

# NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin September 2023

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## NJPN OPEN NETWORKING DAY 23 SEPTEMBER: 'THE WINDRUSH GENERATION'

The next NJPN Open Networking Day will be held at the Polish Millenium House in Birmingham.



In this year of the Windrush 75th anniversary our speaker will be Rev. Canon Eve Pitts who will speak of the experiences of people from the Caribbean and the issues of racial justice that we still need to address today. Rev. Eve was the first black woman vicar in the Church of England and is a long-standing campaigner for racial justice.

There will be a 'notice board' session, with the opportunity for justice and peace groups and representatives from dioceses and Catholic/Christian Agencies to share information about their activities and campaigns.

Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring your own lunch.

There is no charge for this event although a donation would be much appreciated to allay expenses. All are welcome.

**For further details contact:** Sharon Chambers, Administrative Assistant Email: [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**Poster:** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/09/Meeting-Flier-1.pdf>

**Directions:** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/09/Directions-to-Polish-Millennium-Huse.pdf>

## LANCASTER DIOCESE FAITH & JUSTICE COMMISSION CARE OF CREATION EVENT

Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission invite you to a 'Care of Creation' event on Saturday 7 October 2023, 9.30 – 3.00pm at St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, LA1 4HT

**The theme of the event is 'Let Justice and Peace flow'**

### Keynote speakers include:

**Sr Margaret Atkins**

**Dr Stephen Garsed**

**Dr Paul Kelly**

**John Paul de Quay**

*Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch*

For further information or to confirm your attendance at the event please contact Sue Grubic [ldfsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfsue@gmail.com) or text 07791444417

### Timetable:

9.30am – Tea & Coffee

10.00am – Welcome and prayer (Fr Hugh)

**10.10am – Sr Margaret Atkins – 'Laudato Si in context'**

10.50am Questions

**11.05am – Stephen Garsed – 'War on Nature'**

11.45am Questions

12.00pm – Group discussion

12.15pm – Lunch

**12.45pm – Paul Kelly – 'Live Simply so that others may Simply Live, sharing ideas for individual and community action'**

1.25pm – Questions

1.40pm – **John Paul de Quay – The Journey to 2030 'Dammed justice and peace'**

2.20pm – Questions

2.35- Panel

2.55 pm – Final words and prayer (Fr Hugh)



A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

## CHILE 50 YRS: ART CENSORED IN UK TO APPEASE PINOCHET

**Fifty years after the murderous coup in Chile, the U.K.'s most important political artist, PETER KENNARD, recounts how the Barbican censored his work to placate high-ranking Chilean finance officials and British bankers:**

On 11 September 1973 a military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet and backed by the C.I.A. and big business overthrew Chile's constitutional government and inflicted 17 years of terror on the Chilean people.

Salvador Allende, whose 'Popular Unity' socialist government had nationalised some of the country's key assets and resources, died in the coup and a fascist military regime was set up in which thousands were tortured, murdered, and 'disappeared' (grabbed from their homes by military thugs and never seen again).

I immediately began making art about it. Then in 1985, I had a retrospective exhibition titled 'Images Against War 1965-1985' at the Barbican Arts Centre in London to coincide with the production of *War Plays* by Edward Bond at the venue's theatre.

But the day before the exhibition opened, Henry Wrong [sic], the director of the centre, approached me and demanded that two of the photomontages, 'Santiago Stadium' 1 and 3, should be removed immediately. Both works were made in 1973 in response to the military coup in Chile, portraying the bloody repression and killing that followed. The reason Wrong wanted the Chile images gone was Midland Bank (as it was then known, it's now HSBC) had hired the Barbican cinema for a meeting between some of Pinochet's finance officials and British bankers. To access the cinema they would have had to walk past my exhibition. I refused to remove the two works — as did the people who had just hung the exhibition.

Then, the next morning, I went in to see the largest picture to which they had objected was covered over with a moth-eaten felt blanket. It was hung from a high ceiling and must have been too difficult to remove. The smaller one had been unscrewed from the wall and taken down. The next day, the *Evening Standard* wrote: "Peter Kennard's exhibition, Images Against War, at the Barbican Centre should perhaps be re-titled. Images Against Censorship might not be too wide of the mark." However, a Barbican spokesman told the paper: "We would hope to accommodate Peter Kennard. It's his exhibition. We don't exercise censorship." Actually, they accommodated the fascist regime and censored the artist. I was initially so incensed I was going to withdraw the whole exhibition, but then I decided to leave it just as the Chileans saw it, with the blanket covering the image and an empty space. The public could view it as another statement against the coup, the regime and its financial backers.

### Art Method

The art was my attempt to express my outrage at the horror of the coup and its aftermath. By breaking down elements in photographs of Chile, cutting them up and reconstituting them, a critical narrative of military violence and its opposition was set up. The resulting images are not documentary mirrors, although some of my photomontages use photographs by documentary and citizen photographers bravely working in life threatening situations. They go out into danger while I work in my studio trying to connect their photographs to the forces that create the oppression their images document. The power brokers behind the suffering are revealed in the same frame as their victims.

My images were used again in December 1998. Protesters, holding placards illustrated with images of mine about human rights, demonstrated outside high security Belmarsh Magistrates Court in London. Pinochet was due to appear after being arrested under an international warrant issued by Spanish judge Baltasar Garzón. I remember the shudder in the crowd of demonstrators — many of them Chileans who had suffered under his dictatorship — as a car with blacked out windows drove him into the courthouse.

Labour home secretary Jack Straw finally ruled in January 2000 that on health grounds Pinochet should not be extradited and was free to return to Chile, where on arrival, he stood up from his wheelchair in triumph while his supporters cheered.

