

## *Justice and Peace at St. Peter's*

St Peter Apostle, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

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### Meeting 130

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Notes

**Those present were:** Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anna Godwin, Richard Gordon, Lynda Gould, Jonathan Holden, Diana O'Reilly and Alan Pratten.

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

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on Mark 9: 38-43,45,47-48.

#### **1. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.**

- Matt Western MP might be able to meet us in the New Year; Brian had asked his office to offer specific days.
- Anna Godwin confirmed she would report on the Leamington Night Shelter whenever she was available.
- Brian reported that the penitential rite and bidding prayers for the Season of Creation had been used on the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> September. He had emailed Fr John to ask if they could be used also on the 4<sup>th</sup> October when the season ends.

#### **2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September**

- Richard said that he had given his apologies for missing that meeting, though they were not recorded.
- Janice was in the process of updating the Calendar for 2019, which she planned to issue in November.
- Lynda reported that Rose and Ira had no objection to holding a Fair Trade stall in St Peter's Parish Hall during coffee after 11 am mass on Sundays, but could not offer any help in running it. She said that 30-40 people usually go there for tea and coffee after mass.
- Jenny agreed to draw Fr John's attention to the welcome notice in a Newcastle church described by Anne Kirby and ask him whether the Peace Festival banner or another 'Welcome' notice might be displayed permanently at St Peter's.

**Jenny to email Fr John.**

- There was discussion of running the J&P Stations of the Cross at the other Leamington parishes during Lent. It was agreed to postpone discussion of St Joseph's until the next meeting (at St Joseph's). Mary Rouse leads Lenten Stations at Our Lady's, using different models in different weeks – we could offer to present our J&P Stations one week, but there were practical difficulties to resolve like fixing the pictures to the wall.

#### **3. Rosary intention for October.**

- 'We pray that young people throughout the world may have access to education and work.'  
**Lynda to put on the J&P noticeboard in the church; Jonathan to enter in the Newsletter and on the website.**

#### **4. Poverty and Homelessness**

- Janice reported that Matt Western MP had launched the new **Poverty Forum Directory of Local Services** on 14<sup>th</sup> September, and gave a non-partisan review of UK poverty statistics. Janice and Brian attended for the **Saturday Friendship Group**, as did also Yvonne McKinnon of the Way Ahead Project and Lieutenants Kelsey and Jessica Pearce heading Leamington Salvation Army church. In subsequent small group discussions, the following local poverty issues were identified as key, and carefully noted by Matt Western: housing, mental health, computer literacy, cost of food, limited opening hours of food banks, child poverty and prostitution. The next Poverty Forum meeting will examine and look for a way forward on these issues.
- Anna thought the entry in the Directory for 'St Peter's Saturday Friendship Group' was misleading, giving the Presbytery as the contact point and implying that the SFG operate from

parish premises. It was suggested that the name 'St Peter's SFG' should be changed to 'Catholic Leamington SFG' since volunteers from other parishes were joining.

**Janice to amend the contact point and description of SFG work in the Directory, and to check with Fr John whether the name change is appropriate.**

- Jenny reported that the Town Council had granted the SFG £2,000.
- Anna had visited the new William Walsgrove House in Lillington Road, set up with the Government 'Homelessness' grant and run by the District Council with about 12 staff, which included some hostel places for stays of up to 28 days (or more in special circumstances) and night shelter male and female dormitories. (The hostel can be used by clients as an address in claiming benefits.) It has yet to be seen whether Leamington Night Shelter clients will prefer to use it, making the LNS eventually redundant.

#### **4. CAFOD and LiveSimply**

- Brian mentioned that CAFOD Family Fast Day was on Friday 5 October. The churches should have received envelopes already to give them out on the coming weekend for collection on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> October. He noted that Oscar Romero's canonization would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> October; CAFOD were holding a one-day retreat from 10 am to 4 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Selly Park Convent on 'Countering Consumerism – Lessons from *Gaudete et Exsultate*' (free, donations invited, pre-register through the CAFOD website).
- Jenny said the date of the LiveSimply mass was under discussion as she wanted Hand-in-Hand to be involved and they could not attend Our Lady's on the date previously announced.
- Anna Godwin tabled a project of an Ipswich parish for creating Parish Wildflower Patches, and could give details to anyone interested.

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

- Diana pointed out that the number of cards sent had been declining slightly each year, the costs of postage were increasing, and this year we would no longer have available the free hand-made cards we had last year. She said that the ACAT Christmas list of addresses (obtained mostly from Amnesty International) contained few people who could accept Christian cards, whereas the ACAT greeting cards list used by St Joseph's at Easter consisted of wholly of Christians. She suggested switching our campaign from Christmas to Easter.

**Diana to contact ACAT to explain this anomaly, and the discussion to be resumed at the next meeting.**

#### **6. Any Other Business**

- Anna drew attention to the London Syrian Ensemble concert, hosted by 'Welcome Here Warwick and Leamington' in support of local refugees, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September at All Saints Parish Church (£13 at the Pump Rooms Information Centre; £15 on the door).
- Brian mentioned (a) a talk by a British Palestinian on his proposal for a One-State Solution in Palestine, at 6.15 pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October, and (b) the annual Birmingham J&P Assembly in Solihull on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, with half a dozen workshops, devoted to Refugees and Migration (£8, pre-book via [www.birminghamjandp.org.uk/](http://www.birminghamjandp.org.uk/) website or Brian has some booking forms).

#### **7. Future Meetings**

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on **Tuesday** 30<sup>th</sup> October in St Joseph's church hall, Whitnash (jointly with the St Joseph's J&P Group), and the last meeting of the year will be at 7.30 pm in the Davenport Room on Monday November 26<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting closed with 'a prayer for our earth' from *Laudato Si'*.