

NJPN E-Bulletin 10th September 2023



" I am just one person," said 7 billion people...

(on the cover of The Eco News)

Dear Friends,

I hope that you have had a good September, and have managed to celebrate the Season of Creation in some way. It seems bizarre to think that whilst members of communities all around the country are trying to do things to help the climate in their own little way, we have a Government that seems to be reneging on their climate promises. More about that in the Climate Section below - and I make no apologies that again the main focus is on the Climate.

We have a very important Action of the Week with a **deadline of this Thursday, the 5th October at 12 Noon**. Please note it is for senior and local UK Church leaders from any denomination or independent church, as well as open to members of UK Catholic and Anglican religious orders, heads of lay communities and senior leaders of UK-based Christian charities.

Last Saturday we gathered in Birmingham for our Open Networking Day on The Windrush Generation. It was a very interesting day, and Ann Farr's report on it is linked below. To me, though, the great thing about these days is meeting with like-minded people and hearing about the good work that is

going on elsewhere. There is always something to be learned from both the speakers and the attendees.

The next edition will be in a fortnights' time, around the weekend of the 14th/15th October. If you are wanting anything advertised in the next edition, please make sure that I receive the information by Friday 13th October. Many thanks to those of you who send articles in.

Stay safe, and have a good few weeks,

Sharon

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*****ACTION OF THE WEEK*****



Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

Sign the Church Leaders' open letter to the PM in response to the Rosebank approval

(Deadline 12noon on Thursday 5th October)

Operation Noah writes: -

On Wednesday 27 September, the UK government gave the go ahead for the development of one of the UK's largest new oil and gas projects in years - Rosebank. Yet we know that we can't have new oil and gas fields and still limit global heating to 1.5C, which means there must be an urgent and emphatic rebuttal from Christian leaders across the country that emphasises that this is not a partisan matter but a moral and existential one.

.....

The letter to be signed is open to senior and local UK Church leaders from any denomination or independent church, as well as open to members of UK Catholic and Anglican religious orders, heads of lay communities and senior leaders of UK-based Christian charities.

Add your signature to the letter here (and if you are NOT a church leader, or a charity, please forward it someone that is!

Thank You!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Climate/Environment (includes Events and Actions)

In a week in which we anticipate the arrival of "Laudate Deum" - Pope Francis' follow-up to Laudato Si' (and I bet he won't be telling us what a good job we have all done, sadly), we also hear about the Government's U-turn on climate policies....

News from CAFOD

Action - Urge the PM not to backtrack on climate action

CAFOD write: - *Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced he is going to U-turn on policies to tackle the climate crisis.*

Millions of our sisters and brothers around the world are being hit by the climate crisis – and millions more will face even greater catastrophes unless we take urgent action to cut emissions.

Let's show the PM that we want him to play his part in the fight to care for our common home.

[Sign the petition to the Prime Minister here.](#)

Event - Fight for a better world with CAFOD and sign up for their Faith in Action Event

Saturday 18th November, 10.30am - 2.30pm

This is an online event, and is really important in the lead up to COP28.

CAFOD writes: - *From climate change to the global food crisis, the world is currently facing numerous challenges that stand in the way of each person reaching their full potential. It is vital we all come together to build a better world.*

[To read more about the day, and register for it, go to Eventbrite.](#)

Bishop Arnold discusses Pope's new document on the environment

Bishop John Arnold, the Lead Bishop for Environmental Issues, speaks about 'why it's the right time to refocus on climate action' through

the [Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website](#).

Nature can't wait

In response to a major new report that was released on the [State of Nature](#) in the UK, Andy Atkins, CEO of A Rocha UK, writes: - *Sadly, it paints a grim picture, although there is hope too if known solutions are adopted rapidly and at scale.*

Several findings stand out. Approaching one in six UK wildlife species are now at risk of extinction, compared with one in ten at the time of the last report in 2019. 43% of UK birds are in decline, red squirrel numbers have plummeted by 37% in the last 20 years and only a fifth of farmland is farmed in a nature-friendly way. Only 7% of woodlands in the UK are considered to be in an ecologically good state. Climate change is now a major driver of damage to nature, alongside farming practices such as overuse of pesticides, habitat destruction and fragmentation, and pollution of our rivers and seas.

There is some good news. Certain species are bucking the downward trends as a result of concerted efforts to protect them and bring about their recovery. The large blue butterfly, Camberwell beauty, red kite, peregrine and European bittern are just a few of the species enjoying an ongoing recovery. Also, we now have more forested land in the UK than at any other time in the last 1,000 years, although not all of it is the right forest for nature.

