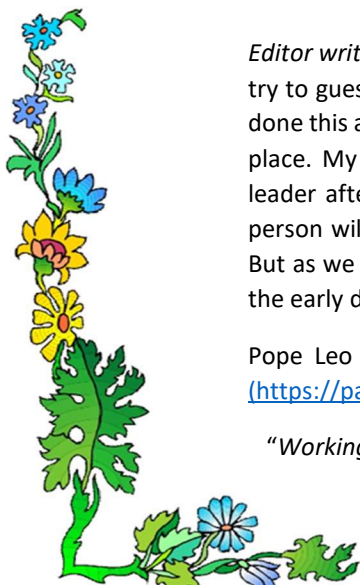




JUSTICE AND PEACE

Summer 2025



Editor writes: So we have a new Pope. I am not going to write my personal reflections on Pope Francis or try to guess, based on his past experiences, what we can expect from Pope Leo XIV. Many people have done this already. But I am reflecting on how quickly and apparently seamlessly the change over has taken place. My non Catholic friends have expressed surprise and even envy. Anglicans are still waiting for a new leader after the resignation of Justin Welby in January and people seem confused about how the new person will be chosen. The film 'Conclave' for all its flaws made the physical process of selection clear. But as we approach Pentecost we are reminded of the power and influence of the Holy Spirit working in the early days of the church and today. We have a God of surprises.

Pope Leo recently launched his X account and Pax Christi have offered a selection of his first posts (<https://paxchristi.org.uk>) which give hope in this Jubilee year.....

"Working for peace requires acting justly. Every effort should be made to overcome global inequalities, which allow opulence and destitution to carve deep divides between continents, countries and even individual societies"

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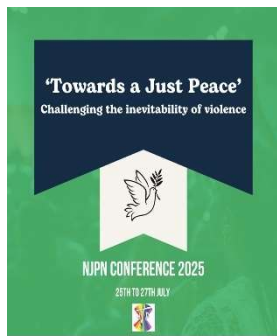
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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury



NJPN 47th ANNUAL CONFERENCE July 25-27th at the Hayes Centre, Swanwick

"War is a defeat for everyone" Words of Pope Francis, quoted by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re at His Holiness' Requiem Mass on Saturday 26th April 2025

"Peace be with all of you!" - the first words of Pope Leo XIV as he appeared on the balcony having been just elected by the Conclave.

This year, the NJPN Conference will be challenging the inevitability of violence as we aim to work 'Towards a Just Peace'. The Conference is not just about war, though. It is about ongoing challenges in various communities, conflict resolution, the environment - and hopefully everyone will leave with peace in their hearts and tools to enable them to deal with their life (and indeed the world) in a better way.

Keynote Speakers: Dr Rowan Williams: former Archbishop of Canterbury

Dr Joanna Frew : Rethinking Security (see below page 7)

A weekend of interesting speakers, workshops, exhibitions and stalls – along with good food, company and down time (or a Ceilidh if you are up to it!)

Further details and booking please contact Sharon Chambers Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Tel: 020 7901 4864 <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

If you are on a low income, but are involved in justice and peace in some way, we may be able to help with the cost. Also, if you know of any young people who have a keen interest in social action, again there may be help. There are bursaries available. Please contact Sharon in confidence.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI'

The encyclical, dated 24 May 2015, was officially published at noon on 18 June 2015, accompanied by a news conference. The Vatican released the document in Italian, German, English, Spanish, French, Polish, Portuguese and Arabic, alongside the original Latin. The Laudato Action Platform continues to grow and evolve under the leadership of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Laudate Deum (Praise God) is an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, published on October 4, 2023. It was released on the 2023 Feast of St Francis Assisi as a follow-up to the encyclical Laudato si'. In it, Pope Francis calls for speedier action against the climate crisis and condemns climate change denial.

This website showcases what Catholic groups are doing around the world. <https://raisinghope.earth/>



CELEBRATE THE LAUDATO SI' ANNIVERSARY ONLINE WEDNESDAY JUNE 4TH 7 – 9 PM

Colette Joyce from Westminster J&P writes: A new date has been set for the joint event hosted by the Northern Dioceses Environment Group and the Southern Dioceses Environment Network to celebrate the 10th anniversary of 'Laudato Si'. The event was originally scheduled for Thursday, 8 May,

All Catholics and our friends are welcome to join us for this online evening of celebration. Following the Papal Conclave, this will be the first scheduled event for each of our networks during the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV. Together we will

explore the legacy of Pope Francis, especially on the environment. We are delighted that Austen Ivereigh has been able to find a new date for us so soon after his recent labours as a commentator in Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis and on the Papal Conclave which elected Pope Leo XIV. We look forward to welcoming him as our guest speaker and facilitator.

