

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

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

Meeting 139 Notes

July 29th, 2019, at Our Lady's, Lillington

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Wilf Feely, Anna Godwin, Richard Gordon and Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Anne Elson and Lynda Gould.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the Eighteenth Sunday of the Year (C), Luke 12:13-21.

1. **Minutes of the 24th June Meeting at St Peter's and Matters Arising.**

- Jenny and Brian had attended the **Climate Coalition mass lobby of MPs** in Westminster on 26th June, and had met their MPs, Matt Western and Jeremy Wright. Jenny said that Matt Western had a good track record of green initiatives and had visited a number of examples of sustainable technology in other European countries.
- Jenny reported that Lynda had emailed thanks and **good wishes to Lizzie Wignall**, who had taken up a CAFOD post in Lancashire.

2. **Rosary intention for August.**

- 'We pray that during the summer we can all enjoy a fresh appreciation of God's creation.'

Anna 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 said that the Saturday Friendship Group were preparing their **annual application for a grant**, which would be submitted to the Town Council mid-August. They usually make an appeal and take a **collection in church** in the autumn, and need to find an available date in October or November.

Janice to discuss possible dates with Fr John.

- Anna reported that the **Leamington Night Shelter** was relatively quiet at present, having started up again after a short closure. Quite a number of people were coming for an evening meal, but few stayed overnight.
- Richard reported that, towards the end of this week, a **Syrian mother and her teenage daughter** were due to arrive in Leamington with full refugee status under the Government's Syrian vulnerable person resettlement programme to relocate 20,000 Syrian refugees from camps in Jordan and neighbouring countries. Warwick District Council cannot offer council housing but will act as a letting agent for a private landlord with a suitable house or flat to let. There is an urgent need to find such landlords.

Richard to clarify arrangements for rent payments and then to ask for such landlords through the parish newsletter and by contacting local clergy.

4. **Climate Change actions.**

- Brian reminded the meeting that CAFOD had launched a **petition** for the Government to reduce its zero net emissions target date **from 2050 to 2045**, and planned to make it available for signature in the three churches throughout August.

Brian to print off copies of the petition and to place them in St Peter's and St Joseph's; Anna to place a copy in Our Lady's.

- Brian had provided the priests with a **penitential rite and bidding prayers** which he had written for use on 1st September, the **Day of Prayer for Creation**.
- Brian had had to change the date for the '**Global Healing**' meeting to **Friday 20th September from 7 to 9 pm**. The format would be to have people sitting in groups at small tables throughout, starting with a 'bring-and-share' meal, then a 3-minute film on the general principles followed by a short discussion at each table; the main film on practical responses to climate change would be shown in four parts of about 4 minutes each, interspersed with group discussions of each part of up to 15 minutes.

Brian to advertise it within Catholic Leamington through the Newsletter Extra, and to invite Churches Together in Leamington, through Ira Winter, to advertise it also.

5. LiveSimply and Fair Trade

- The *LiveSimply* team were planning a '**Walk to Church**' day on **1st September**.
- This year's **LiveSimply Mass** would be at 5.30 pm on **20th October**.
- Jenny gave a **talk** and held a **Fair Trade stall at St Joseph's** at the end of June; as a result one or two parishioners have volunteered to hold such a stall there on a regular basis.

6. Any Other Business

- Brian reminded the meeting that the Diocesan **Justice & Peace Assembly** at St Peter's Secondary School, Solihull, on Saturday 12th October would be run by the Columban Missionaries in a slightly different format this year: there would be no keynote speakers, but people could move between a number of different workshops on their practical responses to Pope Francis's call to mission on justice, peace and care of the planet.

7. Future Meetings

- The next meeting will be the **annual review meeting at 2 pm Tuesday September 3rd** in the Davenport Room at St Peter's. (There will be a bring-and-share lunch after the 12.30 Justice and Peace mass in St Peter's church, before the meeting.)
- The next monthly meeting will be at **7.30 on Monday September 23rd (note change of date) at St Joseph's**, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year (C), Luke 16: 19-31.
- Subsequent meetings will be at 7.30 pm on Mondays October 28th and November 25th (both in the Davenport Room).

The meeting closed with the Pax Christi prayer.