I'm sure, even though he would have been happy to be back in the country where he'd slaughtered and tortured thousands, that he would miss taking his customary afternoon tea with his friend Margaret Thatcher. A few weeks earlier she had talked about the "debt" the U.K. owed Pinochet and to cheers from delegates at the Conservative Party conference had spoken of his "judicial kidnap" by Baltasar Garzón.

### Censorship Worse

In 1978, I had made an exhibition of 30 photomontages 'A Document on Chile' with text by Ric Sissons for the Half Moon Photography Workshop. It recounted the history of Chile from the years prior to Allende, the three years of his Popular Unity government through to the barbarism of Pinochet's rule. The exhibition was laminated in plastic and travelled in a case that could be sent cheaply in the luggage van of a train. It travelled the country going to community centres, colleges, youth clubs and even a launderette.

To mark the 50-year anniversary of the coup, the exhibition is being re-staged at a gallery in London this week. Unfortunately, nothing has changed 45 years later. The patrons of contemporary art, the Medicis of today, are the corporations and super-rich art collectors. They give the impression of supporting dissident views and freedom of expression, but if there is any danger that your sponsored work encourages even a modicum of critical debate, you're out the door. The sponsors are in it to ratchet up "the buying mood".

Censorship of culture is something one does not speak of in the free market. But in the visual arts it is an increasing determinant of what people are allowed to see in public spaces. Exhibitions cannot take place if they are not sponsored. Not that long ago, the Tate even had trouble finding a sponsor for a Francis Bacon show, as the work appeared a bit too visceral for shareholders to support. The Barbican, which censored my anti-fascist art all those years ago, is another example: it's owned, funded, and managed by the City of London Corporation.

Corporate power rules in the British art world. And its censorship of any dissident views is even more complete now than it was in 1985. The good news is that the next generation of artists are struggling to break the stranglehold of the corporations and investors over the creative industries. It is vital they succeed.

- **Peter Kennard is an artist and Professor of Political Art at the Royal College of Art in London. His work is in the collection of Tate, the V&A, amongst others.**

- **Download this article plus Peter's photomontages here: <https://consortiumnews.com/2023/09/10/chile-50-yrs-art-censored-in-uk-to-appease-pinochet/>**

- **The exhibition '*Chile 50: Political Art, Solidarity and Resistance*' will be on at Four Corners Gallery in Bethnal Green, London from September 12-23 (See more below)**

#### **CHILE 50: POLITICAL ART, SOLIDARITY AND RESISTANCE**

Chile 50 explores how political art was used to sustain solidarity and resistance in the face of incarceration, torture and exile. We re-stage Peter Kennard's 1978 show, *A Document on Chile*, alongside a display of arpilleras - subversive patchwork pictures sewn by women during the Pinochet dictatorship - and images by Chilean photographers of the recent social uprising of 2019-2022. Chile 50 is shown as part of Chile 50 Years UK, a year-long commemoration programme.

Co-curator and ex-political prisoner Gloria Miqueles says: 'This exhibition shows how art has been used as a powerful tool of resistance and solidarity, in the Chilean experience during the Pinochet dictatorship in the 1970s, and more recently to denounce the slow, incomplete transition to democracy in Chile. Art is a means of communicating the country's plight.'

Gallery hours: free admission Tuesday to Saturday 11am – 6pm, Thursday 11am – 8pm

#### **EXHIBITION TALKS AND EVENTS**

**Tuesday 19 September 6.30-8pm Talk - Political Photomontage: Peter Kennard and Loraine Leeson - Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/political-photomontage-peter-kennard-and-loraine-leeson-in-discussion-tickets-715423359527?aff=oddtcreator>**

**Thursday 21 September 6:30pm Film Screening - Crafting Resistance: The Art of Chilean Political Prisoners - Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crafting-resistance-the-art-of-chilean-political-prisoners-screening-qa-tickets-695257863987?aff=oddtcreator>**

**Saturday 23 September 4:00pm Talk - Activist Photography in Chile: Protest, Media and Oppression - Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/activist-photography-in-chile-protest-media-and-oppression-tickets-715321705477?aff=oddtcreator>**

**ARTISTS:** This exhibition features arpilleras by unknown Chilean political prisoners, photomontages by Peter Kennard and protest photography by Migrar Photo, Nicole Kramm, and Vera Press (Carlos Vera). This exhibition is part-supported by public funding through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. However, the participating artists have kindly donated their work. Please help us raise funds to compensate the Chilean photographers who work under pressure to reveal injustices in their country.

Donate to the photographers: <https://www.fourcornersfilm.co.uk/support-us> All funds raised between 14-23 Sept will be donated to Migrar Photo, Nicole Kramm and Vera Press

<https://www.fourcornersfilm.co.uk/whats-on/chile-50-political-art-solidarity-and-resistance>

## SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

**13 October 2023 Heather Kiernan writes:** Today is the Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, honoured as one of the four great Greek doctors of the church. A golden-mouthed preacher, he eloquently challenged people to serve Christ in the outcast of society. St John was not alone among the early Fathers in speaking out against the abuse of wealth. He believed that personal property is not strictly private but a trust.

His sermons and writings are timeless accounts of recognising and respecting our spiritual nature in a materialist world. This beacon for the early Church cut through the darkness with its power. He speaks to the vital question of living out one's faith in the world: of rejecting the quest for empire and striving instead for community of faith. His way of living still is a model for Christian life in a confused, materialistic world. His faithfulness to the Word was a radical witness, and his power came from the truth he served.