The publication of the papal encyclical, Laudato Si', galvanised Catholics around the world and in every country to unite with those of all other faiths and none in the common cause of caring for our home planet and all the people on it. Pope Francis urged us to integrate questions of justice into our debates on the environment, 'so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' - for they are one and the same thing. (LS, 49) Both the Northern and Southern environment meetings grew out of a desire to put the teaching of the encyclical into practice. Austen will help us to reflect on where we have come in the last ten years and what we are being called to do in the next ten.

Book with Eventbrite www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-celebration-of-laudato-si-tickets-1364006483109?aff=oddttdtcreator

Those who booked for the 8th May meeting do not need to book again, but if you are able to confirm your attendance by rebooking via Eventbrite, then it will help us to get a better idea of numbers.

Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025 will take place on SATURDAY JUNE 7TH
at Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Street, Euston, London and online on Zoom from 10.30am
for an 11.00 am start.

The formal AGM will take place in the afternoon and in the morning, we will hear from Oliver McTernan who we are pleased to announce as our guest speaker. Oliver is the Co-Founder and Director of Forward Thinking and a longstanding friend of Pax Christi.

More details and Zoom link: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/pax-christi-uk/agm-2025/>

More Pax Christi news on Pages 8 & 9



SATURDAY JUNE 14th 10 am -3.30 pm at St Alban's RC Church, Liscard, Wallasey
A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR CAFOD VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS.

Join us to reflect on the theme of hope in the Jubilee Year and how we can make a difference to our global family and more locally. Meet other volunteers, supporters and others as we share experiences, hear from some local parish groups and are inspired to be Pilgrims of Hope.

For more info and to register: kkeenanan@cafod.org.uk



JOIN THE MASS LOBBY IN WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY JULY 9

The Climate Coalition (TCC) hope for thousands of people to join them in London on July 9th to lobby their own MP. More than 150 different groups with concerns including the care of our planet and the climate emergency, third world poverty and the global debt crisis are involved.

Why now?

We're in the biggest global debt crisis in thirty years – it's an injustice that's colliding with the climate emergency and wreaking havoc in lower-income countries. These countries have done the least to cause the climate emergency, but climate change is hitting them first and hardest, forcing them deeper into debt. When disaster hits, rich countries like the UK push more loans to fund rebuilding, trapping lower-income countries even deeper in debt. An incredible 93% of climate vulnerable states are now facing debt crisis.

After the last election, over 300 new MPs entered parliament — many are still getting to know their communities and deciding what kind of leaders they want to be. Now, one year on, is the perfect time to remind MPs of the role they can play in tackling both the debt and climate crisis.

What's happening on the day?

On the day of the lobby, constituents will meet their MPs at times and locations pre-arranged by The Climate Coalition. The meetings will all take place indoors, in venues close to parliament. You'll be joining others from your constituency, with time to discuss the issues that matter to you.

At midday, there will be a collective stunt that everyone can take part in, to help get media attention for the lobby.

The meetings with MPs will be staggered throughout the day, with the constituencies furthest from London meeting latest in the day, to give time for travel.

Find out more and register to attend if you are able : <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/act-now-change-forever>



PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE – THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX.

Some thoughts from a Lancaster Faith and Justice Commission member.....

A traditional view of a pilgrimage is that a group of people meet to travel to a place of religious significance, but thinking recently about what a Pilgrimage of Hope might look like, makes me wonder whether the focus on a sacred place narrows our vision too much.

On 9 July there will be a Mass Lobby of Parliament organised by the Climate Coalition (of which CAFOD is a founder member). I wouldn't call the Palace of Westminster a "sacred place", but I believe that this Lobby absolutely fits the meaning of a Pilgrimage of Hope. Firstly, it is a journey by people of faith with a specific objective. That objective is to open the hearts and minds of our leaders to the plight of the poor and seek to persuade them to do what they can to alleviate the causes of their poverty. In other

words, to bring them hope. It would be wonderful if our parishes could embrace this concept of pilgrimage and so support Pope Francis' Jubilee plea that "hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life".

Also, we have a parish pilgrimage to our Diocesan Marian shrine. Our activities will include a "Tree of Hope". People will be invited to write on one side of a label a hope for the future and on the other side what they are going to do to help realise it. They will hang the labels on a tree as prayers of hope and commitment. It is a way of engaging people and may be particularly useful for schools.



WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE!

Sue Grubic Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Worker writes:

What a wonderful day we had at the beginning of April when CAFOD together with Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission hosted a Pilgrims of Hope reflection day at Our Lady & St Michaels RC Church in Workington.



After celebrating Mass together, Bishop Paul reflected on what the Jubilee Year meant to him and emphasised the importance of a listening church.

Sr Margaret Atkins also reflected on the significance of the Jubilee with God at its centre. She reminded us of the key principles at the heart of its meaning: 'The Earth is the Lords, Food for the hungry, Rest for the land, Trust in God' and asked the question, did it ever happen?

Caroline Stanton from CAFOD led us on a 'Jesus of the Jubilee' reflection guide and we spent time studying Mulugeta Araya's Jubilee Icon, depicting Luke 4:16-21, and the meaning behind the artist's intentions.



Our Environmental lead, Stephen Garsed also put some fun into the event with a quiz!

The day concluded with a pilgrims' coastal walk along Solway Firth (or Slag Bank as it is known to the locals).

Many thanks to Fr Phil and all the parishioners who made our day so special. We had an amazing time!

"OPENING DOORS TO A SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS"

was the theme of the May meeting of this NJPN Jubilee series. If you were not able to get to London on the day the meeting was recorded and you can catch up <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/previous-njpn-meetings/videos-from-our-10th-may-meeting-opening-doors-to-a-sustainable-world-for-future-generations/>

NJPN and Jubilee 2025



Opening Doors

The topics covered include "Experience of a Live Simply Parish" "Tackling the debt and climate crises in the Jubilee Year" "Greening Church Investments: Fossil fuel divestment and investment in climate solutions" "Honouring Our Covenants of Care for Creation" featuring extracts from Laudato Si, Laudato Deum, and Al Mizan: A Covenant with the Earth.

R.I.P FRANK REGAN who died on 4 April aged 83.

Frank was known to many in J&P circles and was a regular attendee at the NJPN National Conference. A celebration of Frank's life will be held in The Salvation Army Hall, Newton Abbot, Devon, at midday on Saturday 21 June with a meal and sharing of tributes to him. All are welcome. The Hall is a 12 minute walk from the station.

Frank's widow Tirke has asked that friends consider making a donation in memory of Frank to the St Francis Leprosy Guild: <https://www.stfrancisleprosy.org/> Details of how to donate with an option to increase your donation by gift aid if you are a UK taxpayer here: <https://app.donorfy.com/form/8XCQIB4NS1/25WebDntn>

Thank you to Anne O'Connor who has given this information about Frank. More about Frank and tributes to him can be found in the NJPN North West Bulletin for May pages 9-11 <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>



CANCEL DEBT CHOOSE HOPE

Some of you may have individually signed the CAFOD on line petition calling on world leaders to:

1. Stop the debt crisis now by cancelling unjust debt.
2. Support a Debt Justice Law to make private lenders take part in debt relief.
3. Prevent future debt crises through a new debt framework within the United Nations.

Now CAFOD is asking us as a summer activity to involve our parishes too and encourage as many people as possible to sign a paper petition. CAFOD hosted a webinar on May 15th which helped to explain the origins of the crisis today and give information about the present campaign that will help with discussions with parishioners.

DEBT, JUSTICE AND THE JUBILEE YEAR – A WEBINAR



Helen Moseley, CAFOD Campaign Engagement Manager, introduced the evening. ‘In this Jubilee Year we are calling for urgent action on the global debt crisis which is having a devastating effect on the world’s poorest countries but we are not hearing much about this. CAFOD is working with partners in UK and across the world to draw attention to the crisis and call for urgent action by decision makers and world leaders.

Pope Francis spoke repeatedly about this crisis particularly in the last year of his life. As we mourn him, we honour his legacy by taking his work forward.’

In his World Day of Peace message —commemorated on January 1st 2025—Pope Francis chose the theme, “Forgive Us Our Debts, Grant Us Peace.” One of his proposals to set countries on the “path to peace” involves “two sides of the same coin,” that is, foreign and ecological debt.

The two speakers were Fr. Charles Chilufya SJ, who is coordinating the Jubilee Coalition for debt cancellation in Africa. He is working for the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM) and has been as director of the JCAM Justice and Ecology Office (JEO) since 2018.

and Maria Finnerty, a political economist with a first-class master’s degree in development economics from the University of Cambridge. As CAFOD’s Lead Economist, she leads on economic policy with a focus on global debt reform, climate finance, and economic inequality, championing solutions that prioritize human dignity and sustainable development for vulnerable communities worldwide.

