

Justice and Peace at St. Peter's

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

Meeting 131

October 30th, 2018

Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Anna Godwin, Richard Gordon, Jonathan Holden, Anne Kirby, Michael Kirby, Diana O'Reilly, Alan Pratten and Mary Wilde.

Apologies: Amy Cawood, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Wilf Feely, Fr Andy Franklin and Lynda Gould,.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the 31st Sunday of the year: Mark 12: 28-34.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 24th September.

- Jenny had not yet emailed Fr John about a 'Welcome' notice at St Peter's.
Anne Kirby to check wording of Newcastle notice; then Jenny to email Fr John.
- Janice was still updating the 2019 calendar and would circulate a draft with new dates in red, and some gaps still to be filled in – if anyone could provide the missing dates, she would be grateful.
- Several of those present had attended the London Syrian Ensemble's concert at All Saints for the 'Welcome Here' initiative of housing Syrian refugee families in Leamington; a Courier reporter had told Richard that it was the most successful event he could remember at All Saints.
- Brian reported that Fr John had agreed to use the Season of Creation penitential rite and bidding prayers, used on 1st/2nd September, again on 4th October to mark the end of the Season; Lynda had maintained a display on the J&P Noticeboard throughout the Season.

2. Information Sharing between the Churches

- Anne K said that, although Fr Andy had announced this meeting at mass, she was disappointed at how few St Joseph's parishioners had turned up, and had joined the parish J&P group: some would support initiatives if others organised them. Although the group would continue to make CAFOD appeals, they had no other events planned and no longer had the capacity to organize new events. Brian commented that, even if the group could no longer organize events themselves, it was useful for those at our monthly meetings to have contacts here to help people in the other parishes to offer St Joseph's events or activities prepared elsewhere.
- Copies of the 'Hope' magazine (issued by Churches Together in Leamington) had been available to parishioners at the other two parishes but not at St Joseph's. It was noted that there was no content referring to the Catholic churches nor to the Saturday Friendship Group, and that we no longer had an active representative to CTL. Janice reported that Fr John was aware of our lack of active participation and was going to ask Ira Winter (Chair of the St Peter's and Our Lady's pastoral council) to be our representative.
- Richard spoke enthusiastically of the peace-building initiative of Zinah Mohammed, a young Iraqi lawyer, with which he was associated and in which St Teresa's School was participating. It aimed to form friendship links between British primary school students and children of the same age in Iraqi refugee camps. There is a YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEDtpxspBewbn (or search 'Zinah Let's be friends') or on Facebook under 'Let's be friends'. Richard said the project had great potential to spread nationally, but those involved were holding back until a reliable organizing group could be built at the UK end – Ms Mohammed has already set up a charity in Iraq.
- Jenny noted that the minutes of these meetings were headed 'Justice & Peace at St Peter's' whereas her Agenda used the term 'Justice & Peace in Catholic Leamington', and a discussion followed on whether the meetings could yet claim to represent all three parishes. We hoped to rotate the meetings next year between the three parish halls, but it was suggested that this would require an invitation by the local clergy or a significant group of parishioners to give such meetings credibility. Since Jenny would very soon have to book rooms for next year's meetings,

she agreed to write to Fr Andy, Deacon David and Fr John about holding meetings at St Joseph's and Our Lady's.

Jenny to write to Fr Andy, Deacon David and Fr John.

3. Rosary intention for November.

- 'We pray for those who speak the truth despite dangers to their safety, as did St Oscar Romero.'

Anna 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 the **Saturday Friendship Group** had set up a meeting between Fr John and Lieut. Kelsey (and/or Lieut. Jessica) Pearce to review the partnership agreement and redefine it as an agreement between the Salvation Army and Catholic Leamington.
- Alan said he had arranged for volunteers from Volvo to clear the yard at the drop-in centre. Apparently Volvo staff were keen to do more volunteering.
- Anna noted a reduction in the **Leamington Night Shelter's** clients since the Walsgrove House shelter had opened, but she thought the terms and conditions of Walsgrove House might deter some of their regular clients.

4. Preparations for Advent and Christmas

- Brian had asked Jane Rebika and Royce McParland in the Parish Office to let him know when the **CAFOD World Gift catalogues** arrive. Until then there is no action to be taken.
- Jenny said her **sale of Traidcraft cards and gifts** from the King's Table in her home would be 2-4.30 pm Thursday 15th November. Although Traidcraft might have to wind up their business next year, they are keen to maximise sales this Christmas.
- Jenny announced that the **LiveSimply mass** would take place at 10 am on Sunday 18th November at Our Lady's, and that Hand-in-Hand would be providing a signed meditation. She hoped to have a range of offertory gifts from the three parishes that represented living in solidarity with the poor, and would welcome any offers or suggestions. Diana offered a purse made of ring pulls, which St Joseph's send to the Philippines for recycling.

5. Cards for Prisoners of Conscience

- Diana had asked ACAT why their Easter list of Christian prisoners and support organizations could not be available at Christmas in place of the largely non-Christian list currently published – she was awaiting their reply. It was agreed to move the signing of cards by parishioners to Easter, and to explain the reasons for this through the Newsletter before Christmas. Brian commented that individuals may still want to send their own cards at Christmas to people on the ACAT list.

Diana to draft a newsletter insert for Jenny to submit in December.

6. Any Other Business

- Brian tabled a **letter he had drafted to Matt Western MP** which he hoped everyone would sign at the meeting. There were concerns that some statements in it were inappropriate or not fully supported, and it was agreed that a shorter letter should say simply that we looked forward to his visiting us for a discussion of climate change policies in the New Year.

Janice to draft a new letter and circulate it to those present by email with a view to signing it at the next meeting.

- Brian reported that the **'Global Healing' material** commissioned by the Bishops of England and Wales from CaFE for the Season of Creation is at last available and can be downloaded at www.ourcommonhome.co.uk, consisting of a series of short films and supporting material. Rather than use it in Advent, he suggested we consider using it in the Season of Creation next year.

7. Future Meetings

- The last meeting of the year will be at 7.30 pm in the Davenport Room on Monday November 26th, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the 1st Sunday of Advent (Year C), Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36.

The meeting closed with the *Pax Christi* prayer.