### **This is an excerpt from Saint John Chrysostom's meditation on Matthew 25:**

"Would you honour the body of Christ? Do not despise his nakedness; do not honour him here in church clothed in silk vestments and then pass him by unclothed and frozen outside. Remember that he who said, "This is my Body", and made good his words, also said, "You saw me hungry and gave me no food", and, "in so far as you did it not to one of these, you did it not to me". In the first sense the body of Christ does not need clothing but worship from a pure heart. In the second sense it does need clothing and all the care we can give it...

What is the use of loading Christ's table with gold cups while he himself is starving? Feed the hungry and then if you have any money left over, spend it on the altar table. Will you make a cup of gold and without a cup of water? What use is it to adorn the altar with cloth of gold hangings and deny Christ a coat for his back! What would that profit you? Tell me: if you saw someone starving and refused to give him any food but instead spent your money on adorning the altar with gold, would he thank you? Would he not rather be outraged? Or if you saw someone in rags and stiff with cold and then did not give him clothing but set up golden columns in his honour, would he not say that he was being made a fool of and insulted?

Consider that Christ is that tramp who comes in need of a night's lodging. You turn him away and then start laying rugs on the floor, draping the walls, hanging lamps on silver chains on the columns. Meanwhile the tramp is locked up in prison and you never give him a glance. Well again I am not condemning munificence in these matters. Make your house beautiful by all means but also look after the poor, or rather look after the poor first. No one was ever condemned for not adorning his house, but those who neglect the poor were threatened with hellfire for all eternity and a life of torment with devils. Adorn your house if you will, but do not forget your brother in distress. He is a temple of infinitely greater value."

## POPE FRANCIS: SECOND LAUDATO SI' TO BE PUBLISHED ON 4 OCTOBER

**Vatican News** 28 August 2023: Pope Francis' appeal from the Paul VI Hall on Wednesday this week looked ahead to the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which takes place today (1 September). The theme of this year's observance is '*Let Justice and Peace Flow*.' The Pope recalled that this day marks the beginning of the Season of Creation that will last until 4 October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

As he had announced on 21 August when he received a delegation of lawyers from member countries of the Council of Europe, the Pope revealed that the second part of his encyclical *Laudato si'* will be published on 4 October. "On that date, I plan on publishing an exhortation, a second *Laudato si'*," the Pope said. "Let us join our Christian brothers and sisters in the commitment to care for creation as a sacred gift from the Creator."

The Pope's remarks on Wednesday summarised the core of his Message for the World Day, which was made public in May: "It is necessary to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, striving to end the senseless war on our common home which is a terrible world war. I urge all of you to work and pray for it to abound with life once again." In the Message, the Pope says we must no longer consider creation as an object to be exploited, but as a reality to be safeguarded "as a sacred gift from our Creator."

The Pope's message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation insisted on the need to "transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow." Pope Francis also emphasised the importance of synodality and expressed his hopes that "in this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, we may live, work, and pray so that our common home will teem with life once again."

<https://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk/pope-francis-second-laudato-si-to-be-published-on-4th-october/>

## 2023 WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL 16-23 SEPTEMBER

### **"No place to lay my head"**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel.

While commemorating 75 years of Nakba (catastrophe) of the Palestinian people since 1948, the preparatory committee for this year's materials questioned the injustice in all this for the family and chose the Bible verse Matthew 8:20 to lay down the issue as presented by Jesus Christ: "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

### **PAX CHRISTI RESOURCES FOR WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL**

Pax Christi has produced a card to encourage us to 'learn, pray and act'. One side has the prayer, 'Among the Rubble' by Jan Sutch Pickard and the other side some useful resources and ideas for action you can take. Download the prayer card here:

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/world-week-for-peace-in-pi/>

#### **Action ideas**

- Pray and act with those who face the challenges of the occupation of Palestine and for all who work for peace and justice in the Holy Land
- Check to see if your diocese invests in any company that benefits from the occupation

### **HOPE IN PALESTINE: A FOUR-PART SERIES FROM SABEEL-KAIROS**

Following the great feedback we received last year for our Advent Series on Apartheid, this year we are putting together a new 4 part online series looking at hope. These events will take place on the first Sunday of each month from September-December, from 7-8:15pm, and will feature a Palestinian speaker (or two), Q+A/discussion, and accompanying study guide. We will be focusing on the theme of hope, including who we put our hope in, what we hope for, how we can help sustain hope in these dark times.

<https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/>

### **"KEYS: A TROUBLED INHERITANCE" - THE BALFOUR PROJECT ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF A NEW PODCAST**

An epic journey to uncover a Holocaust inheritance leads relentlessly to discovering a Nakba inheritance: two catastrophes that are very different, but very connected. Can they both be heard and understood? With personal testimony, letters and memories by those who survived and those who did not, this challenging audio series is dramatised and narrated by broadcaster Mike Joseph. **Listen to the podcast here:** <https://balfourproject.org/keys/>

### **SHIREEN ABU AKLEH REMEMBERED AT THE DSEI ARMS FAIR PROTESTS**

**12 September 2023 Pax Christi (UK) Chair Ann Farr writes:** Today I took Shireen Abu Akleh with me to the DSEI Arms Fair protests - remembering her especially at the solemn reading of names of those killed by weapons made by the companies selling their lethal and immoral wares inside the ExCeL Centre.



The badge was given to me by her brother in Jerusalem, in February, after he told us the story of her deliberate killing in Jenin last year. Since then there has been no accountability for her death despite the evidence of it being at the hands of an Israeli soldier. We promised to tell her story and we continue to do that, as I did today when people asked who she was.