With their very differing backgrounds these speakers helped understanding of the campaign providing useful information if you are planning to introduce the petition in your parish .

You can watch the full webinar (one hour) on <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/debt-jubilee>

Read the CAFOD report:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/vy3axnuecuwj/3OUFMltzFSuwlYFSx6OiQe/f031ab12a39ced84ac6afa453855deca/Jubilee_2025_The_new_global_debt_crisis_and_its_solutions.pdf

N.B Thursday, 5 June, at 6:30 pm CAFOD invites you to join a special webinar marking International Seed Day. The right of small-scale farmers to save and use traditional seeds is central to our Fix the Food System campaign. In this session, our partner BIBA Kenya will share their inspiring work with women farmers in Kenya who are safeguarding their seed varieties—an essential effort for food security and climate resilience. <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/women-farmers>



September 1st – October 4th 2025

This year the theme ‘Peace with Creation’ will go alongside a global call to action on debt relief. Our Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands

eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

Faith leaders invite you to join in <https://youtu.be/dSI178-W5o> **NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING FOR THIS SEASON!**



7 -15 JUNE Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

During the week, communities, schools, businesses, churches, mosques and more join together in a wave of support for action to protect the planet. Taking action together for good shows

our support for a safer, greener, fairer future.

Events near you : https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/events_calendar

As part of the national Great Big Green Week, Chester Green Weekend will transform the city into a hub for sustainability, bringing together residents, businesses, and visitors to celebrate, learn, and take action for a greener future.

CHESTER GREEN WEEKEND 7 AND 8TH JUNE

Throughout the weekend, you can explore:

Interactive workshops on sustainable living

Engaging talks from local experts and change-makers

Community-led activities promoting eco-friendly practices Family friendly activities.

Local Food, entertainment, and stalls across Town Hall Square, Exchange Square and

The Deans Field at Chester Cathedral.

This event is free of charge, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to participate, discover new ways to tackle the climate and nature emergency, and be part of Chester's journey towards a lower-impact future. To learn more or get involved, visit

<https://chestergreenweekend.co.uk>



GREENSTOCK

20th June 11am – 4 pm

At Woodbank Park, Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport SK1 4JR

Come along for a jam-packed day filled with fun, tasty food, music, and sunshine (fingers crossed). There will be lots of stalls and activities such as making bug-hotels, seed planting, climate conversations, nature connection activities, games, and much more.

All activities, food and drink will be provided for free, There's

something for everyone to enjoy. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and learn more about sustainability in a laid-back, festival atmosphere.

Free venue parking

Greenstock is all about celebrating Stockport's communities and environment. It is organised by Stockport's Green Network, which is open to all residents and community groups who are interested in climate and nature action. The Green Network is supported by Stockport Council's Climate Action Now programme.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/greenstock-2025-tickets-1317543892249>

AN 'UNSTOPPABLE' DAY OUT

Christine Smith who is the chaplain at St Mary's Catholic Academy in Blackpool writes:

On Saturday 15th March, a group of students from 4 of our Diocesan schools embarked on an inspiring journey to London to attend the Flame Youth Congress at Wembley Arena. The group from St Bede's, Cardinal Allen, St Mary's and Our Lady's Fulwood set off bright and early at 6am, and became part of a vibrant gathering of 10,800 young people, all united in faith and enthusiasm.



The event was an electrifying mix of music, dance, drama, and thought-provoking video content, interwoven with powerful talks from speakers from across the world. One of the most eagerly anticipated speakers was Bear Grylls, who captivated the audience by openly sharing his personal faith journey. In an incredible gesture, he also gifted every attendee a free copy of his new book based on the Gospels.

The theme for this year's congress, Unstoppable, resonated deeply with our students. The message was clear: with God on our side, we are all unstoppable. We have returned to our schools having made new friends and feeling grateful for sharing our day together. We are excited to apply what we have learned to our daily lives, spread joy and reinforce the message that together, we are truly unstoppable.

Some reflections on the day from our young people:

It was an icy morning, the sun was yet to rise, my watch read 5:00am. The coldness disappeared when we felt the warm atmosphere of the coach full of fellow Catholics from 4 other schools in the diocese. After a six hour journey I was taken aback by the strong feeling of faith and community in Wembley Arena. Flame was an immense experience and we felt in communion with others and more open to Christ, as we knew there were many other people our age with the same beliefs.



