



## Justice and Peace at Catholic Leamington

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

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2018-2019

**This year** we have had our meetings at all 3 of the Catholic Leamington Churches to try to encourage involvement across the Churches. Our meetings have attendance of between 6 and 12 – plus a wider circle of people who support in different ways with activities. Where possible we try to have activities across the 3 Churches but this is difficult unless there are sufficient people to help.

Our monthly meetings are open to all and advertised in the parish newsletter and Justice and Peace noticeboard. We reflect on the Sunday Gospel of the week to guide our thoughts and ideas.

#### What do we do?

**We share information** – about local initiatives and events, finding out what is happening to relieve poverty and homelessness, regarding the **Night Shelters**, **our Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project of the Salvation Army**, **Helping Hands**, **the Coventry Refugee Centre** and other groups, e.g. Justice for Palestinians., so that we can effectively promote their efforts and support with prayer.

- We find out about the current work of **CAFOD and Pax Christi** so that we can follow up any campaigns and draw the parish's attention to them.
- We promote our work on a notice board at St Peter's and in the Catholic Leamington website.
- **We draw the attention of the Parish to different issues every month with a Rosary intention** on a current issue such as homelessness, young people's concerns, food poverty or war torn Syria.

#### We take action

- We take note and monitor the issues that **CAFOD** raise.
- We promote **CAFOD** World Gifts and there is a Hunger Lunch for Lent and Harvest Fast Days, which raises funds and awareness.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE** -- This is an issue that is rising fast up the political agenda and has vast implications for the poorest in society. We are promoting **CAFOD's petition** to make the UK carbon neutral by 2045 (rather than 2050, which is the Government target).
- We are to show a film '**Global Healing**' to the Parish to widen discussion and awareness. 2 people attended the **Climate Change Rally** in London to lobby our MPs for urgent action to combat climate change and had a discussion with their MP's.
- We promote '**LiveSimply Parish**' initiatives which promote living more simply and 'green' activities, such as the promotion of 'green energy' and 'Walk to Church Sunday'.
- **Fair Trade** We run a **Fair Trade** stall at Our Lady's regularly and during Fair Trade fortnight we ran stalls at both Our Lady's and St Peter's.

- **At St Joseph's**— we ran a FT stall and recruited some new 'fair traders' who are to run a stall there.
- **A new Fair Trade leaflet** was produced with local shopping for FT highlighted.
- **Cards for Prisoners of conscience** – this year we did the cards to Prisoners of Conscience at Easter. The Art Group at St Joseph's produced the cards for this and **116 cards** were sent out., to many different people in various countries who were incarcerated without trial unjustly. This was run at St Peter's and St Joseph's.

### We promote events

- The Live Simply team joined in the local '**Ecofest**' in April on the Pump room Garden and run by Warwick District Council – promoting the 'Live Simply' theme, green energy and Fair Trade. We ran a stall for a day and had children's activities as well as giving out leaflets and engaging with the public in discussions.
- St Peter's Church was open for the **Peace Festival** in June for the weekend, the Justice and Peace stations of the cross were around, there were people to welcome and tea and coffee provided as well as a quiet place to seek refuge from a busy festival. The Youth Group and St Anthony's School had prepared a 'Peace display, which was interactive. There were 'peace talks' at the festival.
- We arranged a '**Live simply**' walk on May Bank Holiday around Newbold Comyn, and had 20 attendees. As part of the walk we remembered those persecuted and their journeys.

### We engage in liturgies

#### **Justice and Peace Stations of the Cross were held at St Peter's in Lent**

Photographs and texts relating to current issues of migration, poverty, war and natural disasters made it very relevant and moving. Several different volunteer readers participated for the 6 weeks. These stations were put up again during the Peace Festival in June.

#### **We celebrated a Live simply Mass at Our Lady's Church in October**

We arranged a Mass with a theme of 'Living simply and in solidarity with the poor', and to bring together the gifts of the 3 Churches in the pursuit of justice for the poor. The **Hand in Hand prayer** group took part also.

**Justice and Peace work is promoted on the notice board in St Peter's, in the newsletter and via Googlegroups on email and the Catholic Leamington website. [www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace)**

**Thanks go to all who helped during this year in any way - and there are many ways. We always need fresh people, ideas, helpers – you can contact us via the website or [cl.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:cl.jandp@gmail.com) or just turn up at the advertised meetings (you don't have to 'join'!). We would love to see you.**