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Laudato Si' and the Political Party Manifestos 2017

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“The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious, not only because God has entrusted the world to us men and women, but because human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement. Every effort to protect and improve our world entails profound changes in “lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power which today govern societies”.¹ Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world around us and “take into account the nature of each being and of its mutual connection in an ordered system”^{2, 3}

This document was undertaken following a request by the National Justice and Peace Network Environment Group¹. It uses direct quotes from the manifesto and looks at the issues that the parties address that relate either directly or indirectly to the Encyclical “Laudato Si’”. There is no narrative on the manifestos and readers may draw their own conclusions.

The order of the manifestos is the order that they were released by the individual parties and is therefore not a ranking of the order of how they compare to Laudato Si.

This is a document for all the UK interest and not for the individual nations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), the national parties’ manifestos were not compared.

“We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.”⁴

¹ Encyclical Letter *Centesimus Annus* (1 May 1991), 58: AAS 83 (1991), p. 863.

² JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (30 December 1987), 34: AAS 80 (1988), 559.

³ Laudato Si’ 5

⁴ Laudato Si’ 159

The Labour Party (<http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php/manifesto2017>)

	Labour			
Pollution	Retrofit thousands of diesel buses in areas with the most severe air quality problems to Euro 6 standards	Welcome the work done by the airports commission and will guarantee that any airport expansion adheres to the tests that require noise issues to be addressed, air quality to be protected and growth across the country supported	Introduce a new clean air act	
Climate change and human activity (interconnectedness of all creation)	Meet climate change targets and transition to a low-carbon economy	Require firms supplying national or local government to meet high standards expected of all businesses including protecting the environment	Amending company law so that directors owe duty directly not only shareholders but to employees, customers, the environment and the wider public	
water is a human right	Nationalise water companies			
biodiversity	Work with farmers and foresters to plant a million trees of native species to promote biodiversity and better flood management			
Transport	Improving bus services	Expand public freight services in a publicly owned railway that will leave roads freer of traffic and air cleaner.	Ultra-low emission vehicles, supporting the creation of clean modes of transport through investment in low emission vehicles	Reaffirm the commitments in the cycling and walking investment strategy

Renewable energy	nationalising energy supplies and therefore delivering renewable energy	committed to renewable energy projects, including tidal lagoons	Ensure that 60% of the UK's energy comes from zero carbon or renewable sources by 2030	
Human dignity	education system will enable each child to find their learning path through a wide choice of courses and qualifications. Inclusivity of children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND)			
Preferential option for the poor				
International Development	deliver on international commitments to reduce emissions while mitigating the impacts of climate change on developing countries	work in partnership with communities in the global south to develop long-term strategies for strengthening economies and societies		
Human Rights	will build human rights and social justice into trade policy	Labour will retain the human rights act	will put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy	
Protection of the environment (legally)	priorities for Brexit include protecting environmental standard	Replacing the great repeal bill with an EU rights and protections bill (includes workers' rights, equality law, consumer rights and environmental protections and not changed as a result of Brexit)	actively support international negotiations towards and environmental goods agreement at the WTO	
Fracking	ban fracking			
Immigration	Not discriminate between people of different races or creeds	Uphold international law by taking a fair share of refugees. Review housing and dispersing refugee's arrangements		

Green technologies investment	use trade negotiations to boost market access for British environmental goods and services, alongside support for investment into new green technologies and innovative low-carbon products			
Housing	new modern standards for building 'zero carbon homes'	Labour will insulate four million homes		
Farming/ Food	reconfigure funds for farming and fishing to support smaller traders, local economies, community benefits and sustainable practices	champion sustainable farming, food and fishing by investing in and promoting skills, technology, market access and innovation		
Seas and Oceans	safeguard habitats and species in the 'blue belts' of the seas and oceans surrounding the UK			
Recycling/ Waste	set guiding targets for plastic bottle deposit schemes, working with food manufacturers and retailers to reduce waste.			
Energy Systems	investing in new, state of the art low carbon gas and renewable electricity production			