When Bear Grylls spoke he was very inspiring and made us feel we could achieve anything as long as we had God. We are unstoppable. The music, the drama and the testimonies all helped to strengthen our faith and we hope we can have a similar experience again. The 7 hour coach journey home was less unbearable after experiencing this incredible event. It was midnight, the darkness had fallen once again but the 'Flame' was still burning brightly.

Bea, Evie, Lila, Bridget, Freya, Lilly, John, Elliot, Evie, Scarlett Y9, from St Bede's.

Flame 2025 was an extraordinary experience. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, pray and learn the stories of our friends around the world. During the lunch break we were volunteering with CAFOD in the foyer. We spoke to people about the debt crisis around the world and gathered people's finger prints and signatures on stickers to promote solving it. After the lunch break the stickers were all stuck on giant hands saying 'cancel debt. choose hope' and then taken on the stage and shown to the whole arena. It was lovely to be able to meet hundreds of people who were willing to help CAFOD's cause to cancel world debt and their kindness is something we'll never be able to forget.

Kate & Keira, Y12 from St Mary's.

Flame was a really positive Catholic concert that helped us, as young people, to deepen our faith. It featured inspiring talks, engaging live music, and opportunities for prayer and reflection. Being with so many other young Catholics created a strong sense of community and highlighted the lively spirit of the Church's youth. We found ourselves feeling uplifted and more inspired in our faith journey afterwards, which was a truly valuable aspect of the event.

Solomon & Zac, Y10 at Our Lady's



How would I describe my FLAME 2025 experience? For months beforehand, I was so excited to go to this huge event; I wouldn't stop talking about it, but I had no idea really what it would be like! But genuinely, the reality was so much more than I expected! As soon as we arrived, people were so friendly, welcoming and couldn't have been any nicer. Our first stop was the One Hope Project stand – we had been listening to their music all week in preparation. I bought a bag that I will keep forever! The atmosphere inside was amazing; people laughing and dancing along to the songs being performed; it was so electric. The highlight of the day was definitely getting the chance to speak with Cardinal Vincent Nichols! We have learnt about him in RE, and that he gave our group so much of his time made FLAME a day that I, and my friends, will never forget. Ending with Adoration was so peaceful and it was amazing being able to feel so comfortable praying with thousands of other people. It really felt like we are all a part of this one big community.

Sophia, Y10 at Cardinal Allen

Rethinking Security

for a just and peaceful world

Why rethink security?

Security matters to everyone, but much that governments do in its name is making us all less safe, at home and around the world. It's time for a rethink. Our goal is to help shift the public and political narratives in the UK about what security is and how it is best created, challenging existing approaches and fostering confidence in alternatives. Find out more <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/find-out-more/intro-video/>

16 -22 June REFUGEE WEEK



Community is the incredible everyday. Ordinary and extraordinary. Simple acts of shared generosity. Kindness multiplied to become an unstoppable force!

"We can begin the process of making community wherever we are. We can begin by sharing a smile, a warm greeting, a bit of conversation; by doing a kind deed or by acknowledging kindness offered to us." - bell hooks – an American author and activist.

Communities can bring people together bridging divides and offering support. Provide spaces of resilience and places for healing. This Refugee Week everyone is invited to spend time with friends and build new connections in and beyond our neighbourhoods. From communal meals and open air film screenings, to football matches and music making, let's share the feelings of welcome and belonging. Listening, learning, laughing together. It's amazing what we can do when we move together towards a shared goal. So let's redefine and rediscover our collective power to shape hopeful futures and begin by practicing, celebrating and rehearsing it every day.

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

Celebrating refugees Several organisations in NJPN are members of Together for Refugees, which calls for a better approach to supporting refugees that is fair, kind and more effective.

<https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/>



In the Pax Christi England and Wales annual report the Chair Kathryn Lydon pointed out 2025 was a year for Pax Christi to both celebrate and mourn.

"We celebrate 80 years of our shared history and development into an international movement for nonviolence which has helped to shape history (as in Northern Ireland) and has given purpose and meaning to many of our members. It is also time to mourn, as we lament the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, wars across the globe and a failure to explore nonviolent alternatives to conventional and nuclear disarmament."

Read report https://issuu.com/paxchristiew/docs/pax_christi_annual_report_2025

80 years for Peace

Founded in 1945, Pax Christi International has been a beacon of hope and a vehicle for peace for eight decades. As a Catholic peace movement, our mission has been to transform conflicts and foster peace, human rights, and justice globally. The 80th anniversary offers a profound opportunity to commemorate our achievements, reflect on lessons learned, and strategize future actions towards global peace and reconciliation.