I also spoke to the Al Jazeera Cameraman and Journalist who were not able to go inside as only one of them had a pass and they were told not to film outside on the street in the vicinity of the centre. Was glad to see that later they did some filming despite that! [#stopdsei2023](https://twitter.com/stopdsei2023).

### **Prayer: Among the Rubble**

*Compassionate God,  
In our minds, we pray among the rubble,  
the unholy mess of demolitions  
in the land we call Holy.*

*In our hearts we hold  
families who have lost their homes,  
children who have seen their schools destroyed,  
communities which no longer have a clinic.  
We pray for them as they weep for all that is lost.  
We pray that they will not lose hope.*

*And we pray, too, for  
the men who drive the bulldozers,  
who beat back protestors,  
politicians who sign the orders –  
Aware that such actions destroy their humanity.*

*Bless those who campaign against injustice;  
bless the patient rebuilders;  
bless those who hope against hope  
that peace with justice will prevail  
in the land that we call Holy.  
Amen.*

©Jan Sutch Pickard, UK



## 21 SEPT - 2 OCT CATHOLIC DAYS OF NONVIOLENCE: "BLESSED ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING NONVIOLENCE"

- Pray/Reflect on the Vow of Nonviolence alone or in your parish community on 2 October, International Day of Nonviolence.
- Act: Send a message of hope and solidarity to nonviolent peacemakers.
- Learn: About the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>

**More ideas and resources on Pax Christi's website:** [www.paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/)

## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

The 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated on 24 September 2023 - the last Sunday of the month. Pope Francis has chosen the theme '*Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay*'. The theme, and indeed the Holy Father's message, echoes many of the principles found in the Bishops' document on refugees and migrants published earlier in 2023 – **Love the Stranger** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/>

**Love the Stranger** places the human being at the heart of our pastoral outreach, looking beyond statistics and policies to the person – each with a name, a face and a story. The document offers 24 guiding principles and has been endorsed by the Holy See, COMECE, CAFOD, CSAN and Caritas Social Action Network members. The main sections of the publication are: Foreword, Principles, Introduction, A global perspective, The right to flourish in one's homeland, The right to migrate, Equality and human dignity, Human trafficking and slavery, The gift of migration, Concluding reflection. More info from Caritas Shrewsbury: [ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

### Webinar: *Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay*

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) together Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) are holding a webinar to discuss this year's theme and how we can help people to flourish in their homelands, as well as what we can do here in the UK to ensure we are welcoming the stranger.

*'Migration involves a twofold right: the right not to migrate and the right to migrate... the world has not yet realised that migration is a human right.'* Pope Francis, WDMR 2023

### Speakers include:

**Bishop Paul McAleenan – Lead Bishop for Migrants & Refugees, CBCEW**

**Vatican Representative – Dicastery of Human Development**

**Christine Allen – Director, CAFOD**

**Date:** Wednesday 20 September 2023, 6:30 – 7:00pm. Online, Zoom. **Register here:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LDwPVL7qRFGksC\\_UfGVfiQ? x zm\\_rtaid=HLMuKduBR7uil9ddxoVktg.1693404910669.a1c5829a444a7bfc7fc666a780bd1f1& x zm\\_rhtaid=361#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LDwPVL7qRFGksC_UfGVfiQ? x zm_rtaid=HLMuKduBR7uil9ddxoVktg.1693404910669.a1c5829a444a7bfc7fc666a780bd1f1& x zm_rhtaid=361#/registration)

## FAITH MUSEUM TO OPEN IN THE NORTH EAST ON 7 OCTOBER

The Faith Museum, telling the story of faith in Britain over 6,000 years, opens to the public in Auckland Castle, on 7 October. It is housed in the 14th century wing of the castle and an adjoining 21st century extension. The museum has been developed over ten years, funded by a £12.4 million grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and is part of The Auckland Project, in Bishops Auckland, with historic buildings, gardens, galleries and a heritage railway. The Project says the museum "does not seek to force a definition of faith but rather invites visitors to consider how people across history have described and demonstrated it" and all visitors are welcome, whether they identify as religious, spiritual, or neither.

Artefacts include the Gainford Stone, a rock of carved prehistoric art; the Roman Binchester Ring with Christian symbols – on display for the first time, after being excavated in 2014 from the Roman Fort Vinovium, just one mile away from the museum; the 13th-century Bodleian Bowl, a bronze vessel inscribed with the name of Joseph, son of Rabbi Yechiel, a famous scripture scholar of Paris; a copy of William Tyndale's English translation of the New Testament from 1536, and a set of 20th-century prayer beads owned by Lord Headley, believed to be the first Briton to have legitimately completed the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

*The Guardian* reports that a campaign has been launched to bring a 16th-century tapestry commissioned by Henry VIII from Spain to be the centrepiece of the museum. It depicts Saint Paul directing the burning of "the heathen books" and is "effectively the birth certificate of the Church of England", according to the curator.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/23/new-museum-faith-england-hopes-buy-henry-viii-tapestry-spain>

**Religion Media Centre:** <https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/morning-news-bulletin/religion-news-25-july-2023/>

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER APPOINTS UK'S FIRST PROFESSOR OF UKRAINIAN POLITICS

**Kyiv Post** | 30 August 2023: The University of Manchester has appointed the first-ever Professor of Comparative and Ukrainian Politics in the UK and the wider English-speaking world, in a move that demonstrates the leading role of the University when it comes to the study of contemporary Ukraine. Olga Onuch is an academic whose expertise on Ukrainian politics and society has led her to become one of the leading Ukraine experts both in the UK and internationally. Since the 2004 Orange Revolution Olga has focused her research on political engagement in the country, and since 2014 she was a member of an advisory group to the Ukrainian government and has worked with diverse policy makers from Ukraine, the UK, USA, EU and Canada. However, since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Olga has dedicated herself to recording and understanding the war, as well as releasing a highly-regarded book, *The Zelensky Effect*, about the role of civic national identity in Ukraine and how it influenced President Zelensky and directed his leadership.

