



Justice and Peace at St. Peter's
St Peter Apostle, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

Meeting 125

April 23rd, 2018

Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Wilf Feely, Anna Godwin, Jonathan Holden, and Mary Wilde.

Apologies: Lynda Gould.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B), John 15: 1-8.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 26th March.

- Since the Flint Room is soon to be changed into an office for Erin Doughty, there was some doubt about its availability and suitability for future meetings. [Jenny later established that all future J&P meetings at St Peter's would be in the Davenport Room.]

2. Rosary intention for May.

- 'We pray that governments may collaborate in eliminating permanently from the world all weapons of indiscriminate mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear).'

Anna to put on the J&P noticeboard in the church; Jonathan to enter in the Newsletter and on the website.

3. Poverty and Homelessness

- Janice reported that £1,762 had been collected for the Saturday Friendship Group; there had been several very favourable comments on Yvonne McKinnon's appeal despite some irritation from clergy and others on her overrunning her allotted time.
- She reported that the Poverty Forum had produced a booklet of local services for homeless and disadvantaged people including contact numbers, which was to be launched formally by Matt Western MP soon. Those present suggested that she should give a copy to each of the clergy and the Parish Office and also pin one to the J&P noticeboard. She pointed out that it would need to be updated frequently as such details became out of date. Brian mentioned that Matt Western MP had held a meeting at the Council House of people interested in homelessness to propose a new initiative in this area: his proposals had had a mixed reception, but would be referred to the Poverty Forum to take forward.
- Mary Wilde reported that new procedures had been put in place at the Leamington Night Shelter to deal with the problem of needles which had caused the shelter to close briefly, as reported at the last meeting. A number of volunteers from Princethorpe were helping on Wednesday nights, though Anna said they were a bit short of volunteers clearing up in the mornings.

5. LiveSimply Week (April 22-29)

- On 'Walk to Church Sunday' the previous weekend, parishioners added 145 miles to CAFOD's 'Share the Journey' campaign total in solidarity with migrants and refugees, supporting Pope Francis' initiative for governments to protect people on the move (against a global target of 24,900 miles by the time that the UN General Assembly adopts a Global Compact on Refugees in September). Two prize-winners were drawn at the meeting: Alison Strong and Donna Greaves.
- Jenny showed the CAFOD LiveSimply Award to St Peter's to mark 3 years as a LiveSimply parish. There was a display in St Peter's porch about the problem of unrecyclable plastic waste and what we could do about it; the display was soon to be moved to Our Lady's church in Lillington. She had a stock of information sheets to be distributed.

- Brian reminded people of the walk next Sunday 29 April (Eco Fun Day, organized by Action 21) starting 11 a.m. at the Café in St Nicholas Park to the Pump Room Gardens where there would be a display of electric vehicles and other 'green' information and activities.

6. Peace Festival (June 16-17)

- Brian was still awaiting confirmation of a microphone slot between 12 and 2 pm on each of the two days of the Festival. He was planning to write a talk about the Catholic Church's approach to peace for those slots, but wanted a volunteer other than himself to deliver it. He had also asked for a St Peter's entry in the Festival Programme. He confirmed that there were no weddings that weekend but one baptism at 1 p.m. on Sunday in St Peter's. Jean Daly had again agreed to organize refreshments.

Volunteer needed to give peace talk at Festival. Brian to supply a peace liturgy to the priests, and to ask the choir to provide a peace hymn. Jenny to help Brian and Janice put up in the church the J&P Stations used in Lent.

- Jenny had spoken to Erin about a peace display to be provided either by Trinity School or by her own Summit Group, but had not yet received a reply. Mary offered to visit St Patrick's to see if they had anything that they could contribute, and Brian and Anna said they would ask their contacts at St Anthony's about material they might have for the purpose.

Jenny or Lynda to follow up with Erin, and Mary, Brian and Anna to make enquiries at the schools.

7. Any Other Business

- Brian referred to an undated letter from Matt Western MP replying to a letter sent from the J&P meeting just after he had been elected as MP for Warwick and Leamington, which was very positive on the subject of climate change and offered to meet us to discuss it. There was some discussion of the form of the meeting (open to all parishioners, and hence effectively to anyone with a party political position to present; or just to invited supporters of St Peter's J&P), its aim (to ask him to influence his party's or government policy, or to help us to do so, or just to make him aware of our interest in the issues), but there was agreement that the discussion should be restricted to the topic of climate change. A date around Friday 6 July was suggested as appropriate subject to availability of a suitable room.

Brian to explore options, contact Mr Western, and report back to the next meeting.

8. Future Meetings

- The next monthly meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 21st May **in the Davenport Room** (upstairs in the main Parish Centre building), when the reflection will be on the gospel for Trinity Sunday (Year B), Matthew 28: 16-20. Wilf Feely will chair the meeting in Jenny's absence, with an Agenda prepared by Jenny.
- Subsequent meetings in 2018 will be at 7.30pm in the Davenport Room (except as shown) on: June 25th, July 23rd, September 4th (at 2 pm - review of the year), September 24th (in St Joseph's church hall, jointly with the St Joseph's J&P Group), October 29th, and November 26th.

The meeting closed with the Pax Christi prayer.