

NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM

On Monday 30th November 2020

Meeting 150

Present: Brian and Janice Austin, Jonathan Holden, Anne Elson, Lynda Gould, Louise Hathaway, Angela Everitt, Liz Morton-Smith, Richard Gordon and Jenny Armstrong

Apologies: Portia Brightburn

Jenny hosted this fifth Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 26th October. We welcomed Liz and Angela from Warwick J and P and Louise to our meeting for the first time.

We started with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the reading for the Second Sunday in Advent

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Matters arising from the last meeting.

ACAT Cards for Prisoners of Torture – the link to this is on our Newsletter to encourage people to send a card at this time. This has been in the newsletter for several weeks.

Pope Francis encyclical letter – ‘**Fratelli Tutti**’ - copies are thought to be available at St Peters but have not yet been spotted in Church or the Piety shop. **Anne to follow up.**

Summaries available on <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/the-church/the-pope/pope-francis/fratelli-tutti/>

We congratulated Liz and Angela on the interfaith Service which many of us took part in, and they had worked on with others in the Interfaith Forum. Brian mentioned that the Buddhist prayer which they ended with should be put into ‘Extra’ this time for December.

News Roundup

Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project –

The Way Ahead project has continued to offer food and support during the lockdown and it is understood that they can open the hall again on Thursday when Warwickshire goes into Tier3, as they are an essential service. Saturdays may then be resumed if there are enough volunteers.

Jonathan mentioned an online Zoom event run by ACTA on ‘**Fratelli Tutti**’ where the speaker is well known theologian David McLoughlin. To register for the Zoom meeting on Sunday 13th December 1.45 pm for 2 pm, email actabhm@gmail.com

Rosary intention for December is –

We discussed the issue of loneliness and all those who are very sad and isolated at this time in particular. ‘We pray for the lonely at this time of family gatherings, may we remember that we are all brothers and sisters in God’s family?’

REFUGEE SCHEME AND NEWS

Warwick Justice and Peace had discussed the community support for refugee scheme, which they were very keen to find out more about.

For information look at link <https://resetuk.org/community-sponsorship/journey>

It was started by the Government in 2015 - for Syrian refugees and entails a community committing to house, support and welcome a family into their locality. It is a big commitment and involves finding a suitable house, schools for children, helping with language, benefits, and emotional support to help settle into the community. £9000 is required to start the process and there is training for volunteers. The Warwick Justice and Peace group were interested in investigating and talking to those who had already done it or started the process and have approached Peter Fahy from Rugeley Catholic parish, who have been through the process and are now at the point of welcoming a family into their community. Peter will be attending the next Warwick J and P meeting to talk the scheme from first-hand experience. If you would like a Zoom link to this meeting on Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm. email liz.moretonsmith@gmail.com The families concerned are those eligible for resettlement and have refugee status.

The scheme is temporarily suspended until January in the light of the COVID rules. Richard Gordon spoke of his experience with refugees, both in Coventry at the Refugee Centre and Carriers of Hope and with SVP in Leamington where they are in contact with several families. He said that he found the parishes of Catholic Leamington were extremely generous and that it was very heart-warming to see this.

Penny Halpin is a contact for 'Welcome Here', the Leamington group who welcomed the Syrian refugees who were settled in Leamington and surrounding areas a few years ago. Julia Fitzsimons from Warwick J and P is a member of this group.

Liz and Angela will have further talks with Richard and explore the possibilities. We thought it was an exciting idea and would like to hear about their plans and to help where ever we can, by exploring our networks for those who would like to help.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

We discussed how to put on Stations of the Cross in Lent and thought it likely that it would need to be done virtually by Zoom or by emailing a Power point presentation. Janice and Brian had looked at possible new photographs to fit in with current problems, such as the COVID pandemic. A virtual meeting was proposed and after the meeting the date of **6th January was suggested 7pm. For 7.15pm**. It was also thought that we should do a trial run of Zoom Stations when we have completed a review. Angela is willing to help with the presentation as she has experience with the 'Season of Creation' presentation.

AOB Jenny proposed sending a letter to the Foreign Secretary regarding the reduction of UK aid to developing countries, from 0.7% of GDP to 0.5% of GDP, with a copy to Matt Western, MP. This was agreed and Jenny will draft and send around. Brian has already written to Jeremy Wright and had a reply which says that he hopes this is a temporary reduction. Liz has also written to Matt Western. She mentioned two petitions, one by 38 Degrees <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/don-t-cut-uk-overseas-aid> and another by Action Aid on this subject. **Fair Tax** -- Angela is in contact with Warwick Quakers who are campaigning on the subject of 'FairTax'. She is working with them and interested in following up. We look forward to hearing more about this.

List of dates for meetings next year, (we decided on the 3rd Monday of the month) As far as we can say these meetings will be virtual on Zoom. This will be reviewed in due course.

Next meeting Monday 18th January. 15th February. 15th March. 19th April. 17th May. 21st June. 19th July. 20th September. 18th October. 15th November.

