

Justice and Peace at St. Peter's

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

Meeting 129

September 4th, 2018

Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Lynda Gould, Jonathan Holden, Anne Kirby (St Joseph's) and Chris Johnson.

Apologies: Ann Alison, Anna Godwin, Alan Pratten, Anna Tye and Mary Wilde.

The annual review meeting opened with 'A Prayer for our Earth' from *Laudato Si'*.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of the last review meeting on September 8th 2016.

- There was a joint meeting with St Joseph's J&P group on March 5th. Anne K explained that when she subsequently asked for more input only two parishioners offered to help in activities but not to plan or organise them. Anne K said she felt she would soon be no longer able to take an active role. There was some discussion as to the most convenient venue for meetings – it was felt that it was not easy to get from St Joseph's to Our Lady's and *vice versa*, so that St Peter's was probably the most central.
- The 'Justice & Peace programme for 2018 and beyond' had been produced, but now urgently needed updating.

Janice to update.

- Anne E referred to the work of Erin Doughty, the Parish Youth Worker, and the fact that she was leaving after only a year in Leamington to return to the Kenelm Trust. Our attempts to involve young people, through her, in justice and peace activities had not been very successful; but Anne K paid tribute to her contribution in developing music and liturgy for them, particularly at St Joseph's. Those at the meeting hoped that the work started would be developed further.

2. General Review of the Past Year.

- Jenny distributed a document entitled 'Review of the Year 2017-2018', which she had quoted at the end of the Justice & Peace mass earlier in the day. She invited all present to say which activities they thought had been good and which not so good in the past year.
- Lynda felt that the *LiveSimply* walk round Newbold Comyn, stopping every so often for a reading of a CAFOD case study of a refugee's journey, had been very uplifting, but wished that more people had come on it.
- Christa Maria was disappointed at how few people, particularly younger people, came to our meetings or took an active part in our activities. She wondered whether the parishioners are even aware of our presence, and whether anything would be different if we were not here at all. Brian pointed to the Review document and said that without Justice & Peace involvement these things would not have happened. He commented that today's culture in which both men and women work during the day means that they are too busy to come to an evening meeting. Jonathan wondered whether we could promote a dialogue with parishioners on current J&P issues through the internet (a blog or chat room? – Brian thought Facebook had the advantage that users did not have to take the initiative of logging on), but we recognized that it would need someone to manage it constantly, and possibly no one in the room had the skills or time needed.
- Anne E was particularly disappointed that no one had offered to run the Fair Trade stall at St Peter's. Anne K did not like selling in the church porch either Fair Trade goods or quiz tickets, etc. Others felt that selling after mass was preferable to doing so as people were going in. Jenny said there were a couple of possibilities which may develop, and Lynda suggested having the stall in the hall while coffees are being served after the 11am mass. She will talk to Rose who helps Ira with the refreshments to see what they feel.

Lynda to speak to Rose and Ira.

- Anne K said that, despite initial doubts, the Lenten Stations went very well at St Joseph's, though some small improvements might be possible. Fr Andy's practice of keeping the church open every day from 9 am to 6 pm made it feel very welcoming. Chris Johnson said that an All Saints parishioner had mentioned that he had found St Peter's more welcoming than All Saints because it was open longer than his own church. Anne E would like the 'Welcome' banner (displayed by St Peter's during the Peace Festival and Heritage Weekend) to be kept up throughout the year. Anne K reported that she had visited a Catholic church in Newcastle with a prominent notice that read 'Welcome! Whatever your denomination, gender, race or sexual orientation, you are welcome here'; there were no words of welcome on our noticeboards or newsletters.
- Alan Pratten had given the following comments to Janice: having organised the Lenten Stations at Whitnash, he would like to see them at all three churches, but that it was essential for local parishioners to take responsibility for organising and running them. It was suggested that Deacon David should explain the idea and call for volunteers to run them at Sunday masses in Our Lady's. Then the volunteers should observe the Lent Stations at St Peter's before organising them in Lillington. Janice mentioned that there had been a breakdown of the organisation one week in setting the leaflets out at the back of church and getting the booklets to the Reader and Leader at St Peter's: we needed to improve it next year.
- Janice observed that those regularly attending the meetings do a lot of work each year, and though we can never know how effective it is it is still worthwhile that each of us does what little bit they can. Jenny's review document adds up to quite a lot of achievement.
- Brian said he was very glad to have shown the film 'An Inconvenient Sequel', and that about 20 people came to see it. He thanked Jonathan for setting up the J&P page on the Catholic Leamington website. The GDPR requirements had been a problem – we had lost a lot of people from our circulation list who had not bothered to reregister their names. Jenny suggested having a registration sheet on the Fair Trade stall.

Brian to provide a suitable form to Jenny for this.

- Jenny agreed that the LiveSimply walk, the Peace Festival arrangements and the Lenten Stations had been successful. There was still too much work for a few people to do. In particular it was difficult finding enough volunteers to organise the signing of cards for Prisoners of Conscience, partly because the ACAT information was published too late. Janice said that this issue was to be raised at the forthcoming Birmingham J&P Assembly. She had been disappointed at not involving Trinity and other schools more, with the notable exception of St Anthony's who had provided a very good Peace Festival display.
- Anna K thanked Jenny for talking through the review at the end of the J&P mass, and asked if she could give the same talk at Sunday masses. There was a general vote of thanks to Jenny for her work as Chair.

3. Rosary Intention for September

- Jenny proposed: 'We pray that individuals, communities and governments will feel moved to protect our environment and God's wonderful creation'.

Lynda to put on the J&P noticeboard in the church; Jonathan to enter in the Newsletter and on the website.

8. Future Meetings

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Monday September 24th in **St Joseph's church hall** (subject to Fr Andy's agreement to attend), when the reflection will be on the gospel for the 26th Sunday of Year B, Mark 9: 38-43,45,47-48.

Jenny to contact Fr Andy to confirm this.

- Subsequent meetings in 2018 will be at 7,30 pm in the Davenport Room on October 29th and November 26th.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.