In her new role, Professor Onuch will contribute to the multiple prize-winning community of senior scholars and Professors in the University's Politics Department by developing teaching curricula, mentoring early career researchers and developing policy-focused research agendas. The Professorship will raise the profile of Ukrainian scholarship and studies at the University and in the UK more widely, making Manchester a leader in the field. She will launch the 'Ukraine Rises' course in September which will focus on contemporary Ukrainian Politics in comparative perspective, and will continue to teach courses on Mass Protest and on Democratisation in eastern Europe and Latin America in which Ukraine will be a central reference case. These courses will also help to develop a pipeline for those interested in future doctoral study focused on Ukrainian politics in comparative perspective.

The Professorship will also enable Onuch to undertake more public engagement and outreach activities with the inception of a keynote public lecture on Ukraine, as well as helping her to fundraise for further public facing events which engage the local community in Manchester and support Ukrainian refugees. She will also continue to expand on existing collaborations with organisations including the British Council in Ukraine, focusing on youth engagement. Ultimately, a main goal of the Professorship is to develop a large centre focused on the comparative study of Ukrainian politics, elections, political participation and democratic resilience. Such a centre would aim to support UK, EU, North American and Ukrainian policymakers working on political reforms relating to EU accession, reconstruction, and civic duty, engagement and resilience in Ukraine and beyond.

As well as recognising Onuch's expertise, the Professorship also demonstrates The University of Manchester's leadership in supporting Ukrainian students and scholars seeking refuge following the Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine. The University was one of the first Higher Education Institutions in the UK to pledge large amounts of funding to supporting Ukrainian students when it committed £5million to establish a scholarship for students and scholars fleeing war. The University's Social Responsibility Fund has also supported the academic-led Ukraine Hub UK, the setting up of a Ukraine focused Expert Task Force, and the was first UK University to host a Ukrainian Students Conference last year involving students from over 20 universities. <https://www.kyivpost.com/post/21066>

## CHARLES PLATER TRUST 2023 SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE

11 Sept 2023: The Charles Plater Trust (CPT) has today opened it's 2023 small grants programme. The CPT recognises the challenges small charities face in securing funding to build their capacity or meet their core project costs, so the CPT provides grants to meet these needs. Grants for up to £5,000 are on offer and can be used to fund responses to local need in parishes, deprived communities or with marginalised groups to support initiatives for a year.

Philomena Cullen, the CPT manager said: "The not-for-profit sector in England and Wales is the engine on the ground delivering vital services every day, in every community. We understand the significant challenges small charities face to keep that engine going. We believe in each organisation we fund. We believe in what they do, and how they do it. We know that by investing in them, we are positively impacting the communities they work with."

Zino Prince Kashandi, from Sandwell Youth in Action, who was a 2022 small grant recipient said: "The funding we got was for our ex-offender employment club to help integrate BAME young people back into society. It's overwhelming to see how much funding can do in a community like mine. While you might call the funding small, the impact of that funding is huge. We have already supported five young people to find jobs, and nine to access training, so it really does change lives and show that young people can reach their potential."

Any small charity with an annual income of below £100,000 is eligible to apply directly on the new Charles Plater Trust website. The closing date is 10 October 2023. All application details can be found at: [www.plater.org.uk/grant-application/small-grant](http://www.plater.org.uk/grant-application/small-grant) or for an informal chat, please contact Philomena Cullen, Trust manager, at: [plater@plater.org.uk](mailto:plater@plater.org.uk) Read the inspiring stories of change achieved by small charities funded in the last year at: [www.plater.org.uk/case-studies](http://www.plater.org.uk/case-studies) <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47987>

## VOCATION FOR JUSTICE: SAVING OUR COMMONS

Ellen Teague 10 September 2023

The cover photo of the *Winter 2023 Vocation for Justice* newsletter shows Columban grounds this summer at the office headquarters in Solihull. It illustrates a Columban commitment to maintain a home for wildlife and implement a three-year plan to plant trees, orchards and hedgerows. The addition of a wildflower garden and apiary are planned to protect the vulnerable bee population. Eco-retreats and education days are run at St. Columban's.

The issue, which the Columbans send out to around 6,000 Justice and Peace activists in Britain, takes the theme, 'Saving Our Commons'. It highlights that individuals and organisations acting in their own self-interest can overexploit and destroy natural resources that all of us are entitled to share. These resources include our air, water, land, a stable climate and biodiversity.

Of course, we not only respond locally, but we think globally.

And globally, we've had a wake-up summer. July was the hottest month ever on record and saw extreme weather events on all seven continents. Heatwaves across Europe and North America and record-breaking downpours and flooding in South Asia show that Earth's climate is moving into a new normal.

UK temperatures reached their highest point of the year on 7 September, with 32.7C recorded in Greater London. The heatwave in England and Wales is the first since records began that temperatures have been higher than 30C for six days in a row in Britain in September, according to the Met Office. An Amber health alert has been issued.

Scientists say that next year will be even hotter than this year as El Niño takes fuller effect. A paper published in the respected journal *Science* last year predicted that major tipping points, such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, the West Antarctic ice sheet and the Boreal Forests of Siberia, start to become "likely" at 1.5 degrees of warming above pre-industrial levels. We are getting very close.

