

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

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

Meeting 140 (Annual Review) 2 pm September 3rd, 2019, at St Peter's Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Fr John Cross (for part of the meeting), Anne Elson, Wilf Feely, Richard Gordon, Lynda Gould, Jonathan Holden and Vashti Walden.

Apologies: Anna Godwin and Diana O'Reilly.

The meeting opened with the 'Prayer for Our Earth' from *Laudato Si'*. Jenny welcomed Vashti and introduced those present.

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last Annual Review meeting on September 4th 2018

- Janice referred to the 'Justice & Peace Programme for 2019 and beyond' and noted that it needed updating.

Janice to update and reissue the programme.
- Referring to the departure last year of the Parish Youth Worker, Erin Doughty, Jonathan asked Fr John how long the new Youth Worker, Emma Rayment, had been taken on for. Fr John said that she had a two year contract, but could leave earlier if she wanted. He suggested that she should be invited to a monthly Justice & Peace meeting to build links between J&P and her youth groups. Lynda asked whether we should see her as our link with Trinity School. Fr John said she visited regularly but only working with the School Chaplain, Fr Patrick Mileham (Warwick PP) – he should be our link. He regretted that there were no other contacts now between St Peter's and Trinity. However, following Jenny's talk on Justice & Peace last Sunday at Our Lady's, there had been an offer from Dan Graham (Deacon David's son-in-law), who is a Governor of the Trinity, to establish contacts between ourselves and Trinity and to raise the matter at the next Governors' meeting. It was noted also that Jo Hewitt was back at Trinity after maternity leave, with responsibility for the Pax Christi group there – Lynda might like to renew her acquaintance with her. Richard asked if we had any contacts with Princethorpe College – Fr John said that was entirely within Fr Teddy O'Brien's area of responsibility.

Jenny to invite Emma to a Justice & Peace meeting.
- Anne Elson referred to her request last year that the 'Welcome' banner be left up permanently after the peace Festival was over: she was glad to see that this year it was still on the church railings. Fr John suggested that might only be while there was scaffolding in front of the porch; Brian noted that it was a little the worse for wear in its present location.

2. Walk to Church Sunday 'Lucky Draw'.

- Fr John drew out three prizewinners: 1st Olga Sawyer; 2nd Maria Murphy; 3rd Rowan Sutcliffe. Jenny commented that she would like to have seen more entrants, particularly at St Peter's.

3. Consideration of the 'Review of the Year 2018-2019' document

- Under '**Sharing Information**', Fr John commented that last Christmas there was a list of Leamington groups offering help to people in need: he hoped a similar list could be provided this year. It was pointed out that the local services directory drawn up by the Poverty Forum with support from Warwickshire C A V A and adapted by Janice in September 2018 to include parish services was still at the back of St Peter's church, though it probably needed updating. Wilf wondered whether the local schools and organisations like the Salvation Army were still telling us which families needed food at Christmas. Brian explained that this source of information had largely been superseded by the activity of the

Food Bank. Janice noted that the Way Ahead Project and the Saturday Friendship Group get less publicity now because of the wide range of projects in Leamington supporting those in need; as a result, Yvonne McKinnon had announced an Open Day for the Way Ahead Project on the morning of September 14th. Vashti mentioned a recent Open Day in St Francis of Assisi church in Kenilworth by The Friends of the Holy Land – Anne Elson said two or three St Peter's choir members had attended and told her it went well.

- Under '**Taking Action**', Brian said he was disappointed at the state of our support for CAFOD: about three years ago we had set up a Catholic Leamington CAFOD team, but since then many of the representatives of the different churches – Michael and Anne Kirby (St Joseph's), Sean O'Rourke (Our Lady's) and Andrew Murphy (St Peter's) – had stopped being members, leaving himself and Ann Alison (St Peter's), though she was currently not available, and Sioned Hammond-Jones (Our Lady's). The next CAFOD event was the Harvest Fast Day including a soup and rolls lunch in the Parish Centre on Friday October 4th, for which there should be an announcement at mass (and distribution of CAFOD envelopes for collection the next weekend) on Saturday and Sunday September 28th/29th. Anne offered to help by speaking at mass and serving soup and rolls on the Friday. Jenny suggested Sioned might help also.

Brian to give a checklist from previous years to Anne, and also details for her to contact Sioned Hammond-Jones. Other volunteers will be needed.

- He said they would need help also with the CAFOD World Gift Catalogues in Advent. He was disappointed that only 57 people from all three churches had signed the CAFOD Climate Change petition which had been left available all of August – leaving it on the radiators in the church was not very effective: Janice said we must publicise such petitions more effectively in future. Brian mentioned that one person had written an objection that action by our government was futile if China and the USA did not do the same: Brian's reply and signatures supporting it were subsequently removed by an unknown person. Jenny was pleased that we had a Fair Trade representative at St Joseph's, who had distributed the leaflets showing fair traded goods in local shops. She thanked the St Joseph's Art Group for the cards for prisoners of conscience; the signing (at St Peter's and St Joseph's) had gone very well.
- Under '**Events**', Jenny commented favourably on the Ecofest; the Peace Festival; and the *LiveSimply* walk. The 'Tree Trail' the previous Sunday was attended by about 20 people, though Janice wished the advertising had mentioned it would include prayers thanking God for the beauty of the trees.
- Under '**Liturgies**', The J&P Lenten Stations of the Cross had been poorly attended because of the number of other versions of the Stations being held in the three churches, some at the same time as the J&P ones. They were still thought to have value, despite the work involved, because the pictures are seen by many during Lent.

Jenny to ask Fr John to ensure the clergy coordinate the dates of the Stations in the different churches next Lent.

4. **Any Other Business**

- The **Global Healing** meeting at 6.45 Friday September 20th is advertised as providing food. It was agreed that tea, coffee, cheese and biscuits would be sufficient, and that donations would be invited to pay for it.

Brian to ask Hannah Jacobs, Secretary of Churches Together in Leamington to circulate details to CTL members, and also to produce individual invitation cards especially for students.

7. **Future Meetings**

- 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 prayer.