

# *Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington*

The Presbytery, 3<sup>A</sup> Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

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## Meeting 145

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at St Peter's (Davenport Room)

## Notes

**Those present were:** Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anna Godwin, Lynda Gould and Jonathan Holden.

**Apologies:** Anne Elson and Wilf Feely.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the First Sunday in Lent (Year A), Matthew 4: 1-11.

### 1. **Matters arising from the January 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting at St Peter's.**

- Brian had put up in St Peter's church all the pictures for the **Lenten Stations of the Cross**, and Janice had completed the rota of readers and leaders and would leave a copy at the back of the church; it included Henny Manning and Martina Thielmann as new members. Brian would email to Jane Rebika a file of the booklet to be printed in the Parish Office as the previous email with them attached seemed to have gone astray.

**Brian to email booklet to Parish Office.**

### 2. **Rosary intention for March.**

- **'We pray for the victims of floods and other extreme weather events caused by climate change.'**

**Lynda 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 the **Saturday Friendship Group's appeal** in the three churches had raised £1,862. In addition, about nine people had **shown interest in helping** the SFG with the Way Ahead Project: if most of them did volunteer to help, it would improve further the profile of Catholic Leamington.
- The project seemed to be going satisfactorily at present: 10 to 15 people regularly joined the Saturday sessions, and visitors and volunteers were sitting down to breakfast together.

### 4. **CAFOD**

- Brian believed that Ann Allison planned to speak at the St Peter's 11 am mass on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March about the CAFOD **Lenten Family Fast Day** on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, the hunger lunch in the Parish Hall from 1 pm that Friday and the church collection the following weekend (although Jonathan had previously offered to do so himself if fully briefed in advance). Anna commented that it was unfortunate that the Fast Day always seemed to coincide with the (Women's) **World Day of Prayer**: those attending the lunch would miss the 2 pm prayer service in Lillington Free Church, though they could attend one at 7 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Beauchamp Avenue.

### 5. **Cards for Prisoners of Conscience**

- Jenny reported changes to the planned **dates for the signing**: the signing at St Peter's and Our Lady's would be on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April (just following Easter Sunday), and June Arran would organize the signing at both masses at St Joseph's on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.
- St Joseph's Art Group had agreed to **produce some more cards** to be signed, and Jenny believed that Emma Rayment's 'Unite' youth group would make some cards, although some of them were very young. It was not known whether Richard Gordon had contacted and obtained a response from St Teresa's School on this subject. Lynda had emailed Jo

Hewitt at Trinity School with a briefing note by Diana O'Reilly, to ask if Trinity *Pax Christi* group could contribute, but Jo had passed it on to Mr Beasley, Head of Catholic Life at Trinity, who had taken over this aspect of her role, and no reply had yet been received from him.

**Jenny to contact Richard Gordon for progress with St Teresa's; Lynda to email Mr Beasley.**

#### 6. Fair Trade

- Jenny announced that there would be **fair trade stalls** outside Our Lady's and St Joseph's churches on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> February/1<sup>st</sup> March. Lynda offered to man a stall at St Peter's on 8<sup>th</sup> March – it may be located in the Parish Hall rather than the church porch. Anna suggested that, now that Fair Trade fortnight had begun, it would be appropriate for people to question their local **supermarkets** again on their **fair trade policies**.

#### 7. LiveSimply.

- Jenny reported that Louise Hathaway, of the LiveSimply team, was trying to find **recycling boxes for mobile phones**, etc., and agree with the clergy to locate them in the three churches. Sioned Hammond-Jones was preparing a list of local **places for recycling** and for buying recycled clothes and other goods. She confirmed that Palm Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> April) would be '**Walk to Church Sunday**', and that the **Ecofest** would be on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

#### 8. Peace Festival

- Lynda had written to Trinity School asking if the *Pax Christi* group could provide a **peace display**. Jenny had spoken to Emma Rayment about a possible Unite display, but Emma had other priorities at the moment. St Anthony's School had provided displays in the past, but Anna had now lost her connections with the school so could not predict whether they would become involved this year.
- Brian noted that this was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs: that would be a relevant theme for a display.

#### 9. Any Other Business

- Jenny reported on a brief **meeting with Archbishop Bernard** the previous Saturday during his parish visitation: he promised to read the various documents she gave him, and he heard from representatives of the Saturday Friendship Group and the Leamington Night Shelter.
- Brian announced that the **Birmingham J&P Commission** were holding a **retreat** led by the Columban Fr Ray Collier at St Paul's Convent Selly Park on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**.
- Jonathan described the ACTA meeting with **Theresa Alessandro** the previous day: he had found most interesting her own background and views on active non-violence.
- Brian said that he had long ago asked for the *Pax Christi* **magazine sent each month to the Presbytery to be passed on** to a member of the Justice & Peace meetings, but it had never happened.

#### 10. Future Meetings

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on **Monday 30 March** in Our Lady's small hall, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the Palm Sunday procession (Year A), Matthew 21: 1-11.
- Subsequent meetings will be at 7.30 on Mondays 27 April (Davenport Room), 18 May (St Joseph's, Holy Family Room), 29 June (Davenport Room), 27 July (Our Lady's small hall), 28 September (Davenport Room), 26 October (St Joseph's, Holy Family Room), 30 November (Davenport Room); the annual review meeting will be at 2 pm on Tuesday 8 September (Davenport Room).

The meeting closed with the *Pax Christi* prayer.