Animals	Labour's vision for the UK is to lead the world with high animal welfare standards in the wild, in farming and for domestic animals. Will increase the maximum sentence for those convicted of committing animal cruelty	Promote cruelty-free animal husbandry and consult on ways to ensure better enforcement of agreed standards	prohibit the third-party sale of puppies, introduce and enforce a total ban on ivory trading, and support the ban on wild animals in circuses	cease the badger cull, maintain the bans on fox hunting, deer hunting and hare coursing
Ecosystems	wild animals need a sustainable ecosystem			
Bees	protect bees by prohibiting neonicotinoids as soon as EU relationships allow it			

The Liberal Democrats (<http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>)

	Liberal Democrat				
Pollution	Air Quality plan to reduce air pollution which will include: a diesel scrappage scheme, and a ban on the sale of diesel cards and small vans in the UK by 2025, extending ultra-low emission zones to 10 more towns and cities, all private hire vehicles and diesel buses licensed to operate in urban areas to run on ultra-low-emission or zero-emission fuels within 5 years	Develop a strategic airports policy for the whole of the UK, taking full account of the impacts on climate change and local pollution			
Climate change and human activity (interconnectedness of all creation)	To ensure the policies set out in this chapter are implemented, and to put the protection of the environment at the heart of policies across all areas of government, will establish a Cabinet Committee on Sustainability, chaired by a cabinet minister, establish an Office for Environmental Responsibility to scrutinise the government's efforts to meet its environmental	Establish a £2 billion flood-prevention fund focused on providing support for small community and council-led schemes to reduce upstream flooding, and the knock-on effects in downstream and coastal areas, in addition to improving flood defences, and introducing high standards for flood resilience			

	targets, and place a responsibility on every government agency to account for its contribution towards meeting climate targets in everything it does				
Water is a human right	Pass a Nature Act to put the Natural Capital Committee (NCC) on a statutory footing, set legally binding natural capital targets, including on biodiversity, clean air and water, and empower the NCC to recommend actions to meet these targets	protect and restore England's lakes, rivers and wetlands, including through reform of water management and higher water-efficiency standards			
Biodiversity					
Transport	footing, set legally binding natural capital targets, including on biodiversity,	reform vehicle taxation to encourage sales of electric and low-emission vehicles and develop electric vehicle infrastructure including universal charging points	introducing a new Young Person's Bus Discount Card for young people aged 16-21, giving two-thirds discount on bus travel retain free bus pass for all pensioners	shift more freight from road to rail	opposed to any expansion of Heathrow, Stansted or Gatwick and any new airport in the Thames Estuary and will focus instead on improving existing regional airports such as Birmingham and Manchester.
Renewable energy	give the go ahead to the Swansea Bay tidal lagoon project	expand renewable energy, aiming to generate 60% of electricity from renewables by 2030, restoring government support for solar PV and onshore wind in	accept that new nuclear power stations can play a role in electricity supply provided	maintain membership of Euratom, ensuring continued nuclear co-operation, research funding,	

		appropriate locations and building more electricity interconnectors to underpin this higher reliance on renewables	concerns about safety, disposal of waste and cost are adequately addressed, new technology is incorporated, and there is no public subsidy for new build	and access to nuclear fuels	
Human dignity	ensure that identification and support for special educational needs and disabilities takes place as early as possible	campaign strongly for the abolition of the death penalty around the world			
Preferential option for the poor	0.7% of gross national income on aid, reduce poverty	continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur	lead international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, include tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate		

