

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

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

Meeting 143

November 25th, 2019, at St Peter's

Notes

Those present were: Ann Alison (for item 1 only), Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Wilf Feely, Lynda Gould and Jonathan Holden, and we welcomed Sylvester Mutigwa (of the CAFOD Birmingham team).

Apologies: Anna Godwin and Marie O'Riley.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the First Sunday of Advent (Year A), Matthew 24: 37-44.

1. **Matters arising from the October 28th Meeting at St Peter's.**

- Brian discovered that the WDC appeal for **landlords for the Syrian refugees** had been circulated several months ago and was due to end in December. He understood that the refugees allocated to this district by the Government for 2019 had already arrived and been settled here. Jenny had emailed Fr John on this subject but had received no reply.
- Brian reported that the **Global Healing film** on climate change had been shown in St Joseph's on 12th November. Very few St Joseph's parishioners had attended – Fr Andy was unable to come and had not promoted it in the parish. However, Jenny said that some very thought-provoking ideas had been aired in the three discussion groups.
- Janice tabled a draft of the **J&P Programme for 2020** and invited any further information on dates of events. Some dates were clarified in discussion – for instance the COP26 Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow would run from 9th to 19th November 2020. It was agreed to hold the annual review meeting on Tuesday 8th September 2020 rather than on 1st September (the Day of Prayer for Creation). Brian commented that the 'Calendar Notes in 2020' circulated to all clergy in England and Wales by the Liturgy Office made no mention of the 'Season of Creation' from 1st September to 4th October (feast of St Francis); consequently most clergy may be unaware of this Season.
- Jenny had heard from Marie O'Riley and also read in the local paper that WDC had approved the **K2L cycle path** but there was a need to keep up pressure on County Councillors so that the project proceeds quickly.
- Ann Alison hoped that everyone had seen her display in St Peter's church on the **CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue** – everyone agreed it was impressive – and she said she had spoken at a school assembly that morning and was to speak at another school in Warwick the next day. Brian said he had hoped the new edition of the 'Newsletter Extra' would have been published already, containing a major section on the CAFOD World Gifts.

2. **Rosary intention for December.**

- At Lynda's suggestion it was agreed as: **'We pray that our political actions will help to build a better world.'**

**Jenny to put on the J&P noticeboard in the church a notice already prepared by Lynda;
Jonathan to enter in the Newsletter and on the website.**

Lynda to circulate by email in December a suggested intention for January.

3. **Preparation for Lenten Stations of the Cross.**

- Janice proposed a first meeting at **2 pm on Monday 13th January** in St Peter's Sacristy.
Janice to check with Fr John that the Sacristy will be available then.

4. **Poverty and Homelessness**

- Janice reported for the Saturday Friendship Group that the **Way Ahead Project** had recruited a new (male) project worker named Steve, and that there had been a couple of new volunteers. The numbers attending had grown steadily in recent months (about 180 different people in the last month; and in the last week about 120 visits by 80 different people). She was not sure why. Though many visitors are reluctant to admit going to the drop-in frequently, it was becoming more like a club with many regulars. **Christmas events** include a lunch followed by a pantomime written by one of the Salvation Army officers on Wednesday 18 December, and a simple quiz about Jesus; a number of local homeless organizations, including Helping Hands, are also organizing a gig.

5. **Fair Trade**

- Jenny thanked all those who had supported the Christmas sale at her house on 19 December, which had realised £290 for Traidcraft and £370 for the King's Table. There were now regular Fair Trade stalls at Our Lady's (which had taken £100 the previous day) and at St Joseph's (where the last session had raised £160).

6. **LiveSimply.**

- Brian said the **next meeting** of the *LiveSimply* group would be at **noon on Friday 10 January**. They planned to hold a **LiveSimply walk** with prayer on each Bank Holiday in 2020: he could not be present on Easter Monday and hoped someone else would offer to lead it; also, the walk in May would be on the second of the two bank holidays (25 May), not on 4 May.

Volunteer wanted to lead the walk on Easter Monday.

7. **Any Other Business**

- Jenny reported that Diana O'Reilly had asked Richard Gordon to obtain cards from Our Lady and St Teresa's School art group for next Easter's **Prisoners of Conscience card signing**.
- Ann Elson announced a Church Unity Service at **6.30 pm on Sunday 19 January 2020** at Holy Trinity, Beauchamp Avenue. This prompted discussion of the plans for **Peace Sunday** that day (promoted by *Pax Christi*): it was agreed to go ahead as in previous years with Brian's specially written Penitential Rite and Bidding Prayers and with a Peace hymn, at masses that weekend, and to provide peace prayer leaflets for private use at the 3 pm Holy Hour with Exposition in St Peter's on Sunday.
- Jenny mentioned a short **vigil outside the Town Hall** on Saturday 16 November, called at short notice by Justice for Palestinians, attended by a number of St Peter's parishioners (including 5 or 6 present at this meeting) to deplore the bombing raids on Gaza that week. Jenny and Lynda also attended a talk by Belinda Pyke, organized by JfP on Sunday 24 November, on her recent visit to Palestine as part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme.

8. **Future Meetings**

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on **Monday 20 January** in the Davenport Room, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Year A, Matthew 4: 12-23.
- Subsequent meetings will be at 7.30 on Mondays **24 February*** (Davenport Room), **30 March** (Our Lady's, hall), **27 April*** (Davenport Room), **18 May** (St Joseph's, Holy Family Room), **29 June*** (Davenport Room), **27 July** (Our Lady's, 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).
(* = subject to confirmation)

The meeting closed with the *Pax Christi* prayer. Sylvester thanked us all for our work and particularly our support of CAFOD over the years, and said he would be our main link with CAFOD in the Midlands.