

NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM

On Monday 15th February 2021

Meeting 152

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

Apologies: Anna Godwin, Donald Newis

Jenny hosted this seventh Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 18th January

We started with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the reading for the 1st Week of Lent Mark 1 12-15

Presentation by Ann Allison on the work of CAFOD

CAFOD's Lenten family fast day will be held Friday 26th February and there will be a various ways of donating to the cause. There will be envelopes available in the churches, or donations can be made direct to CAFOD or by a parish donation page <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CathLeam> or by TEXT.

Also, Ann Allison, Brian Austin and Anne Buttrum are asking for sponsorship for their 5 mile walks on Saturday 20th February. The aim for the parish is to raise enough for a community water supply, which is £750.

The theme of this year's appeal is '**Walk for Water**' and Ann showed a CAFOD video of life for those in a small village in the mountains of Ethiopia where it takes 10 hours a day to collect water for the family, 7 days a week, in intense heat. 1 in 3 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water and in Ethiopia 25% of the population live in extreme poverty. CAFOD are working to install solar water pumps in such areas which give water security to people in such regions and enable them to better manage the land. Where this has happened there have been very positive results for the communities concerned. Also since 2000, 1.8 billion people have gained access to safe water, globally.

Ann also gave a breakdown of the effect of COVID19 on the CAFOD fundraising efforts. Whereas collections from parishes were down significantly (56%) individual donations were up by 92%. The advent appeal and World gifts did particularly well in doubling their income last year. The Coronavirus appeal for COVID prevention and treatment made £6.5 million. The funding going to training, sanitation and hygiene, health workers and emergency food and supplies, reaching 6.4 million people in 33 countries.

Ann finished by saying that all could help – by giving, acting to raise awareness and praying. Brian will send the Prayer to EXTRA.

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Stations of the Cross - After a lot of work producing these they are ready after 2 trial runs to start on Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday) at 4p.m. and after that every Wednesday during Lent.

Brian will put it on **Facebook** pages of Our Lady's and St Josephs and is working on a **Youtube video version**, so that these can be viewed at any time. Brian and all those involved were thanked for a great effort.

Fair Trade - February extra has a page dedicated to Fair Trade and the effects. Jenny will put a note in the newsletter for Fair trade fortnight. (26th February to 12th March) There was a discussion on what was available in which shops, the relative costs and reasons for this and the policy of supermarkets. Jenny mentioned that Warwick J and P were going to investigate the availability of fair trade chocolate in Warwick. Ann thought that many people did not appreciate the meagre amount of income that the cocoa farmers normally get as a return. (6% of a bar of chocolate) Jonathan mentioned Gaia (Regent

Place) as a good shop to look in for all ethical foods and household cleaning items and that we should look out for other small shops who sold ethical goods.

Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project

Due to the lockdown the WAP is still closed although they are giving food and hot drinks to those who they know to be vulnerable on 4 mornings of the week and volunteers are going in to do this. Yvonne and the project workers are giving advice and support when needed also. The numbers have been low at present (also due to cold weather) but it is anticipated that when lockdown ends more support will be needed.

Other projects have come into being, such as St John's Church in Tachbrook who offer breakfasts and other support.

Warwick Justice and Peace - Jenny attended their meeting last week and they have formed a new group to move forward with their proposal to host a Syrian family under the Government scheme. It is called 'Circle of Friends'

They are also looking actively at ways of recycling, including making 'Ecobricks'. Brian said that OWL had experience of this and it had been good for schools, but is very labour intensive.

Rosary intention for March

As there are many situations across the world where our prayers are needed, such as Myanmar, the Uigher people in China we thought that a rosary intention about those suffering under repressive regimes would be appropriate. ***'We pray for subjects of repressive and unjust governments, and pray that other countries may press to reduce their suffering and offer asylum to any who flee'***

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Brian has volunteered to be a local **Community Champion for the Climate Coalition** and has forwarded a petition which everyone is asked to sign <https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration> He has forwarded to nearly every Church in Leamington and Warwick to ask for signatures as a way of showing politicians that there is a mandate for protecting the environment and supporting the vulnerable. **Ann suggested he send it to schools also.**
- Anne has been investigating the Warwick District Council website regarding their policies on Climate change – they are planning to add an extra £1 per week on council tax bills in order to make a difference to their financial ability to act. They intend to work in areas such as Transport, Energy, tree planting, carbon reduction for companies. The County Council has approved the funding for the **L2K** (Leamington to Kenilworth) cycle path to be done over the next couple of years.
- Jonathan has received a notification from the County Council re energy switching – **Switch and Save** - encouraging people to switch to a provider chosen by them in an auction as most reasonable and also 100% renewable. **Brian will take this up** – he had not promoted this before since it had not previously been guaranteed green.
- Jonathan attended the Diocesan J and P meeting on the environmental policy for the Diocese. It was felt that although not perfect (Jonathan thought it was too fragmented) it was important to get it in place at least as a start.

Action by Christians Against Torture. Jenny will ask Dianna to contact ACAT about their Easter Campaign. We can at least advertise and promote it, as we did at Christmas.

We finished with praying the Lord's prayer remembering those suffering in Yemen in the conflict.

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