International Development	invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections	develop a global education strategy to address the urgent funding crisis causing 263 million children to miss out on schooling	publish a government anti-corruption strategy		
Human Rights	strengthen enforcement of employment rights	defend human rights			
Protection of the environment (legally)	ensure that everything is done to main high EU standards in UK law, including the closest possible co-operation on climate and energy policy	support the Paris agreement by ensuring the UK meets its own climate commitments and plays a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change	Pass a Zero-carbon Britain Act to set new legally binding targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2040 and to zero by 2050		
Fracking	oppose 'fracking'				
Immigration	make positive case for immigration	offering safe and legal routes to the UK for refugees			
Green technologies investment	support investment in cutting-edge technologies and investing heavily in research and development				

Housing	ensuring that four million properties receive insulation retrofits by 2022, prioritising fuel-poor households	Restoring the zero-carbon standard for new homes, increasing the standard steadily and extending it to non-domestic buildings by 2022	ensure that half a million affordable, energy-efficient homes are built	Set up a British Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank to mobilise investment into the low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure the UK needs to remain competitive	
Farming/ Food	reform agricultural subsidies	encourage new and younger entrants to farming by championing different forms of ownership including longer tenancies, share farming and community ownership	introduce a national food strategy to promote the production and consumption of healthy, sustainable and affordable food		
Seas and Oceans	establish a 'blue belt' of protected marine areas	Defend and maintain fishing industry by not allowing fishing rights to be traded away against other policy areas, and work with the industry and other stakeholders to develop a national plan for sustainable fisheries			

Recycling/ Waste	establish a statutory waste recycling target of 70% in England and extend separate food waste collections to at least 90% of homes by 2022	Build on the success of plastic bag charge, introduce a 5p charge on disposable coffee cups to reduce waste	benefit consumers by promoting better product design to improve reparability, reuse and recycling	Pass a zero- waste Act, including legally binding targets for reducing net consumption of key natural resources, and introducing incentives for businesses to improve resource efficiency	Establish a coherent tax and regulatory framework for landfill, incineration and waste collection, including reinstating the landfill tax escalator and extending it to the lower rate, and consulting on the introduction of an incineration tax
Energy Systems	reform the regulatory policy committee to remove unnecessary regulation, reduce regulatory uncertainty, and support new markets and investment, particularly in low-carbon and resource-efficient innovation	Pass a new Green Buildings Act to set new energy-efficiency targets, including a long-term ambition for every home in England to reach at least an energy rating of Band C by 2035	expand community energy schemes, encourage councils to develop community energy-saving projects and local electricity generation, and promote city-scale demonstration projects in electric vehicles and clean energy	continue to back new entrants to the energy market, aiming for at least 30% of the household market to be supplied by competitors to the 'Big 6' by 2022	Support an ambitious carbon capture and storage programme, which is essential for delivering clean industrial growth.

Animals	introduce stronger penalties for animal cruelty offences, increasing maximum sentence, and banning caged hens	clamp down on illegal pet imports, minimise the use of animals in scientific experimentation including by funding research into alternatives	Continue to improve standards of animal health and welfare in agriculture by updating farm animal welfare codes and promoting the responsible stewardship of antibiotic drugs	provide greater resources for international environmental co-operation, particularly on climate change and on actions to tackle illegal and unsustainable trade in timber, wildlife, ivory and fish	
Ecosystems	reverse the current sharp decline in the rate of woodland creation by aiming to plant a tree for every UK citizen over the next 10 years, and protecting remaining ancient woodlands	Significantly increase the amount of accessible green space, including completion of the coastal path, and create a new designation of national nature parks to protect up to one million acres of accessible green space valued by local communities.	create at least 10 new garden cities in England, providing tens of thousands of high quality, zero carbon homes, with gardens and shared green space, jobs, schools and public transport		
Bees	Suspend the use of neonicotinoids until proven that their use in agriculture does not harm bees or other pollinators.				