Our key priorities for this year are:

- Commemorating Pax Christi International's rich history
- Reaffirming our commitments to peace and justice, emphasising nonviolence as a core principle, fostering human security, supporting conflict transformation, and emphasising the need for human rights and climate justice
- Engaging and expanding our community, with a specific attention to the youth



From 18 to 20 July 2025, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the movement, Pax Christi France is organising an international pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. This will be a time of meeting and sharing, of commemoration and thanksgiving for all Pax Christi International members, friends and supporters.

Why go to Lourdes for the 80th anniversary?

It was in Lourdes that the Pax Christi International movement was first developed in 1948. The Lourdes sanctuary has seen many international pilgrimages, and several sites still bear witness to this vitality. Pax Christi France still maintains an active presence there. Lourdes is a place of hope, and our shared experiences will be a source of hope for all.

All Pax Christi International members and associates worldwide are invited and each country is strongly encouraged to send a delegation or representative. Each delegation will have a place in each part of the program. An invitation is also extended to all the friends of peace with whom you work.

More details : <https://paxchristi.net/international-pilgrimage-lourdes-80-years-pax-christi-france/>



YUZAKI Hidehiko Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, President of Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE) writes: The year 2025 marks 80 years since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even now, however, there are still over

12,000 nuclear weapons in existence on the planet. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the bombing, we invite you to reflect on peace with us.

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima for the first time in human history. Within that year, the bomb took the lives of some 140,000 people. The year 2025 marks the 80th year since this incident.



Currently, there are more than 12,000 nuclear weapons stockpiled on the earth, and dependence on nuclear deterrence has become even stronger. In this environment, Hibakusha, survivors of the atomic explosions, who suffer from the lingering effects of the bombing, continue to convey the tragic realities of the atomic bombings and the vital necessity of abolishing nuclear weapons. It is our mission to pass down their earnest desire for peace to future generations and achieve nuclear abolition.

This year, 80 years after the atomic bombings and the end of World War II, we have opened a special webpage to deliver a powerful message on peace from Hiroshima to the world. It is my sincere hope that you will join us in the movement to make this year a strategic turning point towards the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

<https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/uploaded/attachment/619491.pdf>

A Poem from Pax Christi Member John Mulholland. He wrote 'I was moved to write it by the constant scenes of death and destruction on TV, especially in Ukraine and Gaza, and by recently reading a history of the Wars of the Roses.'

Why?

Wars, wars, wars,
Killing, killing, killing,
Slaughter, starvation,
Tyranny, torture,
Slavery, sadism,
Ravages, rapes,
Discrimination, domination,
Fearfulness, foreboding;
The history of humanity
In every age, in every land.

Why?

Why, when we're given reason,
Consciences and wills, do
Men reject good and choose evil?
Why are the women and children
Killed in their countless thousands?
Why are we so blind and so deaf?
Why is this world a vale of tears?
Why will we not listen to his voice
Who taught us love for one another
And died to show the way to peace?
Why?

Mark Lynas is well known to many as an environmental campaigner with several books about the climate crisis. In his latest book he focuses on the dangers of nuclear weapons. He discusses the aftermath of nuclear war for the unfortunate survivors. He discusses the danger of AI becoming locked into nations' missile systems with potential targeting errors. He would like the nine nuclear states "to be named, shamed, pilloried and targeted in every way until they are ready to countenance giving up their weapons of mass destruction". This book is not an easy read but appropriate for this 80th anniversary year when we seem to be in near total denial of the threat to humanity of nuclear war.



Also worth another look **'When the Wind Blows'** a 1986 British adult animated disaster film directed by Jimmy Murakami based on Raymond Briggs' graphic novel of the same name. The film stars the voices of John Mills and Peggy Ashcroft as the two main characters and was scored by Roger Waters. It recounts a rural English couple's attempt to survive a nearby nuclear attack and maintain a sense of normality in the subsequent fallout and nuclear winter. Watch free on <https://archive.org/details/when-the-wind-blows-1986>

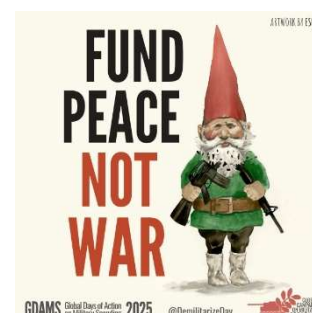
Global Days of Action on Military Spending 2025

We are coming to the conclusion of this year's Global Days of Action on Military Spending. On 28th April, SIPRI published their annual report on global military spending which has reached historic highs. The report makes grim reading with spending rising to \$2.77 trillion in 2024 — an increase of 9.4% compared to the previous year.

