



Justice and Peace at Catholic Leamington

Meeting 122 Monday 5th March 2018 at St. Joseph's Whitnash

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, June Arran, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Amy Cawood, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Fr. Andrew Franklin, Lynda Gould, John Ireson, Anne Kirby, Michael Kirby, Alan Pratten, Mary Wilde. Apologies were received from Fr. John Cross, Wilf Feely, Anna Godwin, Ann Alison, Jonathan Holden

We opened the meeting with the SPAN prayer, and then reflected on the gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year B John 2 [13-25]

Jenny welcomed everyone to the meeting at the change of venue St. Joseph's Hall Whitnash.

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

1. Discussion on working together.

Fr. Andy shared his ideas of how he hoped the two parish J & P's would work together. He appreciated that, although numbers involved in Justice and Peace issues were small, they had worked hard to keep some actions ongoing. He thought a good way forward would be to share emails of meetings and to come together a couple of times a year for a joint meeting. He felt it important that people/groups kept a sense of identity and local roots, if that was their wish.

He said that he had a brief to work with the 3 Churches in 'Catholic Leamington' to facilitate co-ordination and co-operation between similar groups (he was hoping to make SVP visits available in Whitnash for example) . He welcomed contact on these issues for anyone who wished to get in touch.

Fr. Andy had to leave the meeting, he gave his apologies.

Anne K. talked about the work that St. Josephs J&P had done over the years. Many of the events held had been fund raising, in ways more similar to the work of SPAN and Kindaid. Many projects both locally and internationally had benefitted.

Last year a strawberry tea was held with the intention of getting more interest in J and P.

They maintained baskets in the porch to collect food for local families in need.

They arranged CAFOD collections and talks at Masses.

Alan reminded those present that SPAN could help if it was made aware of any local families in need as they have a fund which can be tapped for such instances.

The five members of SJ J and P all agreed that it was becoming more and more difficult to raise awareness of J&P issues age of members, times of meetings, no new volunteers, especially the youth. Amy described the running of a youth group in the past. It was difficult to keep the children once they went to Secondary school.

There were several issues which have hindered progress:

change of Mass times, conflicting loyalties between church and school re fundraising.

Jenny briefly described some of the J and P initiatives from SP – listed in a J and P Programme for 2018.

It was agreed that any initiatives by J&P at St.Peters would be shared with St.Josephs.... Fair Trade, Live Simply, CAFOD, S.F.G. Walk to Church Sunday, Joint and coordinated appeals at masses.

Action It was agreed to have a joint meeting in September (24th)at St Joseph's. And for all to be on the 'googlegroups email' which Brian explained.

2. Rosary Intention for March

We pray for all those who are homeless. We pray that they may find shelter, security and hope.

Lynda to put it in the newsletter and on the notice board.

Jonathan to put on website.

3. Reports

J and P Stations of the Cross.

Alan reported that Stations at both churches were well attended.(Wednesdays at SP and Fridays at SJ)

20+ at St. Joseph's and slightly down this year, 40+ at St. Peter's.

On Good Friday at St. Joseph's there will be children's Stations followed by a Hunger Lunch.

Fair Trade

During Fair Trade Fortnight - Jenny reported that the stall after 11am. Mass at SP last weekend were well supported. The stall at 5p.m was cancelled due to the snow.

She is always looking for more volunteers and exploring getting volunteers for SP at 11a.m

June was keen to have a Fair Trade table at the Hunger Lunch.

Jenny explained that she gets the Traidcraft from the local rep, Michael Porter on a sale or return basis which is minimum fuss.

Action: Jenny to email June with Fair Trade contact.

Poverty and Homelessness

It was reported in the local paper that the Council is supporting the Leamington Night Shelter with finances and a building .

SJ people were keen to know more about the Saturday Friendship Group and Janice gave an account of how it started 10 years ago and where it is now – there is a partnership with the SP and the Way Ahead Project at the Salvation Army which involves the SFG giving a certain amount every year and supplying volunteers. At present there are 11 SP volunteers. One aspect of the agreement is to have a second collection for the SFG and this is to be on 13/14th April. Amy thought that it would be a good thing for some of the SJ team to talk at the end of Mass about this as it is a local initiative and very topical and Janice would be happy to supply the script.

Action : Janice to email Anne K. about S.F.G. dates, 13/14 April reference appeal at masses.

Climate Change

Brian screened the second Al Gore climate change film at St. Peter's. 20 people attended. SJ – John thought it might work well at SJ and took the DVD.

Action : SJ to explore when they could show the DVD.

Live Simply

There will be a Walk to Church Sunday on 22nd April – followed by a Live simply week which will include challenges to live sustainably. Jenny explained at that SP we had asked people to put names in a box if they walked, cycled, took the bus or shared lifts. Then there was a lucky winner who won a prize – tickets for Warwick Castle or whatever we could get. This year it is hoped to use the CAFOD cards as they are asking people to 'Share the journey' in solidarity with refugees.

The living sustainably is planned to include a challenge to use less plastic and to have a stall with ideas.

There is also an 'Ecofun' Day run by Action 21 on 29th April which will have many stalls about sustainable products, electric cars etc and involves a family walk from Warwick to Leamington along the river and canal.

Action: Jenny to email flier re 'Walk to Church' to Anne K.

Peace Festival

Jenny explained at SP usually have the Church open during Peace Festival weekend, serving refreshments etc. Trinity School have provided a Peace display in previous years and Lynda will contact. **Weekend 16/17 June**

**Action: Brian to book two time slots
Lynda to email Trinity with dates.**

A.O.B.

Janice distributed the diary of yearly events.

SJ were thanked for their hospitality.

The meeting finished with the Pax Christi Prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday 26th March at St. Peter's