**NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING in the Parish Centre**

**On Tuesday 13th September 2022**

# Meeting 167

**Present:** Jonathan Holden, Jenny Armstrong, Lynda Gould. Ann Allison, Anne Elson. Anna Godwin

**Apologies:** Liz Moreton Smith

We started with the SPAN prayer.

The Gospel of the 25th Sunday in Ordinary time was read and reflected upon. Luke 16 1 -13.

**The meeting was held to consider and reflect on the Justice and Peace Review of the Year 2021-22**

**We followed the format of the report:**

**Poverty and Homelessness**

Anna reported on the permanent closure of the night shelter and explained that many people were housed /accommodated under the ‘Everyone In’ policy for the pandemic period. Some were unable to stick to the rules necessary in shared accommodation and are still on the streets, and others have joined them, sadly. There are daytime facilities for homeless people, such as the Salvation Army, Helping Hands, LWS (Leamington and Warwick Nightshelter) evening meals, and St John’s Church. P3 are an organisation working with the Council to reach out to people on the streets and encourage them to engage with the services on offer such as mental health and drug services.

Jenny reported that the Saturday Friendship Group (at the Way Ahead Project) have lost Janice and Brian Austin as their leader, but that Julia Fan has taken on the co-ordination of the volunteers involved. Several of the volunteers have offered to help with various jobs, such as monitoring the finances, appealing for volunteers and applying to the Town council for a community grant. At present the Saturdays are unable to run due to lack of staff but recruitment is taking place shortly and they will be able to run again. Another issue is that the space given over to table tennis has been taken away by changes to the Salvation Army church and hall. This was an amenity that was greatly appreciated by the visitors, however the cooked breakfasts are still a great draw and the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming. When running the Saturdays attracted up to 15 people at a time and several of Catholic Leamington volunteers were there on a rota. There was some discussion as to the funding arrangements which continue to be through St Peter’s Church office, with a monthly amount of £200 from SPAN, Standing orders from parishioners and occasional special collections. £550 a month is sent to WAP for the funding of one session a week.

**Live Simply**

The meeting noted the activities that had occurred during the last year - also noting that another Ecofest was held on 3rd September this year.
Ann A gave an account of the stall that Live simply had on the Pump Room Gardens with children’s activities, a display of CAFOD and the Live Simply display which asks people to ‘make a pledge’ for the climate.

Ann A reported that all the schools are signed up for Live simply and there is a Diocesan employee who is leading on this. We noted the need to work with children and young people.

**CAFOD**

Ann A is the rep for CAFOD and we discussed the next ‘Family Fast Day’ which is officially weekend of 7th October. Ann is away that day and she proposes running a soup lunch, as she has previously, on 21st October instead. This would be after Mass in the Church Hall . Ann will try to book the Hall on that day. The Family Fast envelopes will be distributed the weekend of the 7th October and ideally we should have speakers at the Masses to draw attention to this. Ann E is willing to talk at the 11 a.m. at St Peter’s. We would need people for 5pm at St Peter’s (suggestion of Paul Milton, Anne E to send his contact details to Ann A) . Also someone for Our Lady’s at 9.15 -- possibly Paul Hayden. St Josephs’? Ann A will co-ordinate. Ann pointed out that CAFOD now has card readers which assists with gathering funds, as some people donate larger sums, £100 in one case.

Anna offered to run a soup lunch at Our Lady’s for CAFOD after a Wednesday Mass. Suggested date 5th October. She will contact Father Stephen to ensure that there is a Mass on that day.

CAFOD’s recent campaign is on the **World Food Crisis**. There is no petition as it would be hard to have specific targets, we understand. We will keep informed as to how we can help with this and other campaigns.

**Climate change**

Ann has attended a CAFOD meeting re schools and met David Mond, Warwickshire Climate Alliance who have a web page listing local environmental groups and he asked if J and P would like to have an entry. Email d.m.q.mond@warwickhire.ac.uk Jenny will talk to Brian to see if he has had contact already. It would be useful to have an entry, we felt.

**Fair Trade**

We have not gone back to having fair trade stalls - one issue is that people do not carry a lot of cash. Jenny hopes to do some sales for Christmas of Traidcraft Christmas cards and she will enquire as to card readers via Traidcraft.

**Peace issues/ Liturgies/ Stations of the Cross**

We hope to carry on suggesting bidding prayers for various important occasions, such as Peace Sunday.

We thought we should rename the ‘Rosary intention’ to the ‘monthly Prayer intention’ as we were not sure that the Rosary group met regularly now, so prayer intention seemed more appropriate.

We discussed the next one for October – and decided

 ***‘ We pray that our community will support those who are separated from their families for whatever reason’***

**Stations of the Cross** has for the last few years been held either in the Church pre Covid, or via zoom or on PowerPoint in the Hall this year. There are various problems with carrying this on – the need for technical expertise in putting it together (Brian put it on YouTube also) and the difficulty of doing it at no cost, as many photographs are only available at a cost due to copyright issues and printing them out is also costly. We felt we had to try another way of doing something to incorporate the issues and themes of J and P with a Stations of the Cross during Lent. There may be a possibility of using CAFOD material again (which was the original source of ours) and therefore get around these problems. Ann A will investigate what is available. It was asked whether Children’s Stations were held and they are at Our Lady’s and St Joseph’s but not at St Peter’s in recent years.

**Cards for Prisoners of Conscience**

This has been running during the Easter season recently and over 100 cards were sent from all 3 Churches. Lynda asked whether donations covered the costs, and we understand that they did. We ask for a donation of £2 to cover postage but cards cost too. This year some post cards were sent, which were cheaper. We discussed getting children and young people involved via the schools.

Emma Raiment, previously youth worker St Peter’s is now a Lay Chaplain at Trinity and should be a good contact**. Ann A will get in touch with her.** Other schools could be approached, but it was felt that they are so busy with the Curriculum it is difficult. We need good contacts. We have been involved in the Confirmation programme in previous years and could try that again. **Jenny to ask** **Jenny Hayden.**

**Campaigning**

**CAFOD** campaigns are now being sent around by Jan Ireson (St Joseph’s)

**Justice for Palestinians -** we have not heard recently from them so need to chase up the contact.

Other links - it was felt we should be a conduit for information and get ourselves up to date on the local situations re Refuges and Asylum seekers as well as the Ukranian families who have come to the area. Richard Gordon is a good source of information on Refugees as he works in Coventry with the Refugee Centre. We understand that Warwick St Mary’ s are working with the Quakers to host a café for Ukranian people and that another café is held in Leamington possibly at the Parish Church, All Saints.

**Warwick J and P at St Mary’s -**

We have contacted them and aim to keep in touch.

After the meeting an email from Liz Morton Smith, who convenes J and P at Warwick who said that she has just got a job with Warwickshire County Council in the ’ Homes for Ukraine’ team . She will be a good contact for information.

**Other Business**

Jonathan reminded us that the Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly by Zoom is due to start next week. However after the meeting the first session was deferred , due to the Queen’s funeral that day (19th September)

As a general comment we felt the need of more members, and in particular younger members for fresh ideas and expertise.

**We finished with a prayer for the repose of the soul of our late Queen Elizabeth and the Lord’s Prayer.**

**Next meeting** Monday 31st October at 7.30 pm. in the Davenport Room, Jenny to check the room hire. (Royce has confirmed that we can use the room)