You can read the rest of Andy's article [here](#), the State of Nature Report is available through the link above, and there is a petition that you can add your name to [here](#).

Al Gore leads international chorus of disapproval for Sunak's climate U-turn.

The Guardian reports on how shocked and disappointed Al Gore was on Rishi Sunak's 'watering down' of key climate policies. He is quoted as saying "*not what the world needs from the United Kingdom.*" I couldn't agree more with this statement, and it makes me feel ashamed to be part of this country. I am sure that if we had the climate disasters that have befallen other parts of the world then our leaders may feel differently.

If you haven't read the report already, please read it [here](#). He quotes young people as feeling as if they have been stabbed in the back, and

there are quotes from other professionals around the world. Again, we find ourselves looking ridiculous. Ruth Davis (Adviser to the UK team at COP26) said: - *"I think it's fair to say that the international business and security communities here in New York are baffled."*

[ICN also report on the U-turn from the perspective of CAFOD and Christian Aid.](#)

Event - Good Money Sunday - 8th October

Sarah Edwards from Just Money Movement writes: - A [new report](#) from international charity Action Aid has found that banks, including HSBC and Barclays, have put \$3.2 trillion towards the expansion of fossil fuels since the 2015 Paris Agreement. Banks have made high profile pledges to tackle the climate crisis, but the dirty secret now exposed is that the scale of their fossil fuel financing remains enormous.

In the face of such huge financial support for the status quo, how can we seek to bring about change?

Our voice and our power are far greater when we stand together. The UK churches remain a significant section of civil society, with presence in local communities across the country. And our 'financial clout' is not insubstantial.

At this time of year, many churches mark the Season of Creation, a reminder that we are called to care for creation and to be wise and responsible stewards of all that God has entrusted us with – including our money.

What if every person attending church put their money in a green bank account, switched to an ethical pension provider, and spent their money with businesses that were aiming to reach net zero emissions? What if our churches did the same with their bank accounts, investments and purchases?

To move towards a fair and climate-friendly use of money by and through our churches, we need people to make connections – between faith and finance, between their money and a greener world. A world where banks are no longer able to finance fossil fuel expansion to the tune of trillions.

That's why the JustMoney Movement is hosting Good Money Sunday on 8 October 2023. Will you get involved?

We have a new [resource pack](#) full of ideas and suggestions, so whether you've got a small group session, a series of prayers, or a whole service, you can mark Good Money Sunday and help build a movement of Christians acting for change – for a financial system that is tackling the climate crisis and putting people and planet before profit.

"Diplomatic show": Catholic Activist on Africa Climate Summit, Says "real issues" Omitted

Magdalene Kahi from ACI Africa interviewed the Programs Coordinator for Francophone Africa at Laudato Si' Movement, Steeven Kezanutima, about the Africa Climate Summit that took place at the beginning of September. Steeven felt that it didn't address the real climate issues, and that the African leaders were not willing to call of fossil fuel projects in the region, despite them being one of the causes of global warming. You can read the full report through the [ACI Africa website](#).

World Faiths to run pavilion at COP28

ICN writes: - *Faiths are being formally recognised as essential contributors to the December 2023 United Nations COP28 climate conference in Dubai. The UN Environment Programme has encouraged partnerships with faith-based organisations to host the first faiths pavilion at a climate Conference of Parties (COP).*

This space will highlight the role of religious perspectives and values in addressing the climate crisis.

Pope Francis met privately with the Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders and the Special Representative of the United Arab Emirates Presidency in May to discuss the crucial contribution of faith communities. Faiths ran a pavilion at the December 2022 UN COP conference on Biodiversity.

To read more, click [here](#).

How was your summer, politicians?

Environmental Justice Foundation have produced this hard-hitting [short film](#) aimed at world leaders. They write: - *While our leaders enjoyed their*

summer holidays, millions of people around the world suffered from unprecedented extreme weather. Heat records were repeatedly broken across the globe. Storms, fires and floods caused death and disruption on a scale we have never seen before. Meanwhile, political leaders approved new fossil fuel investments and failed to wind down existing ones.

So we've written to them, sharing a new message with an urgent call to action. We're saying they should stop supporting fossil fuels, clean up our economies, embrace sustainable technology and unlock the wave of good green jobs that would come with it.

