**NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING in the Parish Centre**

**On Monday 31st October 2022**

# Meeting 168

**Present:** Jenny Armstrong, Anne Elson. Anna Godwin, Diana O’Reilly

**Apologies:** Lynda Gould. Ann Allison, Jonathan Holden, Father Stephen Day

We started with the SPAN prayer.

The Gospel of the 32nd Sunday of the year was read and reflected upon; Luke 20: 27 -38

The minutes of the Review meeting on 13th September were noted.

**Matters Arising**

The CAFOD soup lunches went well at Our Lady’s – run by Anna – where £90 was given in donations. Also at St Peter’s Ann A held a lunch and another £90 was donated, although the weather was bad and kept people away. Thanks to all those involved. The amount raised at the Family Fast Day through the envelopes is not known.

Diana reported that as mentioned in the notes of the meeting re the Prisoners of Conscience cards – donations did cover the costs and she had a small float to start the ‘kitty’ for next year. Jenny to ask Jenny Hayden if the First Communion children might be able to help with making some designs for next year’s cards.

**Prayer Intention**

The prayer intention for November we felt should be related to the spiralling cost of living and the problems associated with it.

***‘We pray for all those who are suffering physically or mentally because of the increased cost of living’***

Jenny will put in the newsletter

**Poverty and Homelessness**

Jenny reported that the Saturdays are not running at the Way Ahead Project because of staff shortage. They are trying to recruit a project worker but have had no applications to date. Further adverts to go out.

The WAP is busy during the week with more rough sleepers seeming to be around. This was noted at the meeting as rough sleepers are more obvious in the town again. We noted that the hostel in Lillington Road, opened before the pandemic, is now shut. Anna said that many people she had met at the Night Shelter were not keen on going there. We do not know the history of why it closed. WAP are having a service on 2nd November for ‘All souls’ Day’ to remember those who have passed away in recent years who were known to the service. *(Note after meeting: it was attended by several visitors to the WAP, Susan from Leamington Night Shelter, Margaret and Chris (Radford Road Night shelter) and several volunteers as well as staff. It was led by Yvonne, Manager at WAP and Brenda, a Salvation Army officer and was a moving tribute to those who had died, often at a very young age).*

Also we understand that there is possibility that St John’s Church may be going to do overnight stays. They already offer meals in the evening.

We discussed the need for local ‘Warm Hubs’ and wondered if any local Churches might be able to offer space and facilities. Other Faith groups also may be doing so. There has been no publicity that we have seen. It was pointed out that it needs good organisation and safeguards, but it will be much needed this winter.

**Live Simply**

The stall at the Ecofest on the 3rd September stimulated some interest – and as well as LS information, Ann A put on a CAFOD information section.

The Recycling box continues and another cheque for CAFOD has been received. The next meeting will be in November for planning future events.

**CAFOD**

The soup lunches went well –see matter arising.

CAFOD world gift catalogues are now out for Christmas and we will try to promote them after Mass. Anne E will ask in the office when she is there as to whether they have arrived. Jenny will talk to Ann A about promotion of them.

**Climate change**

Warwickshire Climate Alliance are organising a rally in the Pump Room Gardens on Saturday 12th November from 12 noon until 2p.m. to coincide with COP27 gathering in Egypt. Jenny has put a piece in ‘Extra’ about this under the Live Simply banner.

**Fair Trade**

Jenny will be looking to get some Traidcraft cards /advent calendars for November and will publicise a sale.

**Any other Business**

Brian had forwarded an email from his ex-neighbour, Judy Steele, who organised the white poppy laying at the War memorial in previous years to ask opinions as to whether it should go ahead this year and suggests that opinions may change as the war in Ukraine challenges us.

 We understand that the white poppy symbolises remembering all who died in conflicts, civilian and military and those who work for peace. Jenny will email Judy and publicise it if it does happen.

*( A quote from Michael Mulpurgo’ "Wearing the red poppy for me is not simply a ritual, not worn as a politically correct nod towards public expectation. It is in honour of them, in respect and in gratitude for all they did for us. But I wear a white poppy alongside my red one, because I know they fought and so many died for my peace, our peace. And I wear both side by side because I believe the nature of remembrance is changing, and will change, as the decades pass since those two world wars’)*

Anne E mentioned SP’s Choir concert which is on 18th December in the evening. Anna said that there was a Quiz in aid of Kind Aid on 12th November at 7.30pm. at OL.

**Ukrainian refugees** -- Anne E’s two daughters are both hosting Ukrainian families. It is working out well in both cases for them.

The ‘Welcome Here’ group in Leamington have an AGM on 21st November at Dale Street Church. They welcomed Syrian refugees and are now involved with Ukrainian.

**Next meeting** Monday 28th November at 7.30 pm.by zoom