The Conservative Party (<https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>)

	The Conservatives				
Pollution	spend more on research and development, to turn brilliant discoveries into products and transform the world's industries- such as the batteries that will power a new generation of clean, efficient, electric vehicles	Every car and van to be zero-emission by 2050- investing £600 million by 2020 to help achieve it.	Invest in more low-emission buses	take action against poor air quality in urban areas	
Climate change and human activity (interconnectedness of all creation)	meeting global commitments on climate change	continue to lead international action against climate change, and the degradation of habitat and loss of species			
water is a human right					
biodiversity					
Transport	£1.1 Billion to improve local transport	£40 billion into transport improvements across the United Kingdom over the rest of this decade	continue national investment including High Speed 2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the expansion of Heathrow Airport	improve existing routes and creating extra capacity on the railways including for freight	continue free bus passes
renewable energy	maintain position as a global leader in offshore wind and support the development of wind projects in the remote islands of Scotland				
human dignity	Get 1 million more people with disabilities into employment over the next ten years				

Preferential option for the poor	lead the work in the hard work to end extreme child poverty and co-ordinate efforts against microbial resistance and emergence tropical diseases	commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies			
International Development					
Human Rights	guarantee and enhance workers' rights and protections	signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of the next parliament			
protection of the environment (legally)	25-year environment plan that will chart how to improve environment and take control of environmental legislation again				
Fracking	non-fracking drilling will be treated as permitted development				
Immigration	establish schemes to help individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to provide housing and other support for refugees				
Green technologies investment					
Housing	committing to upgrading all fuel homes to EPC Band C by 2030				
Farming/ Food	work with farmers, food producers and environmental experts across Britain and with the devolved administrations to devise a new agri-environment system				

Seas and Oceans	champion greater conservation co-operation within international bodies, protecting rare species, the polar regions and international waters	work with Overseas Territory governments to create a Blue Belt of marine protection in their precious waters, establishing the largest marine sanctuaries anywhere in the world			
Recycling/ Waste	supporting comprehensive rubbish collection and recycling, supporting better packaging, taking new powers to force councils to remove roadside litter and prosecuting offenders				
Energy Systems	commission an independent review into the Cost of Energy, which will be asked to make recommendations to ensure UK energy costs are low, while ensuring a reliable supply and allowing us to meet 2050 carbon reduction objective	Develop the shale industry in Britain, while upholding rigorous environmental protections			
Animals					
Ecosystems	In addition to 11 million trees planted across the UK, 1 million more are planted in town and cities and place new duties on councils to consult when they wish to cut down street trees	continue to ensure that public forests and woodland are kept in trust for the nation, and provide stronger protections for ancient woodland	Deliver environmental improvements on a landscape scale, from enriching soil fertility to planting hedgerows	Maintaining the existing strong protections on designated land like the Green Belt, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	
Bees					

Green party (<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/all-manifestos-alternative-formats.html>)

	Green Party				
Pollution	Introduce a one-off fine on car manufacturers who cheated the emissions testing regime				
Climate change and human activity (interconnectedness of all creation)	stand alongside those countries across the world fighting for climate justice, and push for concerted global action to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. Clearly outline how the UK would meet domestic and international obligations – ending the current policy uncertainty - whilst making climate change a major foreign policy priority.	always act strongly on climate change and to protect the natural world			
water is a human right	Nationalise water				
biodiversity	enhance biodiversity				
Transport	return the railways to public ownership, and invest in regional rail links, especially in the South West and North of England, rather than wasting money on HS2 and the national major roads programme	tackle the impact of transport on climate change and public health by cancelling airport expansions and ending airline fuel subsidies, and increasing incentives to take diesel vehicles off the roads.	invest in affordable, reliable and publicly run bus services, in better walking and cycling routes, and facilities such as	aim to make local public transport free for young people, students and people with disabilities.	

