

NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM

On Monday 26th April 2021

Meeting 154

Present: Brian and Janice Austin, Jonathan Holden, Anne Elson, Lynda Gould and Jenny Armstrong

Jenny hosted this 8th Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 15th March

We started with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter

(John 15 1-8)

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Jenny had written to Father Benedict to let him know of our Rosary Intention as he runs a zoom session of the rosary. He replied that he would be happy to use it.

Brian wrote to Jonathan Chilvers, Green County Councillor, to ask him if he would be able to come and answer questions as to the Council's actions on the Climate Emergency and he will come to the next meeting (17th May) at 8.15 p.m (now confirmed). after a quick general meeting. **To advertise that this is happening.**

Jenny had thanked Diana O'Reilly for organising the Prisoners of conscience information in Extra and the newsletter.

Re letters to our MP's about the reduction of aid to Yemen – Anne had a response from Matt Western who is pushing for the amount to be increased and agrees that the reduction should never have happened.

J and P Stations of the Cross - the Stations of the Cross during Lent were quite well attended with attendances between 13 and 21. Thanks to all who worked on them to produce a different but prayerful experience this year.

Rosary Intention for April

The current issue highlighted in the news is the awful state of the pandemic in India and the need for sharing equipment as well as vaccinations.

“We pray that rich nations including Britain will respond urgently to the plight of India and other countries suffering from the worst of the pandemic”

Jenny will write to Father Benedict to make him aware of this for his Rosary session. Jonathan will put in the newsletter.

Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project

The numbers were rising now during the week as well as on a Saturday. They are almost back to prepandemic levels. Breakfasts are being provided 5 mornings a week. Advice is available as well as food.

With the donations received in memory of Christ Maria Cross a cheque for £435 has been sent to the WAP for food to provide breakfasts and some take away tins etc.

Anne reported seeing Will, formerly Big Issue seller who was looking remarkably well and free from addictions following his rehabilitation. This was very encouraging news.

CAFOD

Brian reported that the final total of Lenten collections for Family Fast and Walk for Water for **CAFOD** was £2992.

St Josephs £543.50. St Peter's £431, Our Lady's £252 plus money raised by sponsored walkers, Anne Buttram, Brian and Ann Allison. Other money sent direct to CAFOD or by TEXT, we do not know the totals of. They were congratulated on their great efforts at a difficult time.

Climate change

Climate Hustings for elections held on 19th April - several of the group attended the Zoom session which was very lively and at which the 4 representatives of the Tories, Labour, Lib Dems and Green parties all answered questions as to their policies and priorities in the light of the Climate emergency. There was a lot of promises and plans, but many at that meeting were very critical of the speed of the actions that were happening, such as cycle tracks, pedestrianisation, vehicle emissions, car charging points, planning regulations for new homes.

Also re the local affairs, Lynda had attended a seminar run by the Leamington Society – where the speaker was Stephanie Kerr from BID Leamington – talking about the High Street post lockdown and the possibilities for the town – including the green agenda. (inc electric buses)

Laudato Si – week 16 -24th May – organised by the Global Catholic Climate Movement -- sessions run over the week bring awareness across the globe of the issues, based on 'Laudato Si' **Jenny will forward the email for signing up**

Laudato Si Animators -- Brian forwarded an invitation to sign up to a course on implementing and sharing ideas as to how to promote the issues around Laudato Si. No one present had signed up but Jenny reported that at the Warwick J and P group, which she attended, Liz Moreton Smith was signed up for it. Jenny had responded to a request to link up to other local activists and had a response from Sue Porter who lives in North Worcestershire. She is trying to encourage groups in Redditch and Bromsgrove, with limited success although there is a CAFOD group and she is part of a writing group who are trying to get articles onto websites etc. Brian is interested in joining this. Jenny to forward the email.

Jonathan mentioned that Archbishop Longley was being invited to a meeting by members of the J and P Diocesan Commission on the response of the Catholic Church to the Climate Emergency. There were 3 'Asks' to discuss – as below. Fr Martin Newall and others are meeting on 28th April, with Archbishop Bernard to ask: **a) Where not already done, Catholic Dioceses, Religious Orders and other Catholic organisations immediately commit to divest from fossil fuels, or at the latest by COP26, and put a plan in place to do so as soon as possible afterwards, ideally by the end of 2022. b) That the Catholic Church in England and Wales match the decision by the Church of England to aim for net zero carbon emissions in its own operations by 2030 at the latest. c) That the Catholic Church in England and Wales educate Catholics and the public, and engage with the UK government, on the need for the UK to aim for net zero carbon emissions by 2030 at the latest.**

We will undoubtedly be informed of the outcome in due course.

COP26 (September) and G7 (June)

Brian is encouraging people to sign up for CAFOD's aim to invite MPs to a virtual meeting to discuss and push for action on climate issues which will form part of G7 and be the focus of COP26. There are 4 takers so far and although ideally this should take place before the G7 in Cornwall in June this might be too tight a timescale. **Brian to re-advertise.**

There are also petition cards which we hope can be put in the churches. After June 21st also maybe a short altar talk would be possible. Also **Brian will put an article in 'Extra' and check arrangements with Fr John.**

AOB

Jenny reported that the Ecofest is going ahead on the 4th September as things stand at the moment. Possibly we can have a presence for 'Live simply'? Brian mentioned that the Climate Coalition were running a 'Great Big Green Week' September 18th-26th. As these are all in the Season of Creation, we might want to participate.

Next meeting: by Zoom at 7 p.m. for 7.15p.m. 17th May. (including Jonathan Chilvers 8.15 p.m. confirmed) 21st June, 19th July, 20th September, 18th October, 15th November.