Yet, people of vision throughout the world are working towards a paradigm-shattering, dignity-creating, freedom-enhancing and sustainable world. There really is no alternative, especially when we consider justice for future generations.

It can be done. Paris is hosting the Olympic Games next summer, and after a \$1.6billion decade-long cleanup project, the famous river Seine will once again be safe enough to swim in. Chronic pollutants have included raw sewage, old TVs, motorcycles - and even dead bodies. Now, 30 to 35 species of fish have returned. It gives us hope that we can clean up the UK's polluted waterways with sufficient will.

Isn't the public desire for pollution-free waters where fish and people can swim safely enough to preserve the commons. Well, it needs to be underlined. Political and economic powers need civil society to demand they do the right thing for the common good in terms of climate stability, biodiversity, clean water and wider access to the riches of the global commons. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, highlighted at this year's annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales, provide global benchmarks.

We must have hope and commitment to save our commons. This issue includes articles by Indian ecologist Vandana Shiva on '*Reclaiming Our Common Home*', by CAFOD's Campaign Manager on the rights of farmers to own, sell and save seeds, and by a Columban worker in Fiji who calls for conservation of the ocean and coastal eco-systems. The centrespread gives examples of Church action on '*Saving our Commons*'.

And the 2023/24 Columban Schools Competition, '*Biodiversity Matters*' is launched. The Columbans ask that it is brought to the attention of young people, parents and teachers. See more here: [www.columbancompetition.com/](http://www.columbancompetition.com/)

Injustice, violence, and the destruction of life forms and entire living ecosystems of the Earth community today are directly related to humanity's loss of sensitivity related to and connected to our environment, neighbours, and God the Creator. People of faith must stress these links and the terrible impacts on poor communities. Columban mission believes that God is with us in our mission to save our commons.

**View the Winter 2023 Vocation for Justice:**

<https://columbans.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/FINAL-TUESDAY-PRINTING.pdf>

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47976>



## COLUMBANS LAUNCH SCHOOLS COMPETITION: 'BIODIVERSITY MATTERS'

**Source: Columban Missionaries** 7 September 2023

The Columban Missionaries in Britain and Ireland have announced the launch of their latest Schools Media Competition 2023-2024 which has the title: '*Biodiversity Matters*'. The launch is during the first week of the Season of Creation when Christian communities around the world focus on valuing and protecting God's creation. And a core aspect of Columban mission is justice, peace and ecology.

The competition is aimed at students aged between 13-18 years old who are invited to explore Biodiversity - the richness of life forms on Earth and which humanity relies on for health, food and well-being. It is looking for pieces of writing and images that demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the issue of Biodiversity and highlight people, communities and/or organisations trying to build a sustainable future. Pope Francis has told us that "because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God ... We have no such right" (*Laudato Si'* #33)

Columbans worldwide see the devastating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on people and the environment as interwoven moral issues in need of prophetic responses. Inspiration for action is drawn from the 2015 teaching document by Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*.

In his role as Columban Justice and Peace Education Worker in Britain, James Trewby visits young people in schools and sixth forms and runs workshops, retreats and assemblies to promote justice, peace and the integrity of creation. He says: "I'm delighted that the Columban Schools Media Competition this year focuses on the theme of Biodiversity. In a world of increasing globalisation and environmental degradation, management of biological diversity is one of the most important and critical challenges facing humankind today. The Columbans are keen to nurture the student voice and provide an opportunity for young people to engage with this issue."

Encouraging creativity and faith engagement with issues in the world today, this year's competition welcomes both written and image entries until the closing date of 17 February 2024. Winners will be announced on Columban media on 21 March 2024, the International Day of Forests. Two separate competitions will be judged, one for students in Ireland and one for students in Britain. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning entrants and the first prize is an impressive £500 or 500 euros! High-profile judges from the world of journalism have been secured, who write for the Irish News, The Irish Times, The Tablet and Independent Catholic News. Also, Catholic experts on environmental protection and education, including Columban eco-theologian Fr Sean McDonagh, Mary Colwell and Jane Mellett. Winning entries will be published in the Columbans' Far East magazine, Vocation for Justice newsletter, Columban websites in Ireland and Britain, Columban social media and in other Catholic media.

Schools will find the Columban Competition website a useful resource. It includes information on the theme, examples of Church work on Biodiversity, Catholic Social Teaching on the theme of Biodiversity and information about inspirational Catholics working on the issue. There are also details on submission of entries and a helpful FAQ page. The website provides material suitable for students, teachers and parents.

This is the seventh annual Schools Media Competition. Past themes have included Migrants, Climate Change, Racism, 21st Century Changemakers and Peace.

[www.columbancompetition.com/](http://www.columbancompetition.com/)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47959>

## LIVERPOOL'S ST MARGARET CLITHEROW CENTRE TO HOST CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUSTS CONFERENCE

On Friday 13 October, the St Margaret Clitherow Centre in Croxteth, Liverpool will be the venue for a conference for directors and governors of Catholic Multi Academy Trusts, run by the Catholic Education Service (CES), Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

With an introductory welcome from Joan McCarthy, Director of Education at the Archdiocese of Liverpool, this enriching day will bring together speakers and experts who will inspire attendees and promote sharing of best practice, fostering supportive networks for the future. As the number of Catholic schools joining MATs is growing, the opportunity to explore the benefits of collaborative impact is welcome, particularly in the context of Catholic education, where each school community strives to have Christ at the centre.

CES, CSAN and CAFOD's role as agencies of the Bishops' Conference mean that they are well placed to offer support and inspiration for holding Gospel values and CST at the heart of educational communities, in collaboration with diocesan education departments.