			cycle parking and on street secure cycle storage in residential areas.		
Renewable energy	End the reckless gamble with nuclear power – will cancel the contracts for Hinkley Point C (saving £37bn), and scrap plans for all new nuclear power stations, instead investing in renewable energy, a flexible grid, and interconnection to Europe.	ensure that all new investment in energy is directed towards clean, renewable energy, and a smarter, networked grid, with battery-storage, demand-side measures, and interconnection			
Human dignity	Ensuring that every child with Special Educational Needs or Disability has access to a mainstream education, in accordance with the UN Convention for Persons with Disabilities.				
Preferential option for the poor	Increase the overseas aid budget from 0.7% of GDP to 1.0% of GDP				
International Development	Strengthen the global deal on climate change, including by delivering climate justice and promoting ecologically sustainable development so that poorer countries can cope with the impacts of climate change				

Human Rights	Trade rules that respect human rights, labour standards, environmental standards and climate commitments with mechanisms for individuals, groups and communities to bring grievances	Defend the Human Rights Act and UK membership of the European Convention on Human Rights, and reinstate funding for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.			
Protection of the environment (legally)	From restrictions on pesticides to protect bees, to crucial regulations on dangerous chemicals in toys, the Green Party will ensure that existing environmental laws are retained, or enhanced, no matter future relationship with the European Union. Will ensure that importation principles – such as the Precautionary and Polluter-Pays principles – are transposed into UK statute books.	Environmental Protection Act to safeguard and restore environment, protect and enhance biodiversity, promote sustainable food and farming, and ensure animal protection	Create a new environmental regulator and court to effectively monitor and enforce environmental law - this would include new statutory requirements for updates to (and debates in) Parliament on the state of nature and biodiversity		
Fracking	Ban Fracking				
Immigration	A humane immigration and asylum system that recognises and takes responsibility for Britain's ongoing role in causing the flow of migrants worldwide				

Green technologies investment	significant investment in vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure, and a comprehensive plan to decarbonise heat, including pilot residential and commercial projects				
Housing	Embark upon a national programme of insulation and retrofitting to make every home warm – bringing two million people out of fuel poverty, insulating nine million homes, and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs across the UK. In addition, ensure that all new homes are built to zero-carbon standards by 2020.	A public works programme of insulation to make every home warm and investing in flood defences and natural flood management to make every community safer			
Farming/ Food	refocus public funding for the rural economy towards restoring biodiversity, sustainable land management and farming, improving animal welfare, and tackling climate change	ensure the completion of an ecologically-coherent network of well-managed marine protection areas around the UK, and in UK Overseas Territories. In addition, any new fisheries legislation must contain a legal requirement to fish below a level that allows fish stocks to fully recover, should promote locally-led fishing that supports coastal economies, and bring an end to damaging			

		fishing operations in protected areas.			
Seas and Oceans	implement a Blue New Deal to regenerate coastal communities, harnessing the potential of seas whilst protecting the marine environment.				
Recycling/ Waste	the culture of reusing and refilling, through: the introduction of a bottle deposit scheme; free public water dispensers and a community refill scheme; and an end to unnecessary single-use plastics. Tackling plastic waste sits alongside long-standing commitment to creating a more circular economy - where recycling and reusing materials become central to way of life.				
Energy Systems	Clean Energy Plan: keep fossil fuels in the ground, phase out the £6bn a year fossil fuel subsidies, bring forward the coal phase-out date to 2023, divest public funds from the fossil fuel industry, and ensure a just transition for those communities dependent on fossil fuel jobs	end the effective ban on onshore wind and introducing new support for onshore wind and solar-photovoltaics, scaling up investment in offshore wind and marine renewables	Democratise energy ownership by reforming Tax Relief for smaller-scale projects, introducing Green ISAs, promoting Green Bonds by allowing tax-free bonds for green	End the monopoly of the Big Six by building democratic, locally owned alternatives. Require grid operators to give priority access to community energy projects,	Introduce progressive energy tariffs so that small consumers pay less per unit than large ones, special needs are recognised, people are not cut off when they can't

			projects, and issuing government backed Green Bonds - and requiring all projects that obtain government support to have a community ownership element.	and pioneer a new Community Energy Tool Kit to empower local communities to create energy and municipal heating projects in every town and city	afford to pay, and nobody is forced to have pre-payment meters.
Animals	ensure animal protection				
Ecosystems	Guarantee strong protections for natural environment and oceans, especially for the Green Belt, National Parks, SSSIs and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – and including a long-term 25-year target for biodiversity, water and air quality.				
Bees	Protect				