*They could choose now to ensure a healthy, happy future for us all - we are demanding they do. If you'd like to get involved, **please do share the film around as well.***

The cost of decarbonisation

We are all very keen on the idea of switching to electric cars, but are they really the solution? Do we know enough about how and where the batteries and their components come from/are made?

Amnesty International writes: - *The world needs to urgently shift away from fossil fuels, which are key drivers of the climate crisis, but at what cost? [Powering Change or Business as Usual?](#) documents how many people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been forcibly evicted from their homes and farmland to make way for the expansion of industrial mining projects extracting copper and cobalt.*

Fire and Ice

Green Christian member, Edward Gildea (from St. Mary's Parish, Saffron Walden), wrote this beautiful piece as he left Reykjavík to sail home. He begins: - *This summer I saw an amazing combination of erupting volcanoes, icebergs and whales while the world continued to suffer the devastating effects of the climate crisis: wildfires which torched more than 500 sq km of Greece; the evacuation of Rhodes; uncounted deaths in Hawaii; Arizona notching up a record-breaking 31 consecutive days at 43C or more while despite the rain in England and floods in Norway, and July became the hottest month ever recorded in the modern era, adding to the 60,000 heat related deaths recorded in Europe last year.*

Apart from the largely benign effects of volcanic eruptions, these events are

all connected, including the melting of the polar ice sheets.

And yet, as I witnessed when I made landfall in Greenland, humanity is blessed with the most exquisitely beautiful planet.

Edward then follows on with a poem, which was inspired by the beauty he saw, and goes on to give some very interesting facts about our world. It really is well worth a read. It is available through the [Green Christian website](#).

Oat Milk: - A different way of buying it...

I try not to advertise specific products, but this is a game-changer when it comes to buying Oat Milk. I saw this product reviewed through [Ben's Tiny Eco Home Life](#).

Overherd provide powdered Oat Milk. Sounds pretty 'Coffee Mate-ish' until you realise that Oat Milk is made up of 90% water, and you think of the weight to transport it, as well as the waste, it makes perfect sense.

[Overherd](#) say: -

This is the difference YOU'VE made with every pouch...

8 cartons saved from waste.

18.4kg of CO2 prevented (vs. dairy).

4,640 litres of water saved (vs. dairy).

I have ordered a pouch, and have to say that it is ok. Possibly not as good in my coffee maker, but definitely good in tea, and instant coffee. They sent me a 15% off code to be used by new customers, which is BRD3073. I would say give it a go and know that you are making a difference to the environment.

2. NJPN Networking Days

The Windrush Generation

Last Saturday we gathered in Birmingham and heard the (now retired) Reverend Canon Eve Pitts talk about her parents' experiences on being part of those that came over from the Caribbean to work, following an invitation from Enoch Powell (yes, really!).

Ann Farr has given a good write-up on the day through [ICN](#). The video of the talk will soon be available on the NJPN YouTube channel. [Watch this space!](#)

Towards the end of her talk, Eve said these words: - *'there are signs of hope – we need to grow up. God is disappointed. There needs to be courageous people – it takes a handful of people to make a difference'*.

Strangely enough, similar words were said at Mass this morning when the Chair of our J & P Group gave the CAFOD Fast Day Appeal, and aligned it with the Gospel of today (Matthew 21:28-32) and asked us all whether we were someone who promises a lot but doesn't actually do anything; or needs to think about it before making that commitment. What with that and the phrase I reported on at the top of this bulletin from the cover of The Eco News, I began to think that this was a message to me personally...

18th November via Zoom

We advertised this in the last e-bulletin, and spent time this week planning our theme. However, just a day later we received details of the CAFOD event on the climate taking place at the same time.

I am still awaiting final confirmation but it looks very likely that our Networking Day will be postponed until another date. Again, details will follow in a later edition. Anyone who had planned to attend our event, please look at attending the CAFOD Faith in Action day online instead (details above).

3. Don't forget Ukraine

[Aid to the Church in Need](#) have reported on the drone attack that destroyed the Caritas-Spes warehouse in Lviv, which contained thousands of pounds of humanitarian aid. The Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv, Edward Kawa, has said that it was an 'attack on the poorest and most needy.'

4. Palestine/Israel

Resources from Embrace the Middle East

Embrace the Middle East write: - *Do you want to know more about what's happening in the Middle East and connect with our Christian sisters and brothers in the region? We've lots of resources to help you!*

Why not invite an Embrace speaker to come to your church or group to speak either at a special event or to preach on a Sunday morning?

We'll tailor our talk to suit your needs and can provide additional resources to help learn more about a specific country or topic – just email engagement@embraceme.org to find out more.

