

NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING by zoom

On Monday 23rd January 2023

Meeting 170

Present: Jenny Armstrong, Anne Elson, Anna Godwin, Lynda Gould, Jonathan Holden, Diana O'Reilly, Anna Tye

Apologies: Ann Allison

We started with the SPAN prayer.

The Gospel of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary time

Matters Arising

Prayers were read for Peace Sunday which was 15th /16th January. Suitable hymns were sung at SP Also the children's liturgy at Our Lady's did a session based on peace and made doves.

Anne reported that unfortunately the present wrapping to be done by 'Churches Together' in the Royal Priors did not happen as the management of the Royal priors decided not to support it.

Warwick J and P have organised a showing of the film 'the Letter' promoting 'Laudato Si' at St Mary Immaculate – on 2 occasions, the first being Sunday 29th January at 3pm. Jonathan has watched some of this on Youtube.

Crib collection -- this was for CAFOD at SP and possibly at OL. Ann Allison had prepared notices for the collection box. **Anne E will check that the money has been sent to CAFOD when she goes into the office to help.**

Prayer intention for January/February

'As we begin a new year we pray in particular for peace in Ukraine – for displaced refugees, and pray we can help to welcome and support those amongst us'

We will continue with this as it has not yet appeared in the newsletter. **Jonathan will re-send it to the Office.**

Poverty and Homelessness

The Saturday Friendship Group is still unable to function due to lack of staff and Jenny was told today at the Way Ahead Project that there were plans for a reorganisation which would reduce staff again. This is out for consultation and will take some time. Meanwhile the WAP is very busy during the week and very much appreciated by the visitors there, for the warmth, company, washing facilities and refreshments, plus advice and help.

Anna reported that the LWS Night Shelter is now up and running again and is at Radford Road Church where the Leamington Night Shelter used to be. AC Lloyd have helped to build storage and other facilities at the Centre (article in the Leamington Courier this week)

Street Pastors are still running – there was mention of them and prayers for them at the Churches Together united service on Sunday 22nd at St Paul's Church which was attended some of us and Father Stephen.

Pastimes have arranged with Warwick District Council to become a ' Warm Hub' during time they are open on a Tuesday.

Live Simply

A meeting is planned for the next week. Christmas display at SP has now been taken down.

An article went into January Extra about new year resolutions. The Recycling for CAFOD box is still at Our Lady's and another cheque has gone to CAFOD.

Fair Trade

It was reported this week that, sadly, Traidcraft who have been promoting Fair trade since 1979 have just gone into administration. The charity 'Transform Trade' which was known as 'Traidcraft Exchange' sent the information. They continue with their work.

Jenny has had a message from Michael Porter that he still has Traidcraft stock so she can explore still having a stall for Fair Trade for this FT Fortnight. (27th Feb -12th March)

CAFOD and Stations of the Cross

We have been considering how to run some stations of the cross for J and P during Lent. A suggestion is that there are online resources from CAFOD - taking a walk through Stations of the Cross with prayers and information about issues affecting people who are suffering – an emphasis on Sierra Leone. It was felt that they looked suitable and were ready to be used (to explore the issue of a licence to show). We would show it in the hall – probably either before or after the 11 a.m. Mass (which may be moved) This may bring in more people if near the mass time. Jenny will email Father Stephen - - (**Father Stephen was in full agreement with this plan**) We need to discuss the practicalities and have a meeting for **Wednesday 1st Feb at 7 pm by zoom** .

ACAT (Action by Christians against Torture)

Diana has looked at the ACAT website which highlights 9 people from different countries and we will try to hold a card signing in the Easter season.

Any other Business

It is Holocaust Day on Friday 27th January and we want to ask for prayers at Mass. Lynda will email Father Stephen (he agreed to so this) There are also events in the Pump Rooms on 27th January including the Piatti String Quartet who will be performing at the Pump Rooms at 7.30pm

The Diocesan J and P co-ordinator asked for participants in the debate on zoom tomorrow as to how the Diocesan Assembly might run this year. Lynda has volunteered to attend and has emailed the notes from the meeting sent by Janet Vaughan the co-ordinator. - see below

'Points discussed:

1. *People so not always see meetings a practical actions*
2. *How do we revitalise Justice and Peace?*
3. *Do we need to change our vision?*
4. *Do we have a vision?*
5. *Do we have a shared archdiocese vision?*
6. *How do we listen to others?*
7. *We need a vision hat others will buy into.*
8. *Vision is something that inspires.*
9. *Give people opportunities to work on issues.*
10. *Commission should be a place where all groups can come together (Pax Christi, CAFOD, Father Hudson's)*
11. *How do we improve our Assemblies?*
12. *Main topic of this year's Assembly – The NHS*
13. *More integrated programme.*
14. *Assembly to be in person. Where? Grimshaw Rooms at St Chads?*
15. *Two meetings – one in the north and one in the south?*
16. *Clarify what the work of the Commission is.*
17. *Importance of having a vision – various threads.*
18. *During next Commission meeting – task – sort out our vision. Clear not too wordy.*
19. *Vision should be over and above our mission statement.*
20. *Be aware of what others are doing. Does our Retreat need to be in Lent?*
21. *Look for a retreat date around or after Pentecost without clashing with school holidays.*

From our website

Our Vision:

Inspired by the gospel vision of God's Kingdom, the social teaching of the Church and the sharing of our faith experience, the Birmingham Justice & Peace Commission aims to promote Justice & Peace, its theology, spirituality and practice throughout the Diocese.

What we try to do:

1. *Raise awareness of Justice and Peace issues as central to the Church's Mission*
2. *Sustain groups and individuals in their prophetic witness and in working for change*
3. *Inspire through prayer, celebration and a spirituality that informs the whole of our lives*
4. *Provide support to Parishes and J&P groups when requested*
5. *Organise annual Diocesan J&P Assemblies and Lenten Retreats*
6. *Network and communicate with all Catholics in the diocese and, wherever possible, with other Christians and all who share our vision*
7. *Support the campaigns of the Church and other agencies, after due discernment of priorities*
8. *Collaborate with organisations and Diocesan programmes that might share common ground with us*
9. *Provide the Archbishop with advice when required in matters regarding Justice & Peace'*

We finished with a prayer

Dates of meetings for the year --

**February 20th ,(by zoom) March 20th, April 24th , May 15th . June 19th, July 17th .
September 18th, October 16th, November 20th (by zoom)**

Jenny to book rooms for all except February and November.