UK Independence Party (<http://www.ukip.org/manifesto2017>)

	UKIP				
Pollution					
Climate change and human activity (interconnectedness of all creation)	Match fund grants made by local authorities for rural capital projects which enhance the local environment or help recovery from environmental disasters				
Water is a human right	Fund clean water programmes				
Biodiversity					
Transport	Improve existing transport infrastructure instead of investing in projects such as HS2 and third runway at Heathrow	Push every local authority in the country to offer at least 30 minutes' free parking in town centres and shopping parades	Aim to remove existing tolls from publicly owned roads and block the introduction of new toll roads	Support the installation of rapid charging stations [for electrically propelled vehicles] in towns and cities, encourage off street parking and charging provision in all new housing and industrial developments	Provide start up grants to support community bus operators using smaller and more efficient buses
Renewable energy	Scrap the green levies currently added to bills to subsidise renewable energy schemes				

Human dignity	All disabled learners must have the legal right to attend either mainstream courses in mainstream education settings, or schools exclusively tailored to their needs.	reverse cuts to care budgets. Investing up to £2 billion every year into social care			
Preferential option for the poor	Reduce foreign aid to 0.2 per cent of Gross National Income				
International Development	Close the Department for International Development	Fund childhood inoculations, medical assistance, and disaster and emergency relief	Seek to support the economies, infrastructure development, education, health, agriculture and trading capacity of developing nations. Not engage in unethical trade practices that harm or inhibit their trade, traditional lifestyle, or natural resources		
Human Rights	Remove the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights	protect religious freedoms in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.			

Protection of the environment (legally)	New Environmental Protection Act protection for Britain's wildlife, nature reserves, areas of outstanding natural beauty, countryside, and coastlines.	Withdraw from the Paris Climate agreement and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme			
Fracking	yes				
Immigration	Must not be bound by any freedom of movement obligation, and must be free to set and meet annual migration targets (zero net migration)	Will comply fully with the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and honour obligations to bona fide asylum seekers			
Green technologies investment					
Housing	Factory- built homes are built to last, to high design standards, and are energy efficient, with running costs up to 30per cent less than traditional homes. Building homes where jobs and homes are needed	Prioritise brownfield rather than greenfield or agricultural land for new housing			

Farming/ Food	support farming and wildlife through grant schemes prioritising the preservation of natural habitats	To qualify for subsidies, land must be used for genuine agricultural purposes and meet Entry Level Stewardship conditions, meaning it must be managed to certain environmental standards. Organic farms will be paid 25 per cent more, and additional support will be given to hill farmers			
Seas and Oceans	Leave the Common Fisheries Policy, take back control the sea [around the UK], and rebuild fishing industry.	End discards and make best use of all fish caught			
Recycling/ Waste	Investigate the practicality of introducing a deposit scheme on plastic drinks bottles to encourage recycling				

Energy Systems	Repeal the 2008 Climate Change Act and support a diverse energy market based on coal, nuclear, shale gas, conventional gas, oil, solar and hydro, as well as other renewables	Invest in shale gas exploration as long as not in national parks or other areas of outstanding natural beauty			
Animals	protect dolphins by banning the use of pair trawling for sea bass	Tightly regulate animal testing, and continually challenge companies concerned regarding its necessity	Triple the maximum jail sentences for animal cruelty	Impose lifetime bans on owning and/ or looking after animals of any individual or company convicted of animal cruelty	
Ecosystems	Amend the National Planning Policy Framework to give ancient woodlands 'wholly exceptional' status, putting them on par with listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites	Major infrastructure projects will be required to give more respect to Irreplaceable natural habitats	Amend planning legislation to promote inclusion of trees and open space into new developments.		
Bees					