They also have resources of various types through their [website](#).

5. Refugees/Migrants

Churches express solidarity with refugees—and those helping them—in Lampedusa



The old cemetery of Lampedusa holds a space to honor the memory of the ones who lost their lives trying to reach Europe through the sea. Crosses made with pieces from the boats carrying refugees mark the graveyard of dozen unidentified bodies.

Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC

World Council of Churches writes: - *Churches are expressing solidarity with refugees in Lampedusa, the Italian island on which thousands of migrants arrived last week, overloading local resources.*

The Italian Red Cross estimates the island hosted at least 10,000 newly arrived people last week, many of them coming by boat from Tunisia. The refugee centre was originally built for just 400 people.

The Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy, which has been involved for years in reception and integration programs for migrants and asylum seekers, expressed concern about the situation.

“We reiterate that the request for asylum is not a crime and cannot be managed with custodial measures,” said the federation in a statement. “Italy and other European countries are able to welcome quotas of migrants and initiate them, also thanks to work on effective integration paths.”

The statement notes that daughters and sons of migrants have created wealth and social capital. “Let's try to think what could reasonably be done with the hundreds of millions of euros used in push-back actions,” the statement reads.

Wise words indeed. The full article can be read through the [WCC website](#).

JRS UK renews calls for an end to immigration detention in wake of report on abuse in Brook House IRC

The Jesuit Refugee Service (UK) write: - *JRS UK has again called for an end to the use of detention for immigration control following the publication of a [report](#) detailing abuse of people detained at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC).*

The report is the outcome of an independent inquiry into abuse by staff of people detained at Brook House IRC between April and August 2017. The abuse first came to light when an employee at Brook House was so horrified by what he witnessed that he worked with BBC Panorama to make a [documentary](#) exposing it, “Under Cover: Britain’s Immigration Secrets”.

The report, published on the 19th September, draws on testimony of people detained at Brook House and finds numerous instances of violent abuse against detained people including dangerous uses of force and force used to “provoke and punish”. It identifies 19 incidents of treatment amounting to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment including – that is, treatment in contravention of Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) – and notes that it is especially concerning there were so many incidents within such a short timeframe.

The full article, plus a comment from Sarah Teather, is available to

read [here](#).

Love the Stranger principles

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales have the 24 guiding principles to Love the Stranger in video form, endorsed by the Holy See, COMECE, CAFOD, CSAN and Caritas Social Action Network members.

You can watch (or maybe even share them) from [here](#).

Like it or not, migration is Christ knocking at our door

Joseph Kelly, from [The Catholic Network](#), wrote this thought-provoking article for World Day for Migrants and Refugees last weekend: - *There's an old maxim that everyone supports the principle of immigration, until the immigrants start arriving. Fear of the stranger in our midst is probably one of the oldest and most dubious of human emotions, with its origins lost in human prehistory.*

In many ways it's a strange suspicion, as every human person living today is a migrant of some kind – whether recent, or from the countless transglobal migrations of the past.

Migration is actually what all humans do, and have always done...

Read the full article through the link above.

6. Pact News

We need to re-think our approach to crime

Andy Keen-Downes, CEO of Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) writes this guest blog through The Catholic Network: - *It is still shocking to me, after so many years of raising this issue, to see how many mentally ill people are locked up in our prisons. We know that mentally unwell people get worse while they are inside. But those of us working in the criminal justice system must navigate two further, dreadful realities every day.*

On the one hand, in response to Government policy, the number of women and men in prison is growing and this senseless growth is intended to continue. On the other hand, Charlie Taylor, the Chief Inspector of Prisons,

has issued a damning indictment of the decline of prison regimes and the slow pace of recovery after Covid. In his annual report he says, 'I have become increasingly frustrated by prisons whose future plans are so vague that it is hard to see when progress is going to be made.' Behind all the news reports, and politics, there are human beings, our brothers and sisters, made in the image and likeness of God.

Read his full blog [here](#).

Pact welcomes new report which aims to reduce suicide in prisons

They write: - On Wednesday, 13 September, the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC) published a [new report](#) setting out a series of recommendations to reduce what it described as the 'alarmingly high rates of suicide' in the Criminal Justice System.

In response to the publication, Andy Keen-Downs, Pact CEO, said: "This is an excellent report that makes a series of sensible, well thought-through recommendations that would help to keep people safe in prison.

"In particular, the focus on family involvement is welcome. Families and carers bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge - they know what 'well' looks like and can spot the subtle signs that their loved one is struggling. They are in a unique position to know when things are going wrong and to alert the prison.