Building on the foundation of last year's well-received conference, this year's meeting includes a focus on formation in Catholic Social Teaching and its significance in guiding decision-making within CMATs. Speakers include Paul Barber, Director of the CES and Raymond Friel OBE, CEO of CSAN and a former director of Catholic MATs. Raymond is a well-known Catholic educator, author and speaker who will focus on bringing Catholic Social Teaching into the boardroom. Dr Mary Mihovilović from St Mary's University, who is a current Foundation Director of Thomas Aquinas CMAT, will draw on her extensive experience in Catholic educational settings to explore how leaders and governors can prepare to join a CMAT. Tom Baptist, Director of Chaplaincy for Our Lady of Lourdes MAT in Nottingham, will offer his experience of an innovative approach to chaplaincy across the whole CMAT. With many years of experience in Catholic Education, Susan Kambalu, CAFOD's Secondary CPD Adviser, will bring the global focus of CST to life.

In addition to thought-provoking input from the speakers, the programme of the day includes moments of practical interaction, time to network, and time to benefit from sharing diverse experiences with colleagues from different dioceses. In this way, CMAT directors, governors and senior leaders can be confident that they will be supported in building a community where: "In every one of their decisions, they [leaders and governors] demonstrate an exemplary commitment to care for our common home, to the pursuit of the common good and to service of those in greatest need."

<https://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk/liverpools-st-margaret-clitherow-centre-to-host-catholic-multi-academy-trusts-conference/>

**To register for the conference, click here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/building-a-catholic-multi-academy-trust-directors-and-governors-of-cmats-tickets-559658041267?aff=oddtcreator>

## HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

### Source: Housing Justice

With the number of people experiencing homelessness rising sharply around the UK since the pandemic, this year's Homelessness Sunday is an important way to raise awareness of the plight of so many who have become marginalised in our society, and to reflect on what we as Churches and communities can do to help alleviate this very serious problem on our doorstep. We organise Homelessness Sunday on the Sunday before World Homeless Day each year, and this year's Homelessness Sunday falls on 8 October. The theme is '**Love and Justice**' as this is a key part of our mission to alleviate homelessness and the housing shortage in the UK.

Below you will find a range of resources to use if you are planning your own Homelessness Sunday Service either on 8th October or on another date of your choosing. These resources will be added to over the coming weeks and include pre-recorded prayers, hymns, homilies, Junior Church resources and much more.

<https://housingjustice.org.uk/donate-now-or-get-involved/homelessness-sunday>

## CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK, 16-22 OCTOBER

### Source: Church Action on Poverty

Challenge Poverty Week England & Wales 2023 is taking place between the 16 and the 22 of October this year. If you'd like to take part during the week, now is a good time to start thinking about it. Challenge Poverty Week is a week of action, an opportunity to stand up and ask for change as a movement. This year's theme is '*Dignity for all: a more hopeful future.*' We want to look at how to find and use lasting, dignified solutions to poverty, creating a better future for everyone.

Recent polling shows that almost 90% of people across the UK say it's important that more is done to tackle poverty. That overwhelming demand for action and change needs to be heard and heeded by people in power. With elections for Parliament and regional mayors approaching in 2024, let's make sure all our voices are heard. Let's call for policies and plans that ensure the dignity of everyone in our communities. Let's speak out for a more hopeful future and show how we can get there. And let's celebrate the work of people, organisations and communities across England and Wales that are already coming together to uphold people's dignity.

Church Action on Poverty has created tools and resources for you to use leading up to, and during the week. A Challenge Poverty Week Toolkit is available, full of practical ideas and tips to get the most out of the week, key messages and advice on how to make Challenge Poverty Week a springboard for a lasting impact. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E\\_tCqmk5iRyIDtgLm-iYOBP4LZNTcYht/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E_tCqmk5iRyIDtgLm-iYOBP4LZNTcYht/view)

If you'd like to be updated when we've created new content or when there is news related to Challenge Poverty Week, subscribe to our mailing at: <https://challengepoverty.co.uk/get-involved/email/>  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47719>

## DIARY SEPTEMBER

**16-23 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel** '*No place to lay my head*' For more information and to download Pax Christi's action card see here: [tinyurl.com/yztdevez](https://tinyurl.com/yztdevez)

**17 Disability Awareness Sunday** (Churches Together in England) Resource pack on 'The Unique Gifts God Gives Us' with a short video, a suggested service outline and free postcards available for everyone who attends.

If this is your first Disability Awareness Sunday, we recommend the initial resource based on the Luke chapter 5 'through the roof' theme which contains a full range of videos, key messages, children's and youth ideas, prayers, and much more: <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>

**19 The Mistake** An urgent new play about Hiroshima and the first atomic bomb by Michael Mears 7.30 Lancaster, Gregson Community & Arts Centre 33-35 Moorgate, LA1 3PY. AVAILABLE FOR PERFORMANCE in 2023 and beyond, the play is suitable for audiences of 15+ years. It will appeal to anyone interested in history, politics, science, ethics, morality and peace studies. We also want to perform to school and college students. Contact: Michael Mears [thehalfitalian@aol.com](mailto:thehalfitalian@aol.com) 07960 981857 <https://michaelmears.org/>