Spending is growing across all regions, particularly in Europe (+17%) and the Middle East (+15%). Israel's military spending has soared by +65%, driven by its ongoing genocide in Gaza. Russia

has increased its military expenditure by 38%, fueled by the war in Ukraine.

You can read the SIPRI fact sheet on spending here: <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2025/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-world-military-expenditure-2024>





On March 13th the Balfour Project became the Britain Palestine Project.

At this crucial moment in the history of the Middle East, as we witness attempts to eliminate international law from international relations, we believe this is the right time for our charity to evolve. After thorough discussions and valuable advice from our stakeholders, we have decided that from 13 March we will be known as the Britain Palestine Project (BPP).

This was no easy decision. Since the charity was formed eight years ago, the Balfour Project name has become widely recognised and, I hope, respected both in the UK, where our advocacy and educational work is focused, and elsewhere. But greater public awareness brought with it controversy. Some people assumed – wrongly – that the name implied we were apologists for the 1917 Balfour Declaration, when Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour promised the Zionist movement British support for a Jewish homeland in the Ottoman territory of Palestine. Now is not the time to be operating with a name that requires explanation.

In reality, our charity stands for something very different. We demand redress for the historic injustices done to the Palestinian people during the period of British imperial rule and subsequently, after Britain abandoned Palestine in 1948. At the same time, we endorse Britain's recognition of the State of Israel in 1950.

Our charity deplores the many grave human rights violations inflicted on Palestinians, not least the continued illegal Occupation of 1967 denying their right to self-determination, and now the brutal onslaught on Gaza. We also acknowledge the right of Israelis to live in peace and security within the pre-June 1967 boundaries of their state. Security and peace must be a two-way street. Our approach will remain evidence based, historically informed and rooted in upholding international law.

What distinguishes the Britain Palestine Project is our emphasis on British responsibility and with it the duty to compensate for past mistakes by leading efforts to achieve a just and peaceful resolution, commensurate with Britain's current positions as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council and self-declared upholder of international law world-wide. We aim to make Britain's historic responsibility and contemporary role in the region a permanent part of our national conversation.

With your support, the Britain Palestine Project will work tirelessly to advance the cause of peace with justice, security and equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis

The Britain Palestine Project asks the Government and people of the United Kingdom to:

- Acknowledge Britain's historical role in shaping 20th and 21st century Palestine/Israel, particularly in light of the Balfour Declaration and the policies of the British Mandate;
- Support Palestinians and Israelis in building a peaceful future based on equal rights, justice and security for all;
- Work for British Government recognition of the State of Palestine.

One of the important issues that the Project aims to promote is the impact and significance of recognition. While the British Government recognised the State of Israel in 1950, Palestinians remain stateless, exiled, refugees or second-class citizens within Israel. We urge the Government to immediately recognise the State of Palestine as a step towards equality and an end to the occupation. Recognition of a Palestinian state would substantially improve the Palestinian position in international forums by enhancing its bargaining strengths and status. Advocacy of a Palestinian state does not mean that the Balfour Project takes a position on final status for the Palestine/Israel question.

For more information on the Project's founding, mission and position on key issues. <https://britainpalestineproject.org/>

ACTION NOW

There is a rare chance to persuade our Government to take positive action on Palestine/Israel. France aims to recognise the state of Palestine by June. Our Government has been dragging its feet, despite a clear Labour manifesto commitment. Please consider writing to your MP urging our Prime Minister to act. Historically and morally, it is us British who have "form" on Palestine. Recognition of Palestine supports the Palestinian right to self-determination, which Mr Netanyahu seeks to destroy.

<https://britainpalestineproject.org/recognise-palestine-now-sir-keir-its-time-to-lead-not-follow-sent/>



Have you joined the Big Bank Switch yet?

Where we bank matters. In this Jubilee Year, Laudato Si' Movement, JustMoney Movement, Operation Noah and Just Love are inviting Christians across the UK to switch from banks funding fossil fuels to a greener, more ethical bank.

Fossil fuel expansion is the driving cause of the climate crisis. Since the Paris Agreement, the five largest high street banks in the UK – Barclays, HSBC, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds – have provided \$556 billion to the fossil fuel industry. By switching to ethical banks, we send a powerful message to financial institutions: it's time to stop funding the destruction of our planet.

