

NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM

On Monday 15th November 2021

Meeting 160

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

Jenny hosted this 14th Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 18th October 2021

The Gospel reading was John 18 33-37 the Feast of Christ the King

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Rosemary Pauling has written an essay on 'Peace' which has been submitted to the Young People's Peace Essay Competition. Brian is hoping to publish an extract in 'Extra' for December.

Jonathan asked what actions the Diocese were taking as a result of their 'Statement of Intent' regarding Climate Change. It was noted that there was a push to make all Churches in the Diocese a 'Live simply' Church by the end of 2021, which was ambitious, but otherwise nothing was known as to any further developments. Brian will forward the newsletter from the Diocesan Justice and Peace Group to the circulation list. Jenny will forward the Diocesan Newsletter which she receives to Jonathan, although there has not been any news on the environmental policy on there yet.

Rosary Intention for November and December

The following intention was current, as decided last month:

'We pray that as individuals, parishes and a diocese, we may play our part in furthering the aims of COP26'

For December we decided to focus on those who are lonely at Christmas:

'We pray for those who are on their own over Christmas that we may find ways of reaching out to them'

Jonathan will put these in the newsletter

Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project

The WAP has moved back into the drop in space and it is a process of relearning how it is working and adapting to make it as safe as possible while offering a service in a limited space. It is still busy most of the time. The Saturdays are running OK and there were 19 visitors last week.

There is an application to the Town Council for more funding being prepared – it needs to be submitted by 3rd December. Awaiting some information regarding outcomes for visitors and some financial information, although we do have the accounts for the SFG. It was suggested that 'thank you' letters were prepared for those who have been regularly contributing as that has helped significantly with the situation in the last year. If we do not have addresses or emails we could put a note in the newsletter and leave envelopes in church to be collected.

CAFOD

There is no news on the results of family fast day. We are not sure how much was collected yet.

CAFOD world gifts catalogues are available and on display at the Churches . These have a new theme this year. There is a plug in 'Extra' this month.

COP26 -- some of us attended the webinar last week during the COP26 meetings. Brian found it rather disappointing, but Jenny did learn about 'loss and damage' which was heralded as a positive development for the developing world. This refers to compensation to poorer countries who suffer from the effects of climate change and have limited resources to counter it. CAFOD felt that the aid agencies played a significant part in developing this policy. There will be another webinar on Tuesday 16th November to report on the results of COP26.

Some of us attended the COP26 lobby at the Pump Room Gardens on 6th November to listen to talks by local councillors and the MP as well as other environmental groups.

There was a discussion on the results of the COP26 meeting – Brian felt it was not emphasised enough that everyone had to make sacrifices and reduce their consumption. Jonathan reported that some young activists at meeting reported on the 'Today' programme that the details and complexity tackled in the meetings were impressive. It was agreed that there was at least now recognition of the importance of the situation and no room for climate change denial.

Live Simply

Recycling for Good causes

The box is still at St Peter's and has been emptied several times. Royce has been keeping an eye on it. The cheque has gone to CAFOD for £87.70 and another sack has also been sent.

Fair Trade

Michael Porter , the Traidcraft rep has asked Jenny if she wants to sell again at Church. This would be difficult – only one mass at Our Lady's with limited numbers and at St Peters there is no space without use of the porch. Also a house party is not a good idea at the moment with the COVID numbers being quite high. Jenny will get some Christmas cards from Michael and sell them as and when possible. Lynda would like some. Jenny will also promote fair trade in the December 'Extra'.

ACAT (Action of Christians against Torture)

The Christmas list has just been published and Diana O'Reilly has forwarded it. There was an item in the Extra directing people to the website. It was suggested that if possible Diana could select a couple of people to put directly into the December 'Extra'.

AOB

The 'Laudato Si' programme is being launched world wide and the 'World Day of the Poor' which was yesterday, 14th, was the launch date. There was no mention at the weekend. We await more information.

Future Events

Peace Sunday – January 16th 2022. We usually ask the clergy to use a penitential rite and special bidding prayers. Lynda will look at the 'Pax Christi' website and circulate the information about this.

Information from Lynda *'Pax Christi are updating their website to include Peace Sunday 2022 (so far it has 2021 info) They will send out to all of the Birmingham Dioceses parishes 2022 Peace Sunday information hopefully by early December.*

I shall check then, early December, new readings and bidding prayers.'

World Prayer for Christian Unity 18th -25th January - led by the Churches of the Middle East.

Jenny will circulate dates of meetings for next year – starting on Zoom as at present. Next meeting will be on **Monday 17th January 2022. We finished with the 'Pax Christi' prayer**