**19 CAFOD/Justice and Peace group St Vincent's, Altrincham film screening 'The Letter'**. In 2015, Pope Francis published his environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'*, a teaching document of the Catholic Church which is also a letter to all people on earth. The *Laudato Si'* Movement has made a film about the encyclical, called '*The Letter*', starring the Pope himself, together with representatives of the poor, youth, indigenous communities, and wildlife scientists. Join us in Westleigh at 7.30pm, to watch the film and reflect on its message. Everyone welcome. Light refreshments will be served in the break. It would be helpful if you could register your attendance online through Eventbrite, <https://.eventbrite.co.uk>, but it isn't essential. If you would like any further information, or can offer to help with organisation, please contact the CAFOD/JP secretary, Alison Sharrock, [alison@sharrock.org.uk](mailto:alison@sharrock.org.uk) 07906261107

**19 CWDF Forum meeting**, 7pm at The Unity Centre 17 Cuppin Street, Chester CH1 2BJ. Gill Miller will be giving us a talk on "*Dealing with Disease; the role of global institutions and local players*". [www.chesterwdf.org.uk/events/19](http://www.chesterwdf.org.uk/events/19)

**19 Talking about Housing webinar** on how we can tell stories that really push for progress across the interlinked issues of homes, homelessness and poverty. Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and the Nationwide Foundation have been working in partnership with FrameWorks UK. At this webinar you'll hear FrameWorks share insights from communications research into how these issues overlap, how they differ, and ultimately how to tell a compelling story about homes, homelessness and poverty together. Free event. Open to all. Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8116896747983/WN\\_Ahp\\_7T\\_wQfigVNR93xIHjQ?utm\\_campaign=854975\\_TAH%20Pref%20wv3%20Talking%20about%20homes%3A%20what%20we%20can%20learn%20from%20homelessness%20and%20poverty%20research&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm\\_i=7ADY,IBPB,1RPCZS,2BIXR,1#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8116896747983/WN_Ahp_7T_wQfigVNR93xIHjQ?utm_campaign=854975_TAH%20Pref%20wv3%20Talking%20about%20homes%3A%20what%20we%20can%20learn%20from%20homelessness%20and%20poverty%20research&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm_i=7ADY,IBPB,1RPCZS,2BIXR,1#/registration)

**20 Film screening 'The Letter'** Cinemac Cinema, Roe Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UT Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start – (see diary entry for 19 Sept in Altrincham for details of the film) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/film-the-letter-tickets-677226281037>

**20 'It's not all about Hospitals'** A conference for people working in NHS, local government and voluntary sector 10am – 3pm Preston North End's deep Dale Stadium. Register at: [events@calico.org.uk](mailto:events@calico.org.uk)

**21 International Day of Prayer for Peace** <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

**21 Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (to 2 October)** '*Blessed are the feet of those who bring nonviolence*' For more information and to download Pax Christi's action card see here: <https://tinyurl.com/mudmtyxv>

**21 Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action Launch** with an online event at 7pm led by Pat Gaffney, our former General Secretary and a member of the Pax Christi International Working Group on Nonviolence. Register for the event here: [tinyurl.com/2n7fwz8c](https://tinyurl.com/2n7fwz8c)

**23 Sustainable Cheshire Festival** in Grosvenor Park, Chester. This event is being organised by Eco Communities and Sustainable Cheshire. For full details of this and their other events, check their online "What's on" list: <https://sustainablecheshire.uk/whats-on/>

**24 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees** '*Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay*'. (see page 6)

**28 Stockport Green Network Meeting** 4:30 – 7 at the Upper Gallery at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, on Wellington Road South. Free booking is available here: <https://stockportgreennetworkseptember.eventbrite.com/> Find out more about the Stockport Green Network on their website: <https://stockportgreennetwork.weebly.com/> or email: [stockportgreennetwork@gmail.com](mailto:stockportgreennetwork@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER

**3 Geographical Association lecture** at 4:30pm in the Best Building, University of Chester Parkgate Campus.

Professor Tony Binns will talk on "*Resilience and Sustainability in a remote West African community: the case of Kayima, Sierra Leone*". Everyone is welcome. Tony is Emeritus Professor, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex; Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand; and Hon. Chief Manjawah of Sandor (Sierra Leone).

**7 Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission 'Care of Creation' event** (see page 1) For further information or to confirm your attendance at the event please contact Sue Grubic [ldfjsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfjsue@gmail.com) or text 07791444417

**8 Homelessness Sunday** - this year's theme is '*Love and Justice*'. (see page 10) Resources and more details at: <https://housingjustice.org.uk/donate-now-or-get-involved/homelessness-sunday>

**8 Prisons Sunday** <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Pages/Category/markings-prisoners-sunday>

**8-14 Prisons Week of Prayer** <https://www.prisonweek.org/>

**13 CAFOD Quiz** in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle with good prizes and entry is still only £3 - contact Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

**14 CWDF Forum meeting**, 7pm at The Unity Centre 17 Cuppin Street, Chester CH1 2BJ. CWDF member Peter Spiers, and Philip Austin – coordinator of Northern Friends Peace Board – will talk on the subject of work for peace, with a specific focus on Quaker initiatives. The presentation will be followed by a small celebration of the 30 years of CWDF's activities.

**16-22 Challenge Poverty Week England & Wales 2023 'Dignity for all: a more hopeful future'** (see page 10) <https://challengepoverty.co.uk/get-involved/email/>

## NOVEMBER

**17 CAFOD Quiz** in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. see October 13

**18 Stockport Fairtrade Fair** 10 am – 4pm Stockport Guildhall 169 Wellington Road on A6 close to Co- op shop SK1 3UA

**DON'T MISS A BUMPER EDITION OF THE LATEST NJPN E BULLETIN WITH A WEALTH OF ARTICLES AND INFO:**  
Download here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-ebulletins/njpn-e-bulletin-10th-september/>

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● **Read the AUTMN issue of MOUTHPEACE** the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-north-west/autumn-mouthpeace-2023/>

● Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*