Read the full article through their [website](#).

Don't forget, next weekend, 8th October, is Prisoners' Sunday. To find out more about the work of Pact, see their [website](#).

7. Life Issues

19 year-old who fought for life finally named

Is there anyone else out there who found this story heart-breaking? Church teaches us that all life is sacred, and yet I don't often report on abortion issues, despite my own personal views, as it can be a very contentious issue. I also sit on the fence regarding assisted suicide, and may God forgive me for that. I just don't know how I would feel if I knew I was given a medical life sentence, knowing that I would die a long, slow horrible death.

We often hear cases of people who are in a coma, and their relatives are fighting through the courts so that their life-support machines are not turned off, despite medical evidence all pointing to the fact that these people are only being kept alive by the machines. However, in this case, this young lady - who we now know was Sudiksha Thirumalesh, wanted to fight, and had been offered a chance of treatment elsewhere in the world. The parents, though, had reporting restrictions placed on them, which have now been lifted, which meant she didn't get the treatment she needed early enough.

Sudiksha wanted to 'die trying to live.' Her parents, when finally being allowed to make a statement, said *"We did not look for this fight, this fight came to us from a 'system' that too readily gives up on life. We were brutally silenced, intimidated, and taken to court in the hour of our need."*

"It is shocking that a family in the middle of stress and tragedy had a threat of imprisonment hanging over their heads"

Details, including the full statement, which is available on YouTube, are available through [ICN](#).

At the end of the article, they forgive those clinicians who only seemed to want her dead.

Eternal rest grant unto Sudiksha, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Scientists created a human embryo without sperm or an egg. We should be disgusted—and worried.

Charles C. Camosy and Joe Vukov report through America Magazine on the above issue: - *Scientists have created a human embryo without the use of sperm or an egg — a true test-tube baby. Such embryos cannot (yet) develop into full-grown human beings. Even if transplanted into a uterus, the specimen could never attach to the uterine wall.*

Yet, what we have here is still a (disabled) human embryo. Without parents.

Are you disgusted? We believe that if you have a well-formed conscience, this is a good and proper reaction to this development.

This is totally bewildering, with the question being 'why?' In fact the authors

say: - *The process is less a tweak to human reproduction or bending it to our own will than replacing it with something different altogether. Heretofore we have aimed to eliminate variability, inconvenience or inefficiency from human reproduction. With this new development, the aim is different: to swap human reproduction for a different process entirely.*

Read the entire disturbing article [here](#).

8. Pope calls for an end to global food waste

On Friday, Pope Francis commended the UN Food and Agricultural Agency's efforts to tackle food waste. In the letter he sent to their Director, he told him that the: - *“prevailing culture” has “led to the denaturalization of the value of food, reducing it to a mere commodity to be exchanged.”*

Pope Francis said "Food waste shows an arrogant disregard for everything that, in social and human terms, lies behind food production."

More details about the letter are available through [ACI Africa](#), and details of why stopping food waste is so important is available on the [UN FAO website](#).

9. Synodal process explained

When this process first started a couple of years ago, many of us were a bit cynical about it. Was the church just paying lip-service to their lay members, or did the Pope and Bishops firmly believe that it needed to change? This wasn't helped by the fact that when we had our input, we weren't given long to submit it, and it was right at one of our busiest times of the year (Advent).

Aside from that, the process has moved on a lot, and this month, between the 4th and 29th October, there is a big meeting in Rome about it. If you have disengaged a lot from news on the Synod, you might want to watch this [video](#), which has been shared through Mill Hill Missionaries (and produced by the National Catholic Reporter). I certainly learnt a lot, and I like the fact that voting members are not just bishops, and some of them are religious sisters, as well as lay men and women.

10. Make ethnicity pay gap reporting a legal requirement

Share Action have brought this to our attention. They have published their briefing to the Government asking them to introduce mandatory Ethnicity Pay Gap reporting for workplaces with 250+ employees.

They write: - *Black and minority ethnic people are much more likely to be in deep poverty. Being paid less than the real Living Wage, being subject to insecure working hours and workplace discrimination means that these communities are struggling disproportionately with the rising cost of living.*

Read what they have to say and what they are doing about it through their [website](#).

Newsletters/Reports

(please note that any events advertised in individual newsletters will not necessarily be also advertised in our Events section unless specifically requested by the organisation)

11. Global Justice Now

News on the Make Polluters Pay Action Day, and a petition to sign. Read it [here](#).