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/campaigns/have-you-joined-the-big-bank-switch-yet/>

Join the Big Bank Switch today!

You can take a powerful step for a fossil free future by making a pledge to switch to an ethical bank. Visit the Big Bank Switch website to find out more and sign up: <https://justmoney.org.uk/the-big-bank-switch/>

Check your bank's credentials if it is not one of the big 5 <https://bank.green/>

If you have already switched to an ethical bank, you can still make a difference! Please log your switch on the Big Bank Switch pledge form retrospectively to ensure you are counted as part of our collective call for change!



Are you looking for a different kind of holiday this year?

At a Catholic People's Week (CPW) you will be part of a small community for a week or long weekend, explore a theme, grow in faith and have a whole lot of fun.

This year our summer all-age week runs from 9th - 16th August and has the theme "Where is God in the Climate Crisis". We are using a new centre in the Scottish Borders, Whithaugh Park (complete with a swimming pool, zip wires and high ropes). It is set in a beautiful, natural landscape that will encourage us to consider how we as Christians can care for creation.

As we ask, "Where is God in the Climate Crisis?", we trust our Creator God will be at our side and send us away refreshed and hopeful, in the spirit of the late Pope Francis's Laudato Si'. Among the discussions and activities, we have an evening visit from Kielder Observatory astronomers (plus telescopes) to help us look up to the stars. Young people and children will have their own programme and take a full part in our lively liturgies.

Go to <https://catholicpeoplesweeks.org/> to book - special prices for new members.



Events at BOARBANK HALL, Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH

Sr Margaret Atkins warmly invites you to a number of events:

July 26 – August 2 Thinking Faith - Time out for working Catholics.
Theme: St Paul

August 18 – 22 St Augustine's Confessions An introduction to St Augustine's classic spiritual autobiography. All welcome.

October 4-10 Celebrating Creation - Time to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in our personal lives and within the Church. Talks,

discussions, art, liturgy, gardening, walks. All welcome.

October 24 – 26/27 Magnificat! Follow up to Our Lady in Latin event in March. Explore the Latin and the music of the canticles from the birth narratives in St Luke. For those who know just a little Latin!

December 5-7/8 Hope in Health For all who support or care for anyone who is sick, professionals and others.

Contact: Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk or 015395-32288

See www.boarbankhall.org.uk

SUMMER DIARY

JUNE

- 4 Celebrate Laudato Si' 10th anniversary on line 7-9 pm p.2
- 5 CAFOD webinar marking International Seed Day 6.30 pm see page 5
- 7 Pax Christi UK AGM at Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Street, Euston, London and online on Zoom from 10.30am for an 11.00 am start. See page 3
- 7 – 15 Great Big Green Week page 6
- 7-8 Chester Big Green Weekend Page 6
- 12 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting at St Michael's Parish Centre, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH. 2 pm All welcome. Contact Jan Harper 07591082195 or email janharper20211@outlook.com
- 14 A Day of reflection for CAFOD volunteers, supporters and friends 10-3.30 at St Alban's RC Church, Liscard, Wallasey. For more info and to register: kkeenanan@cafod.org.uk Page 3
- 16 -22 Refugee Week Page 8
- 21 Greenstock Community Fun Day Woodbank Park Stockport 11:00 - 16:00 see page 6

JULY

- 9 Mass Lobby of Parliament for the Climate page 3
- 10 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting at St Michael's Parish Centre, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH. 2 pm All welcome. Contact Jan Harper 07591082195 or email janharper20211@outlook.com
- 18-20 Pax Christi Pilgrimage to Lourdes see page 8
- 20 – 25 Christians Aware Summer School at Parcevall Hall, Yorkshire Dale The focus will be on developing a lifestyle for the health of people everywhere, for the natural world and for the earth itself. <http://www.christiansaware.co.uk/>
- 25-27 'Towards a Just Peace' NJPN CONFERENCE AT SWANWICK see page 2
- 26 – August 1 Thinking Faith – Time out for working Catholics Boarbank Hall page 11

AUGUST

- 6 and 9 80th Anniversary of bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki see page 9
- 9 – 16 'Where is God in the Climate Crisis' Catholic People's week page 11
- 18-22 'St Augustine's Confessions' Boarbank Hall page 11

SEPTEMBER 1ST – OCTOBER 4th THE SEASON OF CREATION Start preparing now Page 5

Copydate for Autumn Mouthpeace August 20th 2025

EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

National Justice and Peace Network <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

Independent Catholic News <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

The Columbans <https://columbans.co.uk/>