and other structural issues for developing countries, to lobby MPs before COP26. We have given altar talks and given out petition cards plus publicising the online petition. An appeal for people to talk to their MP via zoom to flag up concern for poorer countries has not raised enough people to make it viable.

Fair Trade and Living Simply

Due to restrictions we have been unable to hold Fair Trade stalls at the Churches. However we have publicised fair trade issues in the 'Extra' newsletter for Fair Trade Fortnight especially.

For 'Live simply' we have put a 'Recycling for Good Causes' box at Our Lady's Church to collect old mobile phones, cameras, jewellery, coin and stamps. The proceeds will be sent to CAFOD as well as recycling the goods often left at home in cupboards. The box will move to St Peter's in due course.

We are planning to take part in 'Ecofest' this September which is held on the Pump Room Gardens on 4th September. We will have a stall to display information re Fair Trade and Green Energy, as well as children's activities.

We were unable to have a Live Simply Mass due to restrictions and last year's Ecofest was cancelled.

Peace issues

For Peace Sunday we produced an introduction, penitential rite and bidding prayers for use on that weekend's Masses. We drew attention to the ratification of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Treaty which became international law on 21st January.

Liaison

We hear about CAFOD's campaigns, the work of Pax Christi, and we have linked with the Justice and Peace group at St Mary Immaculate in Warwick to hear what they have been planning. We hear about the Saturday Friendship Group and other local charities who help the vulnerable. Several of us attended the Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly (via Zoom)

Liturgies

We produced a penitential rite for 'the Season of Creation' and bidding prayers last September as well as for Peace Sunday in January.

We produce a Rosary intention every month on a topical issue, for example - climate change, refugees, those suffering because of the pandemic.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent we produced the Justice and Peace Stations of the Cross via Zoom (and YouTube) – with help from the joint choirs of St Peter's and Our Lady's and we had attendances of between 8 and 16. We were able to raise awareness of many social issues near and far, such as refugees, conflicts and their effect, homelessness, climate change and its effect on the poorest, poverty and lack of justice. Particular thanks to Brian and Janice Austin, Mary Rouse and Martin Barry for putting it together.

Cards for Prisoners of conscience

As we were unable to send cards signed in Church this year due to COVID restrictions, we put on the Church website, in the newsletter and in our email circulation the list produced by 'Action by Christians Against Torture' of people who would benefit from a card. This hopefully encouraged people to send their own cards to those who are imprisoned unjustly and without redress. Thanks are due to Diana O'Reilly for work on this.