12. Just Money Movement

News on Good Money Week [here](#).

13. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Lots of news and events. Read it [here](#).

14. Joint Public Issues Team September 2023

News on their campaigns and events, and ways in which you can get involved. Read it [here](#).

15. Spark Autumn 2023

Church Action on Poverty's seasonal magazine. Lots of news, including their Let's End Poverty campaign, what they are involved in and how you

can join in. Download it [here](#).

16. Trade Matters September 2023

Details of the work of Transform Trade, the future of Traidcraft, and ways in which you can get involved. Available through this [link](#).

17. Columban Missionaries Britain September 2023

Latest updates, Christmas cards and a prayer. Read it [here](#).

18. NW NJPN E-Bulletin September 2023

Anne O'Connor's very interesting read. I was particularly interested in the article about how Peter Kennard's art was censored by the British Government to appease General Pinochet of Chile, despite the horror of the coup and the atrocities committed. You can read the bulletin through the [NJPN website](#).

19. 3rd October - 6.30pm - Palestine Solidarity Campaign Defend our Right to Boycott Online Rally

20. 5th October - 7pm - 8pm - Campaign Against Arms Trade Annual Report: UK Arms Exports for 2022 presented through an online webinar.

21. 11th October - 6pm - 7.30pm - Transform Trade Progress and Hope: online Webinar

22. 14th October - 11am - 1.30pm - Operation Noah Annual Supporter's Event (Romero House, London, and online)

23. 14th October - 10.30am - 3.30pm - Caritas Diocese of Plymouth World Day of the Poor - Day of Reflection at St. Rita's, Honiton

24. 16th - 22nd October - Challenge Poverty Week

More information through ICN

25. 18th October - 1pm - 2pm - Trade Justice

Trade Justice in the 21st Century: Global Perspectives - online

26. 18th October - 7pm - 8.30pm - Christian Climate Action

An Evening with John Dear - online event

27. 28th October - 10am - Birmingham Diocesan Annual Justice and Peace Assembly

Climate Action in the Archdiocese of Birmingham

28. 28th October - 9.30am - 4pm - Archdiocese of Southwark

Seminar to promote racial and cultural inclusion (Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, Southwark)

(read more through ICN here)

29. 12th - 19th November - Interfaith Week

30. 15th November - 1pm - Trade Justice

The future of trade: Trade Justice in a changing political landscape (online)

31. 22nd November - 7pm - Church Action on Poverty

Let's End Poverty - CAP's AGM - online

32. 3rd December- 5pm - 6pm - Positive Faith

World Aids Day Online Service

33. 17th February 2024 - Closing Date for Columbans Schools Media Competition

[More details available here.](#)

SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION | Columban Missionaries invite students aged 13-18 to submit an original piece of writing or image on the theme:

BIODIVERSITY MATTERS

Explore Biodiversity, which humanity relies on for health, food and well-being.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024

For entry details: www.columbancompetition.com

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN

WRITTEN PRIZES
• 1ST £500
• 2ND £250
• 3RD £150

IMAGE PRIZES
• 1ST £500
• 2ND £250
• 3RD £150

ACTIONS

34. Could you be a Treasurer for our charity?

The NJPN are looking for a new Treasurer, after the sad passing of Mike Clarke a few weeks ago. If you have an interest in justice and peace issues, and have a bit of time to spare, along with some financial experience, please send me an email: - e-bulletin@justice-and-peace.org

The Last Word

35. Stigmatised

This is an extract from 'The Passion for Change', a collection of poems and images on themes of environmental and social justice, linked to the Stations of the Cross.

The full pdf is available free of charge from Culture Matters Co-operative, email: info@culturematters.org.uk.

(With grateful thanks to Michael Quille, Chair and Chief Editor of Culture Matters Co-Operative for sending us this piece)



The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. (Mt 27:35)

I'm marked out as worthless, king of the chavs
the dividend yields are stunning
foxes have dens and birds have nests
but we sit and we sleep on your unfriendly streets.

the dividend yields are stunning
wildlife is vanishing, silent as death
we sit and we sleep on your unfriendly streets
or gather on beaches, nailed by police.

Wildlife is vanishing, silent as death
profits rise and rainforests fall

we gather on beaches, nailed by police
or lie buried by buildings and chased down by tanks.

Profits rise and rainforests fall
dispossessed by the landlord, crushed by the cost
or buried by buildings and chased down by tanks
I'm marked out as worthless, king of the chavs.

'A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.' (LS 91)

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