

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

The Presbytery, 3^A Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

Meeting 141 September 23rd, 2019, at St Joseph's, Whitnash Notes

Those present were: Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anna Godwin, and Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Jenny Armstrong, Anne Elson, Richard Gordon and Lynda Gould.

The meeting opened with the CAFOD prayer 'No one beyond reach' and a reflection on the gospel for the Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year (C), Luke 16:19-31.

1. **Actions Agreed at the 29th July Meeting at Our Lady's, and Matters Arising.**

- Anna and Jonathan confirmed they had put the August Rosary intention on the notice board and in the Newsletter and on the website.
- Janice had asked Fr John to offer a date for the annual church appeal for the Saturday Friendship Group.

Brian to check with Richard his progress in clarifying rental arrangements for Syrian refugees, and in appealing for landlords.

- Brian had placed copies of the CAFOD petition in the churches and had collected 80 signatures.

Brian to report the result in the Newsletter.

2. **Actions Agreed at the 3rd September Annual Review Meeting, and Matters Arising.**

- Janice had not yet had an opportunity to update and issue the 'Justice & Peace Programme for 2020 and Beyond'.
- No information on whether Jenny had invited Emma Rayment to a J&P meeting.
- Brian had not yet passed the checklist to Anne Elson, but since the meeting Jane Rebika had offered to organise the Family Fast Day meal with help from Anne Elson and other volunteers. Brian reported that someone would be speaking at each of the three churches this weekend about the CAFOD Fast Day appeal.

Brian to pass checklist to Jane Rebika and contact Sioned Hammond-Jones to ask her to help.

- It was thought that Jenny had not yet discussed with Fr John the coordination between churches of Stations of the Cross in Lent. Anna observed that the Wednesday Stations at Our Lady's had been initiated by a parishioner (as had the Friday Stations at St Peter's led by Kate Tennyson) without asking the clergy to coordinate. It was felt that the 'J&P' Stations at St Peter's were unique and valuable despite reduced attendance, and also that coordination of liturgies across Catholic Leamington was even more important than coordination of social events (which was already being addressed), and that it should be a clergy responsibility to ensure that coordination.

Jenny's action to discuss this with Fr John carried forward.

- Brian confirmed he had contacted Hannah Jacobs about the 'Global Healing' event, but was not sure she had circulated it to CTL.

3. **Rosary intention for October.**

- To celebrate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, Pope Francis had declared October 2019 an 'Extraordinary Missionary Month' with the theme 'Baptized and Sent'. The following prayer intention was agreed: 'In this Extraordinary Missionary Month, we pray that each of us will see more clearly what God wants us to do with our lives'.

4. **Poverty and Homelessness**

- Janice reported that the Royal Leamington Spa Town Council had made a grant of £2,000 to the Saturday Friendship Group, which had been delivered to the Presbytery.
- The Way Ahead Project had held an Open Day the previous Saturday: a number of people (including the Mayor) had observed the activities taking place and heard presentations by former clients of how the project had helped them.
- A donation specifically for homeless people received by SPAN some time ago, of which £400 had been allocated to the SFG; this had now been spent on equipment for clients including two high quality 100 litre rucksacks and a tent.
- A new (male) Project Worker had been appointed to replace Emma; he is undergoing training and is expected to be fully cleared for work in the Project in six weeks' time. Meanwhile, the centre closed for a week because of a lack of volunteers available in the holiday season.
- Anna reported that there seemed to be many new people appearing at the **Leamington Night Shelter**, including about 40 clients one evening last week. There were rumours that the WDC paid staff at Walsgrove House hostel were less flexible than the Night Shelter volunteers and that this was less attractive to clients.

5. **Climate Change.**

- A number of people had asked for thanks to be passed on to Brian for a successful 'Global Healing' meeting, though Anna would have liked to see young people there. Though Brian had not yet analysed the attendance list, it was thought that all those present had been Catholic Leamington parishioners. There had been a lively demonstration outside the Town Hall that day, linked to Extinction Rebellion.

6. **LiveSimply**

- Brian reminded people that the annual *LiveSimply* celebration mass would be held at 5.30 pm Sunday October 20th at St Joseph's. He had passed on liturgy details to the St Joseph's organizer, Caroline Graham.

7. **Fair Trade**

- Brian passed on Jenny's report that there were now regular monthly fair trade stalls at Our Lady's and St Joseph's, and that she hoped to find enough volunteers to set up similar arrangements at St Peter's.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Brian reminded people of the annual Diocesan J&P Assembly on Saturday October 12th organized by the Columban Fathers on the theme 'Baptized and /Sent' (see www.birminghamjandp.org.uk).
- Janice mentioned a theological paper by her son Nick on 'The accompaniment of asylum seekers as a practice of hope', and offered to send a copy to Jonathan.
- Brian thought Ann Allison planned to promote CAFOD World Gifts Catalogues this year.

7. **Future Meetings**

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Monday October 28th in the Davenport Room at St Peter's, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the Thirty-first Sunday of the Year (C), Luke 19: 1-10.
- The last meeting of the year will be at 7.30 pm on Monday November 25th (Davenport Room).

The